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

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlblom was absent. Vice Chairman Cindy Schwehr 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**

Lia Roorda presented the variances for Planning and Zoning. Jessica Jenrich attended by telephone. A variance was presented for Jacobson Farms on the SW ¼ 3-143-57 for a grain bin. Pete Paulson moved to approve the Variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Liz presented a Variance for Ryan Kroese on Section 21-142-58, Lot 11 of Lee's Subdivision for a setback for a shed. Pete Paulson moved to approve the variance contingent on the township signing off on the variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Liz presented a setback variance for BEK Communications for Fiber Optic Cable placement going across Raritan, Thordenskjold, and Binhamton Townships; Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the setback variance; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Liz presented an utility setback variance for BEK Communications located in the NE ¼ Section 18 of Alta Township. Vicky Lovel moved to approve the utility setback; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. Building permits were reviewed.

**Highway Department**

Jamie Smith and Cindy Schopper presented information on the Supportive Employment Program through Open Door working with Open Door clients. There is an individual currently interested in working in the Highway Department. A job coach works with the intern until they become independent. Jamie will proceed with gathering more information regarding pay. Pete Paulson made a motion to proceed with the program; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Cindy, Pete, and Shawn voting yes in a roll call vote. Vicky Lovell voted no.

**Auditor's Office**

Shawn Olauson moved to approve a correction to the June 22, 2024 minutes and the July 2, 2024 minutes. Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried. A special permit for J&L's Bar and Grill to sell Alcoholic Beverages at the Dakota Riders MC Hillclimb grounds was presented. Vicky Lovel made a motion to approve the permit; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote. The Auditor's Office staff will be attending a Regional Election meeting in Jamestown on August 14th. Provisions will try to be made to staff the office using staff from another department.

**Commission Discussion**

Sarah Miller introduced Andrea Hetland as the newest staff member in Dispatch. Vicky Lovell will be attending meetings coming up this week. Pete Paulson attended the Economic Development Corporation meeting. Construction of an apartment complex was discussed. Current news articles regarding the complex are premature. There is no funding in place currently. Pete attended the Weed Board meeting. Jamen is looking into a portable wash station. He was sprayed in the face due to a crack in the valve. Leafy Spurge beetle will be coming in from Montana. Pete attended the LEPCT meeting. They are working on getting new radios that are VHF. There was a presentation on the Salamander ID name tags for first responders. The ambulance had 139 calls in seven days. Becky Thebo was offered and accepted the job as the new VSO Office Assistant. She will start July 29th. The van put on 2,622 miles and had given 47 rides. Shawn Olauson attended the Planning and Zoning meeting and the Water Board meeting. There will be a later start date on the Little Dam project due to the high water. The cost ratio study for 10 Mile Lake is coming in at a high rate. They will be looking at the dam at Clausen Spring and doing a dam safety evaluation. New legislative law have boards forming joint water boards in place of joint powers agreements. There is a new drain located north of Tower City that will affect some land in Barnes County. Svea Township had an abandoned drain that they would like to start utilizing again. Cattail spraying has been lined up. Cindy Schwehr reported the Fly-In pancake breakfast that was held during Community Days went well. FFA required some trees to be topped off. This was paid for by grants. Fuel containment is being worked on.

Jeremy Wolff with the Correction Department called in to inform the commissioners that the current food service contract with Consolidated Correctional Foodservice is not being renewed. They are working with Summit Correctional Services. They are willing to hire current staff and do offer staff training. Summit has all the correctional facilities in North Dakota except for Barnes County.

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 9:29 a.m.

Cindy Schwehr, Vice Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor