

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, John Froelich, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Social Services – Redesign: Multi-County Zone

Wanda Larson, Social Services Director, updated the Commission on the Social Service Redesign, which will reorganize the various counties into multi-county zones. Barnes County will tentatively be teaming up with Stutsman County. The Commission will revisit this at the May 21st meeting. The Barnes County Social Service Board approved purchase of five computers for their agency.

VC-BC Development Corp – Funding Request (Corridor Infrastructure & Wellness Center)

Jennifer Feist, Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Director of Development, requested \$50,000 for year 4 of 5 for the Gaukler Family Health, Wellness & Physical Education Center. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Feist requested approval of \$70,000 to support infrastructure developed for the ND National Guard in the I-94 Regional Development Corridor. John Froelich moved to approve the request; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Planning & Zoning - Variance

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance - Setback from Kyle E Olstad (Minnie Lake Township, SW ¼ 25-142-56). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes / NDIRF Annual Meeting & Proxy / Board Appointment

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the April 2, 2019 minutes, with corrections; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cindy Schwehr moved to sign the NDIRF proxy; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. John Froelich moved to appoint Luke Trapp to serve as the District 5 representative on the School Annexation, Reorganization, and Dissolution Committee, term to expire 6/30/2022; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Everbridge

Vicky Lovell moved to make the use of Everbridge mandatory for emergency County notifications, contacts to be collected by the department heads; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote, with all members voting “yes”. This will be addressed by the Policy Committee, as well.

Commission Discussion

The Commissioners provided updates on their portfolios.

Dispatch – Approval of Dept Head

Bill Carlblom moved to officially appoint Holly Neuberger as Dispatch Department Head, with a 6-month trial period; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Weed Board – Drone / Educational Banner / County Shop Office Roof Repair

Jamen Windish, Weed Officer, informed the Commission that the Weed Board has approved the purchase of a drone for scouting weeds in the County, to be paid for through a TAG grant from the ND Department of Agriculture. The grant is for \$5,000 and the cost of the drone and associated supplies will be around \$2,500. He will also get certified to fly the drone and take the required tests. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the purchase; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Mr. Windish asked for permission to display a 3' x 6' banner that showcases the weed palmer amaranth near the Extension office in the Courthouse. John Froelich moved to approve the display; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Mr. Windish presented two quotes for repair of the County Shop roof on the office portion of the building: TectaAmerica Dakotas - \$28,447 and Roofing Solutions LLC - \$15,330. Both companies guarantee the product for at least 10 years with no leak. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the quote from Roofing Solutions for the roof repair, contingent upon finding someone to give an estimate as to the interior damage; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Highway Dept – Certification of Local Match

Cindy Schwehr moved to approve signing of the Certification of Local Match on the Urbana project; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Department Head Meeting

Updates were as follows: Holly Neuberger introduced Gunnar Tangen as new part-time dispatcher. Kerry Johnson stated that the highway department is taking the plows off and will begin crack sealing as soon as possible. Dustin Suhr and Kelly Everson will be starting with the highway department in a few weeks. Wanda Larson stated that April is Child Abuse Prevention month, with activities going on all month. Holly Neuberger continues to work on mapping and updating job descriptions. Jamen Windish is preparing equipment for summer work and they are fully staffed. Randy Grueneich has just finished the Spring Fever garden sessions. Extension's office updates are mostly in place. Randy McClafin stated that things are going good at the jail and tours of other jails are scheduled. Sue Lloyd got a grant for an active shooter exercise. Also, Baldhill Dam outflows are decreasing. Jason Thiel has been extremely busy with different projects. Stacie Hansen-Leier stated that Equalization meetings are well under way and things are going smoothly. Chelsy Nelson is leaving and will need to be replaced. Jessica Jenrich is getting busy with grain bin permits, etc. Tonya Duffy hired Bev Vernig to replace Jeremy Wolff, but has not filled the Assistant State's Attorney position yet. Vicky Zinck Metcalf reminded departments to let them know when they take in credit card payments, so that payments can get credited properly. Beth Didier informed all that the 2020 budget preparation has begun and asked the Commission for direction as to how to handle the salaries. The Commission direction to department heads was to use last year's payroll figures as a base and put their salary requests and justification in their narratives. John Froelich addressed the rumor mill at the Courthouse. Cindy Schwehr thanked the group for all they do, especially during County Government Week. Vicky Lovell expressed gratitude for all they do, as well. Bill Carlbom thanked people for the positive feedback on the most recent storm closure. Bill Carlbom also reminded the group that there are proper procedures to be followed for issues with other departments.

Theresa Will, City-County Health District Director was unable to attend, and provided the following update: Attended the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health training in Atlanta with Alicia Hoffarth (Development Corp.), Naomi Koch (Mercy Hospital Social Worker), and Chelsea Modlin (South Central Human Services Counselor). The project that we will continue to work on is to explore and possibly develop recovery housing in Valley City. We will be meeting with County and City Commissions to explore/discuss further. Google F5 Project to learn more or give me a call. Expenses were paid by the Center for Disease Control. Teaching Mental Health First Aid classes throughout the 8-county region. If you haven't attended a class, please consider it. The class helps develop the skills to deal with mental health issues, with family, friends, co-workers, community members, etc. Similar to first aid given for a medical concern, mental health first aid is offered for those with a mental health concern. Will be meeting with Deputy Pat Sand, the Safety/Security officer from the Department of Human Services and the staff at South Central Human Service Center as well as the CCHD staff to discuss building and staff safety/security. Continue to develop our plan to provide a Syringe Services Program for our residents who need that. We know that 19 Barnes County residents are accessing the Fargo program and one is driving to Mandan to access the Custer District Health program. This is a Harm reduction technique, allowing access to health services without judgement, offering support and opportunity to start a treatment program, decrease the spread of hepatitis C and HIV and ultimately to decrease deaths. Continue to work with Family Healthcare to provide clinical services for those with or without insurance. Brittany Michaels, PA is in our office every Wednesday. Recently she has been seeing 3-5 client/day but can easily handle 2-3x that many people. They also an insurance navigator who will help get people signed up for health insurance, helping to determine the most cost-effective manner for them to do this. April is National Drug Take-back month. Please take your unused medications back to one of the pharmacies or either of our law enforcement agencies. Shingrix, the vaccine for Shingles (2 doses, 2-6 months apart for those 50 and over) is still coming in very slowly. If you are on the waiting list, we haven't forgotten you. We need to do 2nd doses prior to starting new people with their first dose. Our On-The-Move grant project: working with the schools; planning a "Let's Walk" event in July, collaborating with Parks and Rec. Received \$5000 from the Valley City community foundation to assist in getting AED's replaced and new AED's within our community. Submitted grant proposals for Partnership for Success (alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamine prevention funding) through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and for State Opioid Response funding through ND Department of Human Services.

With no further business, Cindy Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Vicky Lovell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Bill Carlbom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor