

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., roll-call was taken, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

**Planning & Zoning – Variances & Rezone**

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance – Trees 100’ from center of County Road #19 from Kurt Reidman (Sibley Trail Township, NW ¼ 17-143-58). Shawn Olauson moved to approve the application; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Pete Paulson voting “no”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback 80’ from the center of township road from Brandon Lettenmaier (Potter Township, SW ¼ 11-140-60). Vicky Lovell moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Trees 125’ from center of township road from Robert Janish (Binghampton Township, S ½ SW ¼ 12-138-56). Shawn Olauson moved to approve the application; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Zoning District Amendment – Residential to Agricultural from Jerrod M Kneeland (Marsh Township, Auditors Lot 2 of NE ¼ 26-139-58). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich updated the Commission on the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Emergency Management – Pump / EOC Laptops / Emergency Declaration**

Jessica Jenrich, Emergency Manager, requested an additional trash pump at a bid cost of \$15,872.22 from Ferguson Waterworks. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the request; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich requested replacement of the laptops in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at an estimated cost of \$1,650.00 each. Bill Carlblom moved to purchase a laptop for the EOC; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Cindy Schwehr moved to sign the Emergency Declaration; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Barnes County, North Dakota  
Emergency Declaration**

WHEREAS, the County of Barnes has been severely impacted by extreme snow falls in excess of 51” from the 2022-2023 winter storms, causing the County & Townships a financial burden due to overtime expenses for employees and repairs for equipment caused by excessive snow fall occurring in Barnes County and continuing; WHEREAS, the impact of these excessive snow falls, and the possibility of more winter storms, threatens the health, well-being, and public safety of its citizens in the county of Barnes; WHEREAS, the cost of response and recovery is in excess of available funds and resources for persons, equipment, and fuel for county and townships. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barnes County Commission of North Dakota does hereby Declare a Severe Winter Storm Emergency for Barnes County, North Dakota.

Dated in Valley City, North Dakota this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman  
Barnes County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Beth Didier  
Barnes County Auditor

**Highway Department – 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Bridge Damages / Highway Department Updates**

Jamie Smith, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commission on the status of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW bridge damage case. The City Attorney recommended a civil suit. The County will submit to insurance and let them duke it out. Two bridge improvements have been approved for replacement of these bridges at 100% costs covered. Cindy Schwehr moved to solicit for Requests for Proposals for design engineering for these two projects; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Road restrictions will be placed only as soon as they need to be, depending upon conditions. Snow removal and equipment repair updates were given. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve granting Jamie Smith authority to sign documents for the Highway Department; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Auditor – Minutes / County Government Week**

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vicky Lovell moved to declare County Government Week April 17 through 21, with walking tacos and ice cream floats to be served to the public from 11 AM to 1 PM on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>; Pete Paulson seconded the motion.

Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Resolution – County Government Week Declaration**  
**RESOLUTION 2023-1**

WHEREAS, Barnes County serves more than ten thousand residents, providing essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents’ lives; and WHEREAS, Barnes County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and WHEREAS, each year since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barnes County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 17 – 21, 2023 as County Government Week and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Dated at Valley City, North Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.

**BARNES COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**  
ATTEST:

Bill Carblom, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier  
Barnes County Auditor

**Commission Discussion**

Commission discussion included portfolio updates. Bill Carblom presented a request for \$10,000 from the Valley City Rescue Squad for replacement of the boat. No action was taken. Paul Lacina and Daryl Larson requested an update on the Valley City School District building fund levy error, which is still held up at the State Tax Commissioner’s office. Bill Carblom moved to give Highway Department workers \$50 pre-paid Visas, as appreciation for their hard work and dedication during this winter’s snow battles, to come out of non-departmental miscellaneous (pop machine receipts, etc.); Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

With no further business, Cindy Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Bill Carblom, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier  
Barnes County Auditor