

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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.

Terry Boll

Terry Boll appeared to discuss a 21st St SE township road issue. This road is impassable, and he would like to see this road on a weekly maintenance schedule.

Fish & Wildlife

Paul Halko presented the final analysis and comments of the proposed sale of 160 acres of land in Rogers Township described as the NW¼ 16-142-59. 5th P.M. The Fish and Wildlife is proposing to acquire this property in fee title for management. Shawn Olauson made a motion to recommend the governor approve this proposal for the Fish and Wildlife Service; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. A Grassland Easement Program was presented to the commission. This is a voluntary program and there is no cost to the county. Vicky Lovell made a motion to sign the Grassland Easement Program document; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote.

Corrections

Jeremy Wolff proposed promoting Melissa Neitzke to Lieutenant with a wage increase to replace Anna Berntson. Vicky Lovell made a motion to promote Melissa Neitzke to Lieutenant with the wage of 30.98 per hour; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Jeremy sought permission to remove Anna Berntson from the Commissary Bank Account and add Melissa Neitzke as a signer on the Commissary Bank Account. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the change; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

State's Attorney

Tonya Duffy drafted and presented a policy regarding HB2180 giving citizens the right to address governing bodies at every regular meeting. Two business days written notice must be given for public comment. Vicky Lovell made a motion to accept the Public Comment Policy with a time limit of ten minutes for public comment. Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. Shane Kalbrener and Tonya discussed the ramifications of Martin Mechanical and the heating and cooling project. Options are to litigate, buy documents and be done, or keep them and have them start over with rebidding the project. Tonya and Shane will talk with Martin Mechanical to see if a new agreement can be reached to continue the project.

Auditor's Office

Mike Schwehr moved to approve July 1, 2025, minutes as presented. Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting "aye". Lodging rates were discussed when state rate is not available. Bill Carlbom made a motion to pay \$110.00 lodging rate when state rate is not available. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Mike Schwehr made a motion to end the Disaster Resolution 30 days from June 20th, 2025 when the resolution was issued; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Department Head Budget meeting dates were set for July 16th and July 23rd from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Veterans Service Office

A conference call with LaMoure County took place regarding the Veteran Service Office compensation. Barnes County Commissioners would like to see compensation of \$30,000.00. LaMoure County Commissioners will decide after they see the 2026 Budget.

Planning and Zoning

An application for a tree variance located in Potter Township on the SE¼ 18-140-60 was presented for Perry Kapaun. Bill Carlbom made a motion to approve the variance; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote. A setback variance located on the SE¼ SW¼ 6-139-58 and NW¼ 7-139-58 in Marsh Township for Deven Weber was presented. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the variance; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. A setback variance for tile drain located in Springvale Township N½ 13-139-56 was presented for Justin Johnson. Mike Schwehr made a motion to approve the variance application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed.

Development Corporation

Jennifer Feist gave an update on the Single-Family Housing program. All county funds were expended for this program. New housing will be in Marsh, Greenland, Uxbridge, and Eckelson townships.

Dispatch

Sarah Miller presented quotes on chairs for the staff that are made for heavy duty use, primarily dispatch centers where chairs are used 24/7. The advantage of this type of chair is they are warrantied for six to ten years of use. Federal contract pricing of \$3,300.00 would apply. This includes shipping. Sarah is requesting two chairs for the

dispatchers. Sarah also needs a chair which she would order locally. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the chair purchase as presented; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with Commissioner Carlblom, Commissioner Schwehr, Commissioner Paulson, and Commissioner Olauson voting yes and Commissioner Lovell voting no. Dispatch would also like to purchase two KVM switches at a cost of \$700.00 each. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the purchase of two switches; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The courthouse AED will soon be at the end of its life. Grants from CCHD and the Eagles are a possibility that will be looked into.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Paulson attended the Economic Development meeting. There is an alfalfa processing plant looking for a possible location. He attended the LEPC meeting. An airport hanger door was damaged during the June 20th storm. Commissioner Olauson attended the Buffalo Bridges meeting. They have purchased a new vehicle that will remain in the Jamestown location. Wanda Larson retired. There are currently seven openings with Buffalo Bridges. The state is putting in a stilling well on Hobart Lake.

MIS, Weed, County Extension Agent, and the Auditor's Office presented their requests for the 2026 budget.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting "aye" and the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor