

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlbom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlbom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Wellness Committee – Wellness Olympics

Barnes County Wellness Committee members Kerry Johnson and Jamie Smith presented a proposal for a County Olympics and social for County employees in September and requested \$500 and two hours of courthouse time for the event. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Planning & Zoning - Variances

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance – Trees 43’ from center of township road from Robert C Olson (Getchell Township SW ¼ 19-141-58). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Utility Setback from Otter Tail Power Company (Potter Township, SE ¼ 13-140-60). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance - Setback 25’ from center of road from James R Weinmann (Ashtabula Township, 21-142-58). Bill Carlbom moved to approve the application, as long as the garage is no closer than the other buildings; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes / Special Event Permits / Elevator Repair Fund Question / Dispatch Holiday Pay

Shawn Olauson moved to approve the July 6, 2021 minutes; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve two Applications for Special Permit to Sell Alcoholic Beverages at a Special Event at Designated Premises from The Labor Club for wedding dances at Riverbend Farm on August 21, 2021 and September 4, 2021; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Vicky Lovell moved to pay for the emergency elevator repairs out of the General Fund; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Vicky Lovell moved go back one year to re-calculate the Holiday Pay for the Dispatch employees who work the night shift; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

US Fish & Wildlife – Proposed Land Acquisition

Kurt Tompkins and Doug Moser, US Fish & Wildlife, requested approval to purchase the SE ¼ 4-137-57 (160 acres, more or less), from Terry L Gilbertson and Claudia J Gilbertson, and Jeffrey A Gilbertson. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

AP – Construction Update

Madison Young, Adolfson Peterson Construction, provided construction updates for the Correctional Center. Construction is 85% complete, in good shape and still on schedule, looking to turn over the 26th of August. Shawn Olauson moved to approve 100% payment of retainage for those subcontractors who are completely done and approved for payment; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Cindy Schwehr voting “no”. Bill Carlbom moved to approve adding flooring to the laundry room at a cost of \$1,680 from the contingency fund; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

VC-BC Development Corporation – Request for Funds

Jennifer Feist, Director of Development for the Valley City Barnes County Development Corporation, and Mary Lee Nielson, board member, returned for a response to the request for approval of \$100,000 to support a business retention/expansion project. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the request at the level of \$50,000, contingent upon the people living in Barnes County, and that the company makes every effort to recoup that money in the event that the employee breaks the contract with the company; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Vicky Lovell and Cindy Schwehr voting “no”.

Highway Department – Project Updates

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Brian Tykwinski, Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, provided updates on the Kathryn Hill Slide Repair project and other projects.

Jail – Food Service / Transition Plan / Commissary Fund

Jeremy Wolff, Chief Correctional Officer, recommended using Summit for the food service. Cindy Schwehr moved to go with Summit, contingent upon the fact that the prices stay the same without commissary; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Mr. Wolff discussed the transition plan with the Commission, as well as use of the Commissary Fund for some uniforms, exercise equipment, and some miscellaneous items.

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included portfolio reports and Water Resource District's engineer selection process.

Budget Discussion

Auditor Beth Didier presented budget calculations. Budget will be discussed further on August 3rd to set the preliminary budget, upon which the estimated tax statements will be calculated.

With no further business, Cindy Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Vicky Lovell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor