Barnes County Commission
February 20, 2024
Valley City, ND 58072

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 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. Cindy Schwehr brought a student from VCSU, Jaylynn Anderson, who is shadowing Cindy and the leadership team at St. Raphael. Cindy also extends congratulations to Valley City High School and Maple Valley School as they move forward in the District and Regional tournaments.

Sheriff's Office

Randy McClaflin presented bids on new a vehicle. Stoudt Miller submitted two bids. A Dodge Durango is bid at $44,874 and a 2025 Ford Interceptor is bid at $54,492. There will be no trade-in. No other bids were submitted. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to table the bids; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote.

VC-BC Development Corporation

Jennifer Feist presented South Central Dakota Regional Council membership agreement at a cost of $22.020.00 which includes a Joint Powers Agreement. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the membership; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Funding for Valley Recycling was discussed. The Board of Commissioners' previous motion was for the funding to come from the Economic Development fund. Jennifer believed the funding was going through Economic Development as a pass through with the funding coming from the general fund. Jennifer will discuss the funding for Valley Recycling further with the Economic Development Board. Economic Development received a $72,000.00 grant to aid in recruiting people for our workforce.

Auditor – Minutes

Shawn Olauson moved to approve the February 6, 2024 minutes; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. Julie Mindt mentioned that the school building overpayment refund checks have been printed and are ready to be put into envelopes.

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included portfolio updates. Pete Paulson mentioned the Weed Board decided to cost share chemicals to farmers at 50/50 due to funds running out at the 80/20 cost share and increase in prices. They are also considering if the side by side should be repaired or replaced due to parts being hard to get. The Weed Department has blueprints for a new cold and heated storage building. They are looking to bid out this project this spring. ND state has new laws on logging all spraying done with GPS location for state reimbursement which will take more paperwork. Pig weed is more resistant to chemicals. Currently the Weed Department has one employee other than Jamen and hoping one will return for the summer. One part-time driver for the Veterans Service Office has been let go. Angela was considering if Bob should be put on full-time or if another part-time driver should be sought out. It was the consensus of the board to look for another part-time driver. Shawn Olauson reported Buffalo Bridges Zone board has a senator from Dist. 12 now serving on the board. Ten Mile Lake is deeper than originally thought. Snagging and clearing will not be done because of ice conditions not being safe. Bond bid for Steward Anderson drain came in $12,000.00 more than expected. Water Resource is working on the new Water Development plan which has a deadline in April. The reassessment hearing on Thordenskjold Drain includes parts in Ransom County and the southwest parts of Thordenskjold Township and Oakhill Township. The museum hired K & S to do their carpet cleaning. April 18th is the date set for the Preserving Legacy of the Barnes County Historical Society Foundation. They are looking for $250,000 to $500,000 for operating dedicated to the foundation. They are still looking for ads for the Barnes County150th Anniversary book. Cindy Schwehr mentioned that she needs Proof of Health Insurance. Cindy also mentioned that there needs to be an article on the election on what positions are open. Pete and Cindy's commission seats are up for election. Vicky Lovell reported the Regional Council Board added another member to go to job sites they are involved with and create a vendor listing and talk to each vendor. They will need to fill out a form on each vendor and make sure they are on site. They are ahead of the steps they need for the USDA Food Program. The Highway Department interviewed two candidates. They are still down two employees. Bill Carlblom reported the Highway Department employees are doing culvert inventory, tree removal, and checking erosion. All the small projects are getting caught up because of the weather. Winter Show is making preparations for this year's show.

Minnie Lake and Meadow Lake Townships would like Barnes County to act as a pass through for the Township Assistance Program from the Department of Transportation. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to allow this program to use Barnes County as a pass through for funding for Minnie Lake Township and Meadow Lake Township; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote.

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 9:00 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor