

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 with Bill Carlbom, Mike Metcalf, and Rodger Berntson present. Cindy Schwehr and John Froelich were unable to attend. Chairman Metcalf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

**Planning & Zoning – Conditional Use Permit & Variance**

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and a Variance – Setback from center of road from Midcontinent Communications (Alta, Oriska & Valley Townships, along 33<sup>rd</sup> St from Tower City to Valley City). Rodger Berntson moved to approve the application; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Eckelson Township – Zoning Authority**

Scott Gullickson and Joe Pesek, Eckelson Township officers, presented their Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances and asked the Commission to consider allowing the establishment of Eckelson Township Zoning Authority.

**Treasurer – Pledge of Assets**

Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, presented the Pledge of Securities. Bill Carlbom moved to accept the report as presented; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Auditor – Minutes / Raffle Permit Application / 2016 Year-End Adjustments**

Bill Carlbom moved to approve the January 3, 2017 minutes; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rodger Berntson moved to approve the application for a Local Permit (Raffle) from Page Fire Department for an event on 2/11/2017 at Ashtabula Crossing; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Harold Rotunda, CPA, appeared before the Commission and discussed year-end balance adjustments. The following 2016 year-end adjustments were presented for approval: Fund 11 – Veterans Services: \$38,286.60; Fund 19 – Social Security (MIS: \$322,748.11); Fund 26 – Corrections: \$520,961.72; Fund 28 – Insurance Reserve: \$50,062.50; and Fund 77 – 911 Emergency (Dispatch) \$477,585.47: all to be zeroed out against the General Fund at the end of the year. Bill Carlbom moved to approve the adjustments, as presented; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Most of the adjustments (MIS, Corrections, Insurance Reserve, and Dispatch) need to be made because those funds no longer receive a levy. They are technically part of the General Fund, so adjustments are required to zero the accounts out at year-end.

**Tax Equalization – 2017 Ag Valuations**

Stacie Leier, Tax Director, presented the recommendation from the Barnes County Soils Committee to lower the 2017 State Certified Agricultural Land Valuations by 9.5% and allowing the township assessors to have a ½% tolerance to work with. Rodger Berntson moved to accept their recommendation; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

**Commission Discussion**

Bill Carlbom moved to appoint Holly Neuberger as Barnes County’s representative on the regional CRIB (Coordinated Regional Interoperability Board), which will be a way for the County to provide input on the Statewide Interoperability Radio Network changes; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Rodger Berntson moved to appoint Anna Knight and Vicki Zinck to fill vacant positions on the Senior Citizens board; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Rotunda repair options were discussed; preliminary estimates will be sought out.

**Department Head Meeting**

Barnes County department heads met with the Commission and updated them on departmental activities. Theresa Will, City-County Health District, provided this report: There will be a Cholesterol Screening on 2/15/2017 for the general public, as well as County employees. Please call 845-8518 to register. They are currently presenting a 16 week diabetes prevention class for those with pre-diabetes. The class started the first week in January and has 19 people registered. Things to watch in the 2017 Legislature: In the budget that Governor Dalrymple submitted, he totally eliminated BreatheND, which is the State Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control. Theresa Will was in Bismarck to provide testimony supporting BreatheND's budget, explaining what the separate state agency does and how the program has helped us locally, for example, local ordinances protecting youth from e-cigarettes, smoke-free parks, tobacco-free city and county grounds and vehicles, all schools in our county have model tobacco-free policies in place protecting our youth, currently working in multi-use housing to help assure all tenants can have healthier, smoke-free homes, and more. We are also advocating for increased mental health services and maintaining Medicaid expansion. CCHD is planning an event in conjunction with Valley City Public Schools and VCSU, in which Tony Hoffman, a BMX champion, will speak (1:30 p.m. at VCPS for the students, 6:00 p.m. for the community and 7:30 at VCSU on February 13th) regarding his road to addiction, and then, recovery. He has a very impactful

message. Please plan to join us. CCHD will be doing additional work in this area as a follow-up to this speaker, partially through our youth alcohol prevention grant.

With no further business, Rodger Berntson made a motion, seconded by Bill Carlblom, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Metcalf, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier  
Barnes County Auditor