Barnes County Commission
January 16, 2024
Valley City, ND 58072

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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.

Dispatch - Staffing

Sarah Miller discussed how well the current staff at the 911 Dispatch Center is doing. They are short one dispatcher currently. She would like to keep Santiago and Katie on as part time to fill in when the need arises.

Recycling Center

Adam Faul discussed issues with the costs of recycling. The city contributes to the recycling center which is not enough to keep up with the expenses and asked if the county could help. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to fund $15,000.00 per year to the recycling center for a period of three years through Economic Development funds; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

VC-BC Development Corporation

Jennifer Feist requested approval of $70,000.00 from the Barnes County Economic Development Mill Levy Fund to support the ND National Guard land and infrastructure in the I-94 Regional Development Corridor. This request is year ten of fifteen years. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the funding. Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Jennifer also presented the Annual Economic Development Agreement for 2024. Pete Paulson moved to approve the contract; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Auditor – Minutes

Pete Paulson moved to approve the January 2, 2024, minutes; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. Amending the Sheriff's Office overtime budget was discussed. An error was made on the initial budget request. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve to amend the Sheriff's Office overtime budget from $4,000.00 to $40,000.00; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes upon roll call vote.

VSO – LaMoure County

Angela Hunt provided an update on LaMoure County requesting Barnes County to provide VSO services to LaMoure County with LaMoure County paying travel costs. LaMoure County did accept the $20,000 agreement but would like 4 days a month rather than two. Barnes County can only provide two days a month. Shawn Olauson made a motion to provide a contract to LaMoure County for Veteran Services from Barnes County for two days a month at the rate of $20,000.00 per year plus travel costs for a one-year trial period; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon rollcall vote with all members voting yes.

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included portfolio updates. Pete Paulson attended the Historical Society pancake feed fundraiser on Monday, January 15th. This was very well attended despite the cold weather. Shawn Olauson spoke on the Buffalo Bridges staff located in the Barnes County Courthouse. The staff will have a certain number of employees at the courthouse and the rest will work from home. The employees will switch between being in the courthouse and at home. The Little Dam project is moving forward. Because of water and ice conditions it will be a while before seeing any progress being made. Stewart -Anderson Drain project improvements are being done piece by piece as the funding allows. The Historical Society is working on a book for the 150th Anniversary of Barnes County.

Cindy Schwehr was asked if there could be a container for recycling located by the pop machines in the courthouse entryway. This is a good idea if the containers have a nice look to them. The marble walls of the courthouse should be made to look nicer. Taped up information on walls should be in an acrylic holder or laminated to make it look neater. The county commissioners should throw in some money for an ad in the Barnes County 150th Anniversary book. This will be discussed further, at a later time.

Vicky Lovell reported the library is bid letting on the shingle project and the rotunda repair separately. Bid letting will go out mid-March. The roof will be totally replaced. Some businesses have pledged funds for this purpose. The foundation board is doing some fundraising for the projects.

Bill Carlblom reported that the county FEMA employees will move to the Emergency Manager's Office at the courthouse. This will end the rent being expended to the Highway Department for office rent for Emergency Management. Bobby Koepplin's contract for the Barnes County Park was discussed. There was a consensus that more information is needed. The Highway Department was selected to have one-half of the purchase price of a truck paid for by a grant. Conditions of some of the gravel roads were discussed. Tonya Duffy is getting estimates on the remodeling project in the State's Attorney's Office. Estimates will be sought for a new wall in the front office

with safety glass. Wall may have to be steel studs.

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 9:51 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor