

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 with Cindy Schwehr, Bill Carlblom, Mike Metcalf, John Froelich, and Rodger Berntson present. Chairman Metcalf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

NDACo Resolutions

John Froelich made a motion to propose a resolution to the North Dakota Association of Counties suggesting an increase in the income limit for off-farm income for farm residence exemptions from \$40,000 to \$50,000; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Rodger Berntson voting “no”. John Froelich made a motion to propose a resolution suggesting creation of a \$50,000 homestead credit exemption for all residences; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried with Rodger Berntson and Mike Metcalf voting “no”.

Planning & Zoning – Variances & Conditional Use Permits

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance - Setback from Jeffrey Gilbertson (Ashtabula Township, Jewett Beach 22-142-58). John Froelich moved to approve the application; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – Ag to Residential - from Josh Johnson (Hobart Township, SE ¼ 24-140-59). Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback from Robert Schultz (Eckelson Township, Scouten’s 14-140-62). Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance - Setback from Caitlin M Wolters (Thordenskjold Township, NE ¼ 12-137-57). Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a CUP – Ag to Gravel Pit from Gail Bischoff (Hemen Township, SW ¼ 33-139-60). Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application and to waive the fine; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Highway Dept – Engineering Contract

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Shawn Mayfield, Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, presented an engineering contract for the paving project for County Road #4 at a cost of \$17,150. Rodger Berntson moved to approve the contract; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Community Service Position Description

Wanda Auka, Community Service Board Chairman, presented a job description for the Community Service Coordinator for approval. John Froelich moved to approve the description; Bill Carlblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes

Bill Carlblom moved to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes with corrections; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commission Discussion

Rodger Berntson discussed leave transfer options, upcoming increases in State Radio fees, and 2015 Snagging & Clearing costs paid by the Water Board. John Froelich discussed the possibility of the County paying for updating the street and house number signs affected by the 911 addressing project, and reminded Department Heads and Elected Officials to please notify the Commission when planning to be gone for multiple days. Mike Metcalf presented a bid from Richard O'Brian to erect two walls with sound-proofing in Social Services southeast corner office. John Froelich moved to accept the bid; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Department Head Meeting

Randy McClafin reported that a \$5,000 grant was received to cover costs of the seizure of the dogs who have been housed at the North Dakota Winter Show; bills from the NDWS and Prairie Paws Rescue have been paid. Josh Magnuson has been hired as a Sheriff's Deputy, which will create an opening in Corrections. Jamen Windish reported that purple loosestrife has been found on the river in two different spots. Kerry Johnson reported that Barnes Rural Water is being installed at the County Parks, and that Brandon Compson has been hired to fill the highway department's open Operator position. Jason Thiel reported on the recent CenturyLink phone outage. Vicki Zinck asked about repair of the courthouse sidewalks on the north side near the mailbox; this will be proposed for next year, as well as possibly moving the mailbox further east to provide additional accessibility. Stacie Leier asked about the possibility of Abatements being handled in the Auditor's Office, as they have in the past; Beth Didier said she was fine with that, and the details will be worked out between the two offices. Jody Pfaff reported that the Recorder's office has been busy with weddings this summer. Jessica Jenrich is updating building permit signage. Holly

Neuberger reported that Burlington Northern Rail Road will be working on the Hi-Line Bridge in phases, over the next three years. Stan Horst reported that the skylight sealing project is still pending. Beth Didier updated the group on Policy Committee happenings, Budget preparation, and Annual Inventory needs. Julia Anderson presented the following report for City County Health: Paula Thomsen, RN has resigned as our Home Care Coordinator. Julia Anderson, RN has been promoted to the Home Care Coordinator position. We are looking for an RN who will work as a staff nurse in home care and public health, 24-40 hours/week. We have a New Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, Heather Schwehr; she will be working 20 hours/week at this point. We are close to purchasing an electronic health record to better communicate with providers, more efficiently document client encounters, and more safely administer vaccines. "What in the World" applied for funds to provide assistance for those who are new in our community. Emma Tufte is working 12-2pm daily out of the extra office space in our building, helping New Americans and others obtain the resources needed to navigate our community. We have invited community partners to a discussion meeting, led by Heartview, looking at setting up 4 screening and recovery centers in ND. We will be hosting the meeting on 7/19. Since mental health access has risen to the top in both the 2012 and 2015 community health assessments, it was determined that this may be a way to help address this need. We presented our public health service award to Randy McClafflin at the commission meeting on June 21st for his support and assistance on public health efforts. Our Mental Health Access group (approximately 35 community partners) will continue to meet quarterly. We have formed a small working group that will be putting a mental health resource list together. We will be doing flu fit again this year, encouraging everyone between ages 50-70 to be screened for colon cancer. We just received notification that we will be receiving 4 years of funding to address youth alcohol use. Barnes County, along with 4 other counties in our region, 4 tribal areas, and one other multi-county area, scored highest in ND in the area of youth alcohol use. These funds will start in November this year and run through September of 2020. This will be a little different than the previous 2 years of alcohol prevention funding, which was to address adult binge drinking, as well as youth alcohol use, but many of the strategies will be similar. CCHD building: looking at a plan to update the windows in our building, hoping that will help with the heating and air conditioning efficiency. We have an open office on 2nd floor. With no further business, Bill Carlblom made a motion, seconded by John Froelich, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Mike Metcalf, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor