Barnes County Commission
September 15, 2026
Valley City, ND 58072

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 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.

Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll-call vote with all members voting "aye".

Public Comments

No requests received.

Environmental Services

A critical transfer switch located in the basement has been hit with multiple water penetrations over time through the floor causing multiple issues inside the switch. Service Technicians have been out multiple times. This switch is no longer viable. Parts are obsolete. The city has plans to move to 208-volt three phase so would like to purchase a switch that will be compatible with that. The current 240-volt switch would not be compatible with 208-volt. The new switch will be relocated to a dry location. The cost is approximately $13,750. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve and purchase a transfer switch not to exceed $16,000; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Barnes County Water Board

The water board is short $20,000 for the hydrology study that was completed at Clausen Springs. This was done as a cost share with the state. If this doesn't get paid, the state will request their grant money back. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the payment of $20,000 for the study; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes.

Planning & Zoning

A setback variance was presented for Anthony Thuilmony for installing drain tile lines within the right of way of 39th Street Southeast. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. A Conditional Use Permit application was submitted by Middle Mile Infrastructure LLC for the development of a utility compound within a 200' X 200' utility easement for a fiber optic in-line amplifying equipment shelters and supporting equipment. This will be in Minnie Lake Township in the Southwest ¼ of Section 21 Township 142 range 56. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the application; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with Mike Schwehr, Shawn Olauson, and Bill Carlblom voting yes and Pete Paulson and Vicky Lovell voting no. Building permits were reviewed.

Highway Department

Jamie Smith presented an approach application for Jerry Schaff located in the SE¼ 21-142-58 of Ashtabula Township. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Bryan Tykwinsky was present to answer any questions or concerns on upcoming bridge projects.

Auditor's Office

Vicky Lovell moved to approve September 15, 2026, minutes as presented. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting "aye".

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson gave updates on the Veterans Office and a sick leave issue. The Ag processing plant has a nine month hold due to fuel prices. Economic Development has a parcel of land the Highway Department was interested in looking at to square off the lot. Shawn Olauson reported the trash rack at Clausen Springs has been installed. The corps bank stabilization study on the Sheyenne River has been completed. Drain levels were reported. Snagging and clearing should be done by the drain should be thought about going forward. Fall cattail spraying is being worked on and drain tile apps are being looked at. Social Services were on overtime for June and July and are off of that now and are getting behind again. Mike Schwehr researched overtime and sick leave and improper use of sick time hours. Vicky Lovell has a policy meeting coming up. A complaint was received regarding the Veteran Service office from a veteran that called the office multiple times and did not receive a call back or reply. The contract with LaMoure County for veteran services was discussed. Cutting publishing minutes in The Litchville Bulletin was discussed. Bill Carlblom did an online meeting with the Kathryn Fire Department regarding the process of combining Nome Fire Department. The loan application with the Bank of North Dakota was discussed. Change orders were discussed for the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning. Change orders are not part of the contingency amount.

Harold Rotunda attended to explain how the budget process should work and how to be informed of where the budgets are sitting at any given time. This will aid in knowing whether the budget is being overspent or if it needs to be cut. The budget summary balances were presented. Some ideas of where to cut the budget were mentioned. The next budget meeting will be on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell 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 9:59 AM.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor