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

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Cindy Schwehr was absent. 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

Betsy Brimhall received an APCO Scholarship to attend 911 training in South Dakota in September. The scholarship covers a big portion of the cost. Vicky Lovell made a motion to allow Betsy to attend the training; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Sarah would like permission to send Tabatha and Crissy to supervisor training in Bismarck at the end of October. Registration is $445 per person plus lodging. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the training; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. A donation was received from the Valley City Eagles for under the desk treadmills. After discussion, the commission rejected the idea of under the desk treadmills. Sarah will do more research on them. Governor Burgum proclaimed the week as National Telecommunications Week.

Planning & Zoning

Jessica Jenrich presented a Variance for Dwight Olson on Parcel #34-0830300. Bill Carlblom moved to approve the Variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Building permits were reviewed. There will be a tornado drill on April 24th at 1:00 p.m. with several schools taking part. Everbridge will send out notices informing people of the drill. The courthouse will take part in the drill. A mock prom accident will take place May 1st.

States Attorney

There are no applicants for Assistant States Attorney at the increased wage. Pete Paulson made a motion to increase the beginning wage for the Assistant State Attorney opening to $105,000.00; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote with Vicky Lovell voting no. Discussion took place about the possibility of a paralegal until the assistant opening is filled. Occupying the office space previously utilized by Chris Iverson was discussed as additional space for the State Attorney's Office. Tonya Duffy would like a physical front wall for security purposes at the front of the office where the administration assistants currently sit. Bill will talk to Shane regarding the front wall project. Additional compensation for Tonya will be put on the next agenda when all commissioners are present.

MIS

Jason Thiel discussed the recent phone outage. On March 31st jail employees reported they could not make outgoing calls. On April 1, our representative was contacted, and the issue was forwarded to a technician. The technician did find an issue impacting all In and Out Band DS Zero Trunks. After many issues and delays getting the problem solved, Jason contacted BEK who stated they already had parts in our facility and could get us temporary lines by Wednesday April 10th. BEK provided a temporary phone number while they were installing temporary lines. Our temporary number was advertised in the media so that the public still had access to our offices. BEK was able to have our phone lines completely up and running on April 10th. BEK will have unlimited long distance and the PRI is also less expensive. Bill Carlblom made a motion to switch everyone over to BEK permanently; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote.

Auditor – Minutes

Shawn Olauson moved to approve the April 2nd, 2024 minutes; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. A resolution proposing election inspectors was reviewed for this year's election. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the resolution for the 2024 Election Worker Inspectors; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. The county will be participating in Summer Nights on Central on August 8th this year. The employees would like to serve ice cream floats and candy as we did last year. Bill Carlblom made a motion to do the same as we did last year; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote of present members. An invoice from Tyler Technologies was reviewed. The county had terminated the contract with Tyler Technologies. Julie will reach out to Tyler Technologies regarding the invoice. Several Auditor Office employees are scheduled to attend the HR Conference in Bismarck for two nights in April.

Water Resource District

Bruce Anderson reported that the state requires dam safety inspection yearly. Local share funding would be approximately $366,000.00. Game and Fish will contribute approximately $65,000.00. The Little Dam project was allocated $340,000.00 SLFRF funds. Bruce is requesting designating remaining funds from the Little Dam project be used for the Clausen Springs Dam project. Snagging & Clearing was not completed this year. Bruce is requesting the $50,000.00 allocated and not spent this year to be put towards next year's budget and add another $50,000.00 for next year. With state matching funds, more miles of snagging and clearing could be done. Bill Carlblom made a motion to keep the $50,000 allocated in this year's budget and add that to next year's budget for Snagging and Clearing; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. The Water Board has a job opening for a part-time secretary and has not gotten any applications and asked if the county would consider a floater position.

Corrections

Anna Berntson came before the commission to request permission to attend PREA training in New York in July. The grant she received provides the registration fee. The cost to the county would be approximately $1,200.00. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the PREA training; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon unanimous roll call vote.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson reported interviews were completed for the VSO position and Tammy Jacobson has accepted the position of Veteran Service Officer. Bill Carlblom moved to approve a salary of $59,000.00 annually beginning April 9th for the VSO position; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. We will advertise for an assistant for Tammy with a range of $21.00 to $25.00 per hour depending on experience. Tammy has been going to Lamoure County, so she is in their office from 8 am to 5 pm. The opening for a VSO driver is currently still open. The Local Emergency Planning Committee has met and discussed SIRN and tornado training. There is a new search and rescue policy between the fire and sheriff departments and the Corp of Engineers. Nutrien was approved to supply chemicals for the Weed Board. Side by Side will be sold at the county auction. There are no bids yet on the new building. One part-time employee will be coming back for the summer. One seasonal full-time employee may apply for the full time Cass County position. Jamen will advertise for part time help. Shawn Olausson stated the Foundation Fundraiser at the Museum coming up. Wes asked about storing museum items in the old jail building. Comstock Construction was awarded the bid on Little Dam. Hobart drain was opened on March 15th. An assessment list was adopted for Thordenskjold. Vicky Lovell reported on the SCDRC meeting. Bill Carlblom talked about the issues with the Love's Travel Stop entrance. The bike project will not be done until this fall. Bill Carlblom made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to hire additional help in the Auditor's Office for the election as in prior years. Motion carried upon roll call vote.

With no further business, Shawn Olauson made a motion, seconded by Vicky Lovell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor