

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 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.

Planning & Zoning - Variances

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance – 70’ - 74’ along County Road #11 from ICTC (Hemen Township, W ½ 14-139-60). Cindy Schwehr 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 – Trees 28’ from center of subdivision road - from Scott K Walker (Sibley Trail Township, Lot 1 Block 2 Homestead Subdivision 24-143-58). John Froelich moved to deny the application; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

VC Public Schools – Use of Courthouse Grounds

Rodger Berntson made a motion to allow the school to use the Courthouse grounds, given 24 hour notice; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. The Commission will ask the State’s Attorney to develop a policy for other public use of the Courthouse grounds.

MIS – Rotunda Copier Replacement

Jason Thiel, MIS Director, presented quotes for replacement of the rotunda copier, due to the current lease running out October 15th. Cindy Schwehr moved to accept the quote from Central Business Systems in the amount of \$408 per month for a Kyocera TASKalfa 7052ci; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

ND Highway Patrol – Radio Calls

Highway Patrol Captain Bryan Niewind appeared before the Commission to address concerns regarding the dispatch response process. Also present were Highway Patrol Officer Kyle Ternes and State Radio Director Mike Lynk. Director Lynk addressed Standard Operating Procedures. The consensus was that Dispatch is following the appropriate Standard Operating Procedures and should continue to do so.

Auditor – Minutes / August Financial Report

Bill Carblom moved to approve the September 5, 2017 minutes; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The August financials were discussed; there was nothing of major concern to report.

Tax Director – State Equalization Follow-Up

Stacie Leier, Tax Director, presented a summary of the results of State Equalization, and made a recommendation that, in the future, the Commission keep the valuation percentage around 94%, rather than allowing the full 9.5% tolerance that the Soils Committee has recommended in the past, as pushing the variance limits could cause some problems in the future. The Commission will work with the Soils Committee on this. Ms. Leier updated the Commission on their findings on the Howard Rasmussen property.

Social Services – New Employee Introduction

Gwen Coit, Social Services Eligibility Supervisor, introduced Tina Sakett, as the new Eligibility Worker Technician.

Commission Discussion

Cindy Schwehr made a motion that the OPS and DES rooms are reservable only through the Auditor’s Office; Bill Carblom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Blanket reservations may be made, and cancellations must be communicated to the schedule-keepers, in order to keep the availability open and up-to-date. Auditor Beth Didier introduced Jennifer Person as the new Payroll/Human Resources staff member. John Froelich provided an update on Water Resources’ proposed fish-passage retrofit project for the Kathryn Dam.

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

Mike Metcalf, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor