

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 with Cindy Schwehr, Bill Carblom, Mike Metcalf, John Froelich, and Rodger Berntson present. Chairman Metcalf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Highway Department –Final Acceptance Letters / Miscellaneous / Engineering Contract

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Shawn Mayfield, Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, presented Final Acceptance Letters for the 2015 paving projects for approval. Rodger Berntson moved to approve signing of the letters; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Mr. Johnson requested signature on the Final Certification of Local Match. Cindy Schwehr moved to sign the document; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Cindy Schwehr made a motion to hire Bargen Inc. to fill the depressed cracks on County Road #19 from Valley City to Baldhill Dam at an estimated cost of \$14,000 to \$15,000 per mile, depending on the quantity of material needed (includes equipment, material and labor); Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Michael May, Interstate Engineering, presented Construction Engineering Contracts for the microsurfacing project on County Road #7 (21 miles) at a cost of \$77,716.23 for approval. Bill Carblom moved to approve signing of the contracts; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Planning & Zoning - Variances

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, and Betty Koslofsky presented an application for a Variance – Lot Size & Setback from John Lonski (Ashtabula Township, N ½ 4-142-58). Bill Carblom moved to approve the application; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback & Trees 110’ from center of Highway 32 from Daniel J Hannig (Oriska Township, SW ¼ 29-140-56). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback of 15’ from the south property line from Kyle A Gregerson (Ashtabula Township, NE ¼ 21 & NW ¼ 22 -142-58). Bill Carblom moved to approve the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback between 100’ & 200’ from center of township road from Ray A Bzdok (Valley Township, SW ¼ 24-140-58). Bill Carblom moved to approve the application; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback of 25’ from the north property line from Darcy E Stanley (Ashtabula Township, SW ¼ 33-142-58). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback & Trees 100’ from the center of the township road from Barnes County North Public School (Uxbridge Township, SW ¼ 24-142-61). Bill Carblom moved to approve the application; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. A Preliminary Subdivision Plat for Veteran’s Subdivision was presented for review.

Tax Director – Anderson & Svea Township Assessing Contracts

Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the Contracts with Anderson (\$692) and Svea (\$704) Townships for 2016 Assessing Services; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes/Gaming Site Authorization

Bill Carblom moved to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the Gaming Site Authorization request submitted by the Frank Summerfield Post No. 3363 VFW for a gaming site at Crossroad Steakhouse & Lounge; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. The Auditor will advertise for part-time election season staff.

Corrections – Leave Request

Randy McClafin, Sheriff, and Julie Forsman, Chief Correctional Officer, visited with the Commission regarding an employee who is on medical leave without pay. Cindy Schwehr moved to extend the timeframe for Jesse Burchill to use his accrued vacation time for an additional three months; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Alex Petersen – 4/20 Rally Request

Alex Petersen presented a request for freedom of speech and peaceful assembly for a gathering on the Courthouse lawn and the south patio to inform the public of the benefits of medical marijuana and to garner signatures for their petition. The Commission requested that they keep the gathering south of the flagpole, and they should wrap things up by 9:00 pm. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the gathering; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Social Services

John Froelich informed the board that a candidate accepted the offer of a position as Barnes County Social Services Director, pending appointment at the upcoming Social Services meeting April 29th. John Froelich moved to make an exception to the current policy and approve allowing this individual to bring along their accrued 240 hours vacation and their accrued sick leave; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Paul Stenshoel – Sanborn Lake & Abandoned Cemeteries

Paul Stenshoel, Barnes County resident, expressed concerns over tiling into Sanborn Lake. Mabel Morton Cemetery in Minnie Lake Township and the farmed-over cemetery in Hobart Township were discussed. Mr. Stenshoel committed to being willing to pay for locating bodies, in the event that a search warrant is executed. Barry Borg, Hobart Township resident, expressed his concerns over the lack of progress in the Hobart Lake project.

Jack Ertelt – Vote-By-Mail

Jack Ertelt and Brian Mindt, Barnes County residents, expressed concerns regarding the Commission’s decision to go to Vote-By-Mail for the 2016 Primary Election on June 14, 2016. The Commission and County Auditor answered their questions and committed to getting more information regarding the process to the public.

Commission Discussion

Confined Animal Feeding Operations were discussed, as it pertains to Planning & Zoning. Chad Clement, Barnes County resident, appeared before the Commission to discuss his concerns regarding the Library and the Auditor’s Office.

Department Head Meeting

MIS reported on issues with the City server. Extension reported on the Spring Garden workshops. Sheriff reported that warrants are now on the website. Recorder updated on passports and weddings. Buildings & Grounds informed of lighting and sidewalk repairs. Veterans Services reported on training and the paperless process. Dispatch updated on staffing and CPR training. Emergency Management reported on addressing and 911 Dispatcher Week last week. Planning & Zoning is continuing her training. Social Services hired a new Human Services Aide, Molly Olson. Social Services is having a diaper drive for Child Abuse Prevention month. The Heart Gallery is on display in the Courthouse entryway. This is a photo gallery of children who are eligible and waiting for adoption into their forever homes. Tax Director has hired Chelsy Nelson to replace Stacie Leier, who will become Tax Director when Betty Koslofsky retires. Highway Department is busy with blading and preparing for paving projects, and has two operators going to Motor Grader boot camp. City-County Health has free blood pressures for County Government Week; Alcohol prevention grant, have been working with Sheriff and Police Chief; Reminder to participate in fix up/clean up/pick up week; 2nd reading of the tobacco ordinance tonight -will require e-cigarettes be licensed the same as other tobacco products and no flavored e-cigs in Valley City; looking into electronic health records to better communicate with other healthcare entities; Community Health Assessment was complete - priority areas for improvement are mental health, substance abuse, cyber bullying and licensed child care (most recognized community needs in surveys, etc.); Will be working with Mercy Hospital to develop our community health improvement plan based on those priorities; Benefit for Deb Miller May 6 5-7 at the Eagles. Auditor’s Office is gearing up for the Election and now has an opening for part-time election worker. Long-time Auditor’s Office employee Beth Bakke is retiring after 46+ years of service to Barnes County, and her party will be held on April 29th at 2:00 pm.

With no further business, John Froelich made a motion, seconded by Bill Carlblom, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Metcalf, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor