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

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 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

Jessica Jenrich presented a setback variance application for Jon Buchholz. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the Variance Application; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Dispatch

Updated job descriptions for Dispatch were discussed. The updated job descriptions would not affect wages or retirement provisions at the present time. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the updated job descriptions; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with Vicky Lovell voting no. The 988 Memorandum of Understanding status is still in process of being reviewed by the State's Attorney. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to approve the 988 Memorandum of Understanding contingent upon the approval of the State's Attorney; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Vicky Lovell voting no.

Auditor's Office

Shawn Olauson moved to approve minutes from August 6, 2024, and the Special Budget Meeting minutes from August 9th. Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting "aye". Cindy Schwehr made a motion to approve the Gaming Site Authorization for the Sodbusters Calcutta event. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion Carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Jessica Jenrich will serve as the Delegate to the NDACO convention being held in Bismarck in October. The public hearing to discuss the 2025 budget will be held on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:00 PM in the Barnes County Courthouse Commission Room on second floor.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson reported that prospective VSO drivers will be interviewed this week. Prospective drivers don't want to drive so many days so we may hire two additional part time drivers rather than one. The process of scheduling rides for the veterans was discussed. Shawn Olauson reported that the Little Dam Project will start this month or early September. They are trying to find enough rock for the project. There will be a meeting regarding Thordenskjold Drain on September 9th. There are a couple of projects that are not looking feasible due to costs. Vicky Lovell attended the NDACO courthouse tour that was held at the Barnes County Courthouse. The shingling has been completed on the main part of the library. They are looking into the damage that was done to the drop box located outside of the library. HUD is switching to different programming by the end of this year. She also attended the SCRDC meeting and reported on various happenings in the district. Bill Carlblom attended the Economic Development meeting. The prospective apartment complex that was being projected on the empty lot north of the Winter Show building has been put on the back burner. Josh Johnson reported that the school numbers are down but they would still like to think about a new school building. There will be a mud derby coming up soon located on the Winter Show grounds. Bill met with Mandy from Buffalo Bridges. They will set up cubicles in the southeast office and move workers from the northwest office over. Planning and Zoning will move to the northwest corner office space. The Sheriff's Office will move into the remainder of the office space in the northwest corner. This will put security back in the courthouse and eliminate renting office space for the Sheriff's Office. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the restructuring plan for moving offices. Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

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 8:51 a.m.

Cindy Schwehr, Vice Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Interim Auditor