

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 with Bill Carlbom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Bill Carlbom 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 and Zoning

Robert Latt has a setback variance application for building a new bin 190' from the center of the township road, located in the SW¼ 29-138-59 of Skandia Township. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the setback variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote. Matthew Olson has a variance application to build a third house in the SW¼ 2-140-58 in Valley Township. Current law is two houses allowed on continuous 40 acres unless it is a subdivision. Vicky Lovell made a motion to deny this application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion to deny carried unanimously upon roll call vote. Building permits were reviewed.

Highway Department

Jamie Smith received one bid for culverts which was from True North. 18" culverts were bid at 24.00; 24" culverts were bid at 30.40; 36" culverts were bid at \$57.60; and 48" culverts were bid at \$104.00. All bid culverts are galvanized corrugated metal. Shawn Olauson made a motion to accept the bid from True North; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote. A tandem truck has a bent frame due to the wing catching a paved approach and tore the wing off. Another tandem truck front plow caught gravel, and the truck went over the top of the plow. No injuries reported on either incident.

States Attorney

Tonya Duffy presented a list of seven training seminars she is interested in attending and would like to send Trent to some training as well. She would like to plan to get better travel costs. Commission instructed Tonya to pick one or two training seminars she was interested in and one or two for Trent if it stayed within the budget. Office Expansion was discussed. The commissioners will discuss this at a later date. They would like to finish the Sheriff's Office before considering another project.

Land Dispute

Theresa Busche discussed her land dispute with the City of Sibley and the campground that adjoins her property located at 141 Lake Avenue.

Auditor's Office

Vicky Lovell moved to approve April 1, 2025, minutes as presented. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The mill rate levy error for the Valley City School District was discussed. Pete Paulson made a motion to pay the Valley City School District for the mill under levy contingent on what number the Auditor, Treasurer, and the States Attorney comes up with less the five percent discount and we work on a legislative fix; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes with the exception of Vicky Lovell who voted no.

Dispatch

It is Telecommunications Week. Dispatch is now fully staffed. There were three very qualified candidates. The top scorer was offered the position. Four portable radios are programmed for SIRN. Sarah has been working on testing the signals in different areas of the county.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson attended the Airport meeting. The airport authority is doing well financially. Some of their projects include putting up an electrical vault which will be 97.5% paid by federal and state funds. They are in the process of receiving bids for replacing a part of the fence. The Weed Board rehired Pete Fehr for summer. The chemical bids have come in and are lower. The cost-share is 50/50 between the county and the landowner. The LEPC meeting included discussion on the SIRN tower and first responder shooting training at the hospital this fall, and they are compliant with tier two reports listing commercial and hazardous chemical sites in the county. Pipeline training and road closure training for winter has been completed. SIRN testing is May 2nd. The City County Health District is concerned about measles outbreaks in other parts of the country and immunization rates in schools. Veterans Office is closed this week for training in Fargo. Shawn Olauson attended the Buffalo Bridges meeting. One young person that they have issues with should go to a foster home but there are no foster homes available. The Water Resource District Board meeting was held. The Little Dam will have the final inspection in May. Hobart and Sanborn drains are both closed. Dam Inventory for the county needs to be done. Tile applications have been coming in. The museum will be publishing a book to go along with the World War II designation. Economic Development discussed the proposal for the new school. Mike Schwehr attended City County Health District and went through vaccination rates in other places. All schools are up to preparedness for a measles outbreak except for the Valley City School District. The swimming pool at Wesley Acres is on their radar. Vicky Lovell attended an equalization meeting. There was a question about where the location for the new school would be. Taco Day for County Government Week went well. Bill Carlbom attended the Winter Show meeting, and the Winter Show had a good show. He attended the Planning & Zoning meeting at the city.

With no further business, Shawn Olauson made a motion, seconded by Pete Paulson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting "aye" and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor