

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson. Vicky Lovell is absent. 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.

Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition to discuss the side-by-side tracks to the Auditor's discussion; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all present members voting yes.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Highway Department

One bid from True North was received and for culverts. This bid is the same price as last year. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the bid from True North; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present members voting yes. The cost share agreement for the Love's Interchange between the county and the City of Valley City is \$12,304.00 with a 50/50 split between The City of Valley City and Barnes County. The county share would be \$6,152.00. Mike Schwehr made a motion to approve the agreement; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present members voting yes. A verbal commitment with Blackhawk Farms has been reached regarding the road going past the hog farm. Blackhawk Farms will accept responsibility for the local cost for the project should the county be awarded an agriculture infrastructure grant. This project would build up the road from the hog farm going east to ND #32. The cost to Blackhawk Farms would be approximately \$295,760. Jamie is seeking permission to start looking for a skid steer, preferably with tracks. The Dazey Shop operator position is open. There is a possibility of hiring a seasonal part-time person for this shop. This would be a past employee working 30 hours per week with no benefits. Pete Paulson made a motion to hire a seasonal part-time employee for a maximum of 16 weeks for the summer at the rate of approximately \$14,200.00 for the season as Jamie suggested; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present members voting yes.

Planning & Zoning

Michael Buck submitted a setback variance for trees requesting approval for trees 50' from the center of township road, 25th St SE located on Auditor Lot 1 of SW¼-141-60 in Anderson Township. 200' would be too close to buildings. Pete Paulson moved to approve the variance application at 100' from the center of the road; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. Dennis and Adele Smith submitted a variance on trees 70" from the center of the township road, 31st St SE, located in the NE¼ 10-140-56 in Oriska Township. The trees would be planted around the trees damaged in the June 2025 storm. Pete Paulson moved to approve the application with a variance of 100' from the center of the road; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. Rodney Rood submitted a tree variance 100' from the center of County Road 21 located in the NE¼ 16-139-58 in Marsh Township. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the variance as presented; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed. Pete Paulson made a motion to rescind the current burn restriction ban for Barnes County; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried with all present members voting yes.

Marilyn Henderson

Marilyn Henderson has concerns regarding the procedural format of the public commission meeting held in March regarding the hog farm. It was felt the people against the hog farm did not get a chance for rebuttal of the pros. Watershed is a big concern with the chemicals being used. Marilyn also had a question regarding the dated paperwork. The paperwork for Conditional Use was filed with Planning and Zoning on January 30th. Once the paperwork is received, there is a 60-day deadline per century code. The paperwork was filed too late to be included in the February Planning and Zoning meeting and was placed on the March meeting and then onto the last March Commission meeting to meet the deadline. The 60-day deadline was not known until after the Planning and Zoning meeting.

Auditor's Office

Pete Paulson moved to approve April 7, 2026 minutes with the amendment that beginning 2027, the county will insure the CCHD trailer that will be used by the Highway Department.. Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes. Discussion took place on how to handle county employee poll workers working hours after 5:00 pm. Election Poll Worker current wages were discussed. Shawn Olauson made a motion to raise election worker pay from \$15.00 per hour to \$16.00 per hour; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present members voting yes. Donations came in short, from what was discussed during the April 7th meeting for the purchase of the side by side tracks. The county share needed to pay for the side by side tracks is \$1,100.00. Pete Paulson made a motion to approved paying \$1,100.00 for the tracks; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present members voting yes. Mike would like the commission to know what departments are going to be going for grants for purchases before they apply for the grant, so the cost share is known up front.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson reported the VSO office was closed for training last week. 2,927 miles were put on the van with 44 rides. They are looking for a part-time van driver. He attended the LEPC Meeting and Economic Development meeting. The Rosebud was re-shingled, but the contractor did not seek local bids for shingles. Winter show numbers show a good year but has been a struggle. Shawn Olauson attended the museum meeting. Wes is asking if the

county is going to be doing something for the 100th birthday of the courthouse. Swanberg was contracted to install the trash rack at Clausen Springs. Hobart was going to get opened. An Attorney General Opinion was sought regarding the dams. Brown Dam will be removed when the money is lined up. Water Resource financials were mentioned. Mike Schwehr will be attending the City County Health District meeting coming up. Opioid settlement amendments were made so they can use that funding for more prevention training. They will be interviewing two applicants for the director's position. Bill attended the first FFA Awards Banquet and the NDSU Extension office meeting. The heating & cooling project is making progress. Bank Forward and Bank of North Dakota are willing to work with us on financing the HVAC progress. SORN radio antennae's that we have do not correlate back and forth with the new radios. New antenna's are \$916.40. Will discuss antenna's at the next meeting.

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 9:23 a.m.

Bill Carblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor