

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson. Chairman Bill Carlblom 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.

County-Owned Property Lease-Letting

The county has several FEMA properties available for leasing. No interested parties appeared to bid on the lease properties.

Department Heads

Department heads or their representatives appeared to give updates on what is happening in their departments. Pete Paulson made a motion to give employees December 26th as a holiday. Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all commissioners voting yes.

Public Comment

Arvid Winkler spoke of his thoughts on the current PI schedule of the soil survey used by Tax Equalization. He would like answers as to where the PI schedule came from.

Planning & Zoning / Emergency Management

An application to create Heinze Subdivision and rezone Lot 1 to Residential was presented for approval. The location is part of the SE¼ 12-143-58in Sibley Trail Township. Pete Paulson moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Building Permits were reviewed. Information for the contractor on the Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented and discussed. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the lowest bid. Motion died for a lack of a second. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve Nexus as the contractor for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioner Lovell voting no and Commissioners Carlblom, Paulson, Olauson, and Schwehr voting yes.

Corrections

Jeremy Wolffe asked permission to update the 2026 budget reflecting the grant income and expense for the Re-Entry Program Coordinator position. Vicky Lovell made a motion to amend the 2026 Corrections budget reflecting the change; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

Auditor's Office

Vicky Lovell moved to approve December 2, 2025, minutes as presented; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting "aye". Beer and Liquor Licenses for Sodbusters, Hungry Pelican, and Bayshore were presented for renewal. Mike Schwehr made a motion to approve the three Beer and Liquor Licenses; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Brad McKay was the only applicant for the Airport Authority Board and would like to be re-appointed. Jeff Bopp of District 3 volunteered for the Planning and Zoning Board. Allison Swenson applied to be re-appointed for the Buffalo Bridges Zonal Board. Scott Legge applied to be re-appointed to the Water Resource Board. Beth Didier would like to be re-appointed to the Weed Board. There were no applicants for the Park Board or the School Annexation Board. Shawn Olauson made the motion to accept all applicants for the respective boards; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. A raffle application from the BCN Dance team was presented for approval. Mike Schwehr made a motion to approve the raffle application; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. CPA Harold Rotunda spoke about the financial aspect of the year end budget balances.

MIS

Jason presented a quote from Travelers for Cyber Security/Data Breach Insurance for \$21,002.00 per year. The policy would be a \$2,000,000.00 policy. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the quote; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all commissioners voting yes upon roll call vote.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson attended the Economic Development meeting. They did approve the 2026 membership for SCDRC and will be bringing that to the county for the release of money for the membership. They approved the Good Life campaign which is funded through the Valley City Sales Tax for their administrative cost. He attended North Star Classic. Attendance was down. He attended the Water Board meeting for Shawn. He gave updates on Hobart and Thordenskjold drain. They approved LaMoure County joint project board creating a new legal drain. There will be a Sheyenne Riverbank Stabilization meeting in Bismarck. Dennis Brown is okay with getting rid of the Brown Dam. A bid was received on the trash rack at Clausen Springs. Fish and Wildlife is not interested in having any of the work done at Spring Creek that Jack Olson wants done. Shawn Olauson gave an update on discussions at the Township Convention in Bismarck. The museum will have their annual pancake feed in January at the Eagles. Mike Schwehr attended the City County Health meeting. They are working on re-adjusting some positions rather than replacing positions. They gave two percent employee increases. Their board agreed to transferring employees, in or out, either way, benefits will transfer. Vicky Lovell mentioned that the Rural Catalyst Grant applications are still open for small cities. The library will be having a strategic planning meeting as required to get funding from the state.

Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve signing The Village Contract. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioners Carlbom, Paulson, Olauson, and Lovell voting yes and Commissioner Schwehr voting no.

With no further business, Pete Paulson 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 10:00 a.m.

Bill Carlbom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor