

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, July 19, 2011 with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Shawn Mayfield, KLJ, gave an update on the emergency road projects. Concern was expressed regarding contractors not getting the work done when people are depending on these roads for home and farm access.

Several Anderson Township residents and Water Board members concerned about installing culverts in Highway 1 attended the meeting. They said the State has not taken action on the matter and that the City of Rogers and surrounding farms would be compromised in case of a major rain event. It was felt 3 54" culverts would be needed. Dwight Grotberg, Anderson chairman, expressed that the situation requires immediate attention. Chairperson Schwehr stated her concerns over where the water would go from there. Commissioner Froelich explained that the Water Board would be the lead agency in dealing with the project, while the County would help fund it.

After discussion, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, that the County will assist with this project and help fund it. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Dave Lokken of CGI Elevator addressed the Commission on Hobart Lake issues.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion seconded by Knutson, to approve the August 1 start of site 12, Kathryn Bridge project. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

The personnel shortage in the Highway Department was discussed; the consensus was to allow Mr. Johnson to go beyond the traditional advertising methods to fill positions.

Mowing was discussed. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to place advertisements stating that hay along County roads must be top cut by July 15, or the County may do so. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding proposed gravity outlets on Stump Lake and Twin Lakes to alleviate Devils Lake flooding. Commissioner Leitner felt all Stump Lake outlet options should be opposed, with water samples from there showing high sulfates. Commissioner Froelich was in favor of the Twin Lakes option, which contains good quality water.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to oppose all gravity outlet options coming from Stump Lake, and support the outlet coming from Twin Lakes.

Discussion was held on changing that motion to read "support the concept of the Twin Lakes alternative."

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to eliminate the previous motion and second. Froelich then made a motion, seconded by Leitner, that the Barnes County Commission is opposed to all gravity outlet options from Stump Lake, and supports the concept of a gravity outlet from Twin Lakes. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Tim Gillespie, Truck Regulatory Officer, presented a report on his work since beginning road duties May 19.

Discussion was held regarding a request by the Sheyenne Valley Friends of Animals to hold a petting zoo during the August 6 quilt and craft event in the Courthouse yard. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the zoo to be held. Further discussion led to the possibility of an animal policy for inside the Courthouse, and Commissioner Knutson agreed to work on that.

The July 5 minutes were reviewed. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the minutes of July 5, with one correction. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairperson Schwehr recessed the meeting and Park Board Chairman Knutson called the Park Board meeting to order with all members present.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of May 17. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

The following were topics of discussion:

- Parks Superintendent Bev Anderson reported that new light sensors had been installed.
- A hill slide at Little Yellowstone was discussed.
- Knutson reported he had taken some photos of park damages and turned them over to Ken Reid for application to FEMA. He will check with Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, on an extension for FEMA application. He also will add the cost of a pickup to the new budget.
- Koeplin discussed a cost estimate he is putting together for new outlets.
- Amber Smith will be helping with mowing until school starts again.
- The cattle and dogs problem was discussed, as well as equipment going through the park. Some discussion was held concerning signing for an off-leash dog area.

A salary increase for Bob Anderson was discussed. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Nelson, to recommend to the Commission that his hourly wage be increased by \$1 per hour. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

An expense payment for Koeplin was discussed. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to allow \$25 per meeting for member Bob Koeplin for expenses. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Seasonal camping was discussed. Currently there is a 7-day maximum for camping, but there has been some interest in longer term camping, including a resident interested in hosting. Koeplin will put together a recommendation to bring back to the Board.

Anderson requested a lawn mower replacement be put in next year's budget.

Schwehr suggested campsites be marked with metal posts and requested information on this.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The Commission meeting was reconvened.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, presented the following Planning and Zoning Board recommendations for approval:

- Vernon Roorda, Meadow Lake, SW1/4, 7-138-61, for a 180' setback for a garage. Leitner made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve. Motion carried.
- Vaughn Zacharias, Thordenskjold, NE1/4, 29-137N-57W for a 180' setback for a truck storage building. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve. Motion carried.
- Mark B. Johnson, Meadow Lake, SE1/4, 26-138-61, for a 160' setback for a pole building. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve. Motion carried.
- Bradley Knutson, Oakhill, auditor's lot, SE1/4, 28-137-58, for a farm storage building. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve. Motion carried.
- Louis and Janet Nicoli, Cuba, SE1/4, 8-139-57, auditor's lot, 14.13 acres. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve. Motion carried.
- Robert Fus, Sibley Trail, 23-143-58, plat of land, 5 acres. Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve. Motion carried.

Tammy Fairbanks and Kurt Tompkins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials, met with the Commission to discuss a possible 153-acre land purchase in Mansfield Township. Present via speaker phone was James Kieley, landowner.

Fairbanks outlined the history of the process regarding the land sale and presented a proposal. The Commission set July 27 to inspect the land, and a public hearing at their August 16 meeting, at which time they will make a decision as to a recommendation.

Commissioner Froelich expressed that he favors the sale as it provides a place to hunt, while Commissioner Knutson stated he is opposed to the action as the County has already lost so much farmland.

Commissioner Froelich presented a written summary of a January 12, 2009 meeting he had with Steve Engen of the ND State Department of Corrections concerning the Barnes County Jail. Froelich requested that Mr. Engen be asked for advice on how to reinforce the door. Discussion centered on how to reinforce the door, which was kicked out. The option of placing a bar across the door on the outside was discussed. Sheriff Randy McClafin stated he was obtaining estimates on an alarm system for that door. Commissioner Leitner commended the Sheriff's Office on doing an outstanding job in capturing the two escapees.

Theresa Will, City-County Health Director, requested to increase the hourly rate for jail nursing for 2012, from the current \$32/hour to \$34/hour, for the 5-10 hour-a-week position.

Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve the requested increase as presented, effective January 1. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

The Commission expressed sympathy for the family of Bob Stenehjem, North Dakota Senate Majority Leader, who recently died in an accident.

Commissioners' discussion was held regarding personnel who did not take action during a recent Courthouse fire alarm, which will be discussed at a department head meeting. A timeline for finalizing the Emergency Services Communication System was created, with the decision to be made at the August 2 meeting. Discussion was held on why Code Red was not used during a recent tornado warning. Commissioner Berntson expressed concern over scheduling of agenda items at Commission meetings. Employee evaluations were discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Barnes County Auditor

Barnes County Commission