

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 with Mike Metcalf, Bill Carlbom, Cindy Schwehr, John Froelich, and Rodger Berntson present. Chairman Schwehr called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Sheriff's Dept – Vehicle Bids / Office Lease / Drug Task Force

Randy McClaflin, Sheriff, and Don Fiebiger, Chief Deputy Sheriff, presented their recommendation for replacement of a Sheriff's patrol car, requesting approval to purchase a 2015 Dodge Charger at a cost of \$30,800, and to keep the 2010 Chevrolet Impala at the jail. Mike Metcalf moved to approve the recommendation; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". The current lease agreement with Wagon Wheel Inn for the Sheriff's Office space will remain in place until further notice, and no change is needed at this time. Mr. McClaflin presented a request from the Stutsman County Narcotics Task Force of \$15,000 for Barnes County's commitment. John Froelich moved to approve the request; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Planning & Zoning – Variance

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, presented an application for a Variance to plant trees 125' from the centerline of the road from Josh J Larson (Ashtabula Township, NE ¼ 27-142-58). There are already some established trees present in this location at about this distance. Mike Metcalf moved to approve the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Auditor – Minutes / Resolution / Raffle Permit

John Froelich moved to approve the January 6, 2015 minutes with corrections; Mike Metcalf seconded the motion. Motion carried. Beth Didier, Auditor, informed the Commission that she will be out of the office beginning January 22nd and returning on February 3rd. Ms. Didier is also considering different options for filling the vacancy in her office. Ms. Didier presented an Application for a Charity Local Permit – Raffle from Page Firemen with proceeds to go to Barnes County Wildlife Club in support of projects at Lake Ashtabula. John Froelich moved to approve the request; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". Ms. Didier presented the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 2015-1

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BARNES COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, WHEREAS, the Board desires to transfer County Property, namely a desk from the Auditor's Office previously acquired by purchase; and WHEREAS, said property is valued at less than \$1000.00 and may be sold at private sale pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 11-27-01; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that said property shall be sold to Trinity Lutheran Church for \$ 50.00. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that proceeds of the sale shall be paid into the county treasury. Passed, adopted, and approved this 20th day of January, 2015.

John Froelich moved to approve the Resolution; Mike Metcalf seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Leroy Neubauer – Wellness Center Funding

Leroy Neubauer, Valley City resident, voiced his opposition to the request for funding from the County for the proposed Wellness Center, and shared his opinion that supporting the Wellness Center is not a matter of Economic Development.

Valley City Renaissance Zone – Extension / Letter of Support

Bobby Koepplin appeared on behalf of the Valley City Renaissance Zone Authority, and requested a Letter of Support from Barnes County in order for the Authority to be considered for an extension. Mike Metcalf moved to approve writing a Letter of Support; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Rodger Berntson voting "no".

VC-BC Development Corp – Wellness Center Funding Request

Jennifer Feist, Director of Development – Valley City – Barnes County Development Corporation, Paige Bjornson, Board President, and Tyler Jacobson, Valley City Parks & Recreation, presented a request for \$250,000 from Economic Development funds for the construction of the Wellness Center. Rodger Berntson moved to deny the request; Mike Metcalf seconded the motion. Motion carried, with John Froelich voting "no".

Highway Dept – Faust Dam Bridge Replacement Project

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Shawn Mayfield, Kadrmass, Lee & Jackson, presented two options for replacement of the Faust Dam Bridge – Option #1 to make it a longer, wider, and higher bridge at a County cost of

\$248,500, or Option #2 to include also raising the adjacent road, at a total cost to the County of \$498,100 for construction in 2017. Mike Metcalf moved to approve Option #2; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Nellie Degan - Introduction

Nellie Degan, liaison for the North Dakota Fraternal of Order of Police James/Valley Regional Lodge 4, appeared before the Commission, and introduced herself and informed them of the Lodge’s activities.

Commission Meetings – Scheduling Alternatives

Bill Carlblom asked the rest of the Commission if they would consider alternative meeting times in order to accommodate more public participation. John Froelich moved to schedule the first meeting of the month during the months of February, March and April to begin at 4 pm; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Karen Christenson – Precinct Voting Issues

Karen Christenson, Valley City resident, presented her concerns regarding the posting of voter credit from the 2014 General Election poll-book records of Precinct 3, which was located in the VCSU Student Center, asked for a thorough examination of Precinct 3’s poll-book, and asked to be re-instated to her position as Administrative Assistant II in the Barnes County Auditor’s Office, from which she was recently let go. Others in attendance questioned the role of the North Dakota Association of Counties in regards to election administration and requested that the Commission follow up with the Secretary of State on that question, as well as what is considered to be a valid residential address for students living in college dormitories.

Department Head Meeting

Cindy Schwehr informed the Department Heads of the change to the meeting times for the first meeting in the months of February, March, and April of 2015. Recorder Jody Pfaff announced that processing of passports and marriage licenses is going well and is keeping them busy. A Security Committee has been established, and a security exercise will be planned for this coming summer. The water fountain was discussed, and it was decided that no change will be made at this time. Theresa Will, City County Health Director, presented a report: the building project is running somewhat behind schedule, a large grant was received to decrease alcohol consumption, there is a falls-prevention program in place, Barnes County On the Move is in progress, chronic disease management education is on-going, they are working on tobacco control, and they are working on a position paper for a State-Aid increase. The State’s Attorney is advertising for an Assistant State’s Attorney, and will be advertising for an upcoming opening due to an upcoming retirement. Kim Franklin updated the Commission on the mapping project, and will set up a time to introduce the new commissioners to the Dispatch Center.

Commission Discussion

Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District will be meeting in Fargo at 1:30 pm on January 27th to discuss repairs and improvements to Little Dam and Kathryn Dam, and to discuss whether or not to move forward with a feasibility study on a possible dam on Baldhill Creek. A meeting regarding the Hobart Lake project will be held on February 23rd at 9:30 am at the County Highway Shop. Other water discussion included the possibility of setting up an assessment district for issues at Rose Slough / Silver Creek in Pierce Township.

John Froelich would like to add the following to the next meeting’s agenda: to consider rolling over the Valley City Police Department’s phone lines, if they want to, and to recommend raising the starting dispatcher wage by \$1 per hour, and adding \$1 per hour for evening and weekend differential, due to difficulties in hiring good dispatchers, as well as advertising and hiring a Dispatch Coordinator at a salary of \$45,000 to \$48,000.

Another architect has made a visit to the Courthouse to prepare a proposal for repair of the stained-glass ceiling in the rotunda. Bill Carlblom will look into getting a couple more bids for a plumbed-in water fountain in order to eliminate the need for constant refilling of the current water coolers.

Carl Martineck, State’s Attorney, will follow up with the Secretary of State regarding the relationship between the counties, the North Dakota Association of Counties, and the Secretary of State’s office, as it pertains to election administration. Mr. Martineck will also ask the Secretary of State’s office for a response as to how college student addresses should properly be handled.

Carl Martineck presented a Job Description for the Victim/Witness Coordinator portion of the Administrative Assistant II position, so that he can move forward with advertising for the position. John Froelich moved to approve the Position Description; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

With no further business, John Froelich made a motion, seconded by Mike Metcalf, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor