

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlbom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlbom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Planning & Zoning - Variance

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance - Utilities from Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (Oriska, Oakhill & Thordenskjold Townships). Shawn Olauson moved to approve the application; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Brian Mindt - Concerns

Brian Mindt, Barnes County resident, discussed his concerns regarding transparency in commission discussion, access to appearing at the commission meeting, and rotation of the chairman of the commission.

Highway Department – CR #11 Grade Raise / Motor Grader Rates for Townships

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Brian Tykwinski, Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, discussed the County Road #11 grade raise and the timing of the completion. A decision will be made on that after the May bid letting. Cindy Schwehr moved to raise the motor grader rates for townships from \$95 per hour to \$110 per hour; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Cindy Schwehr rescinded her motion; Shawn Olauson rescinded his second. The proposed rate increase will be presented to the townships at the Barnes County Township Officer's Association meeting on the 25th. Culvert and oil bids will be on April 20th.

AP – Construction Update

Madison Young and Ryan Weber, Adolfson Peterson Construction, provided construction updates for the Correctional Center. Construction is 55% complete, in good shape and still on schedule.

Auditor – Minutes / Historical Society Annual Meeting

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cindy Schwehr moved to allow the Barnes County Historical Society to have their annual meeting and dedication of the women's suffrage marker on the front lawn of the courthouse June 17, 2021; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Emergency Management – Burn Ban

Sue Lloyd, Emergency Manager, recommended extension of the temporary burn ban. Cindy Schwehr moved to extend the burn ban for an additional ten days; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included Development Corporation, Social Services, Water Board, Winter Show, the removal of the blinking light at the intersection of ND #1 and County Road #22, Park Board, and possible funding for the elevator repair.

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 9:28 a.m.

Bill Carlbom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor