Barnes County Commission
May 21, 2024
Valley City, ND 58072

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 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.

Weed Board

Information was presented on a new building for the Weed Board. Morton Buildings Inc. was the only bid received with a total estimated project cost including material, tax, and labor at $714,517.00. Ethan Waters is the new employee in the Weed Department.

Highway – Weed – Park

The Bid Opening of County Equipment for sale was held.

Mounted 9-00/20 bias tires with 2-piece rims, quantity 10 (sold as 1 lot), high bid was $750.00 awarded to Clint Hovde; 1998 Chevy ½ ton pickup with 262,140 miles, high bid was $1,110.00 awarded to Lance Peterson; Homemade wood splitter high bid was $600.00 awarded to Scott Cole; Hotsy 56066 power washer, high bid was $222.00 awarded to Lance Peterson; John Deere 2440 gas tractor, 540 PTO, 3980 hours with a Farmhand GL520 Loader & bucket, high bid was $2,500.00 awarded to Eldred Knutson; and the 2016 Arctic Cat Prowler HDX 700 high bid was $3,650.00 awarded to Mike Holiday. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to approve the highest bid on the equipment. If any person recants his/her bid, the item will be offered to the next highest bidder. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion.

Certification Mileage of townships was completed at 1,468 miles. Dane & Calvin Bjornson are asking to modify an existing approach for field access. Modification will be allowed at their own expense asl long as modifications are to the county specs. Bridge work in Alta is complete.

Planning and Zoning

Setback Variance of 120' for tree planting on 23.14 Acres of SE ¼-141-58 for Roy Aafedt was presented. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the variance; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. A replat permit going from five lots to two lots of Lots 1 through 5 of Sandy Beach Subdivision for Kristen Lindgren and Andrea Richman was presented. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to approve the replat; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote. A structure setback variance of 130" from section line road for Dean Peterson was presented. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. A structure set back variance for a deck for James Devine was presented for Lot 2 Block 1 in Martin's Landing Subdivision. Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. A setback variance of 132.4 from the center of County 20, Lot 1 of Beyer Sub 18-140-58 for a house addition for Joel Iverson was submitted. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the setback variance; Motion carried on roll call approval. A setback variance for a building to house pontoon boat etc. 60' from the center of subdivision road. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the application contingent with completion of borings; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with Cindy Schwehr and Bill Carlblom voting no. Building Permits were reviewed.

Emergency Management

EMPG Grant information was provided by Jessica Jenrich. She will be applying for the grant this year.

Auditor – Minutes

Shawn Olauson moved to approve the May 7th, 2024 minutes; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. On Wednesday, May 29th at 10:00 AM, Ken Griechen with CISA is scheduled to be at the courthouse to do a security assessment. Issues with filled out Absentee/Mail Ballot Application forms when the box for school election is checked was discussed in how to best alleviate the confusion. Becky Kratz has been hired for the election worker opening in our office.

Environmental Services

The quote to repair the air conditioning unit for the courtroom has come in at $2,189.00. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the repair; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call approval. Southview Outdoor Services from Jamestown provided a quote of $1,058.00 to fertilize the grounds at the correctional center. This is an application in the spring and an application in the fall. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the service; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. The Environmental Services Department are willing to try cleaning at the City County Health Department if they provide the supplies and equipment. The courthouse must be covered before cleaning other offices.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson attended the Weed Board meeting. They have budgeted for increased wages for 2025. Jamen put in 123 hours spraying the state road, and the state reimburses the Weed Board $125.00 per hour. Justin will be staying on at the Weed Board. Jamen will be attending a three-day webinar in Washburn. There was confusion about the starting wage for the new VSO officer. She understood the wage would be $60,000 but the commission

approved $59,000, which became effective April 9th. There is still an opening for a part time VSO driver. The commission board is not comfortable having one full-time driver. We will keep looking to fill the part-time driver opening. The VSO Assistant position is still open due to time constraints. There are good applicants for the opening, and it needs to be filled. Shawn Olauson reported the Little Dam work will begin late summer or early fall. Buffalo Bridges in Jamestown handles a food pantry. Buffalo Bridges in Valley City works with the Senior Center Food Pantry. Their budget is under for the biennium. New vehicles for the zone will be taken on by the state. The state does have 17 more people in the call center. Museum is losing one employee. Cindy Schwehr attended the airport meeting. There will be a breakfast held at the airport during community days as in the past. They are working on spill containment. City County Health is doing well. Rent income is just under $4,000.00 per month. Vicky Lovell reported that the SCDRC has a grant writing service, and they will help write grants if needed. The housing authority has some security issues that may need to be addressed. The library is selling raffle tickets if anyone would like one. The roofing project is scheduled to begin mid-June. Construction has started. The sidewalk on the south side was mistakenly taken out and should not have been. This was not a part of the construction project. Bill Carlblom reported that Corrections is now certified to house female inmates.

With no further business, Bill Carlblom made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor