

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, and Shawn Olauson present. Pete Paulson was unable to attend. Chairman 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.

Highway Dept – ND Highway #9 Right-of-Way / Motor Grader Rates

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Jamie Smith, informed the Commission of a request from the State for the County to give the State a 3.08 acre piece of Highway 9 right-of-way in SW ¼ 20-142-61 that was previously given to the County. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve giving the State the 3.08 acres in question; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Mr Johnson recommended increasing the rate charged to townships for motor grader services from \$110 per hour to \$135 per hour. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the increase; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

VC-BC Dev Corp – Requests for Funds (Natl Guard & JD Seeding Group)

Jennifer Feist, Valley City – Barnes County Development Corporation Director of Development, requested approval of \$70,000 from the Barnes County Economic Development Mill Levy Fund to support the ND National Guard (land and infrastructure) in the I-94 Regional Development Corridor. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms Feist requested approval of \$25,000 per year for the next five (5) years to support the expansion of John Deere Seeding Valley City with funds sourced from the Barnes County Mill Levy Fund dedicated to economic development. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the request; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Vicky Lovell voting “no”.

Weed Control / Highway Dept - Building

Jamen Windish, Weed Officer, updated the Commission on the building process and informed them that this project will be required to be bid out. Cindy Schwehr moved to begin the process of bidding out this project; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Combination of Positions – P&Z / EMA

Vicky Lovell moved to combine the offices of Planning & Zoning Coordinator and Emergency Manager, with current P&Z Coordinator Jessica Jenrich assuming the combined position, effective immediately, due to the resignation of Sue Lloyd; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. This will include a trial period of 6 months, and will be revisited in the future, as needed.

Salary Adjustments

Vicky Lovell moved to pay Jessica Jenrich \$30.00 per hour effective next pay period, with an increase to \$30.50 per hour upon successful completion of the six month trial period; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Shawn Olauson moved to pay Sarah Miller \$28.00 per hour effective last pay period, with an increase to \$28.63 per hour upon successful completion of the six month trial period; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Bill Carlblom moved to pay Holly Neuberger \$23.47 per hour effective last pay period; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the February 7, 2023 minutes; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Lacina – School Levy Error

Paul Lacina, Barnes County resident, addressed the Commission regarding the error in the Valley City School's Building Fund levy. The building fund levy was calculated incorrectly in tax years 2019 through 2022, resulting in taxpayers being overcharged and the school receiving too much money in their building fund. The Auditor's Office is currently working with the school to develop a plan to remedy the situation. The Auditor will provide an update at the next meeting.

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included portfolio updates.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor