

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carblom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Judge Mark Blumer swore in the newly elected Commissioners: Cindy Schwehr and Pete Paulson.

Barnes County Ambulance – Contract Renewal

Scott Miller, Barnes County Ambulance, appeared to renew the 3-year contract. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the contract and to evaluate putting a vote to increase the mill levy for ambulance on the 2022 Primary Election ballot; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Planning & Zoning - Variance

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance – Structure Setback from Trevor Jacobsen (Baldwin Township, 21-143-57). Cindy Schwehr moved to table this in order to allow for further research into legalities and possible alternatives; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

AP – Construction Update

Konrad Johnson, Brian Kunz, and Madison Young, Adolfsen Peterson Construction, provided construction updates for the Correctional Center. Construction is about twenty percent complete and is on schedule.

Highway Department – Construction Engineering Selection / Approach Request

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented the committee’s recommendation of Kadmas, Lee & Jackson to serve as Construction Engineer on the Kathryn Hillslide project, CER 0221(079). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the recommendation; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve an Approach Application from Brian Harstad for an approach located at 6-141-59; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Auditor – Minutes

Shawn Olauson moved to approve the December 1, 2020 minutes; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Appointments

Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the willing incumbents listed below, as well as the new applicants for the Airport and Weed board openings; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. These appointments are effective January 1, 2021: Airport Authority: Brad McKay (new); Planning & Zoning: Scott Legge, incumbent; Buffalo Bridges Zonal Board: Tom Overn, incumbent; Water Resources: Bret Fehr (Dist 1), incumbent, Dan Buttke (Dist 2), incumbent, and Jerry Hieb (Dist 3), incumbent; and Weed Control: Pat Windish (new), as well as Jamie Smith (new) to fill the unexpired term of Dave Vareberg. The park board still has an open position.

Beer / Liquor License Renewals

Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the applications for Liquor and Beer Licenses from Ashtabula Crossing, the Hungry Pelican, and Sodbuster Club; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Service Awards

The following service awards were presented: Treasurer’s Office - Rose Hatcher, 15 years; City-County Health - Kristen Bear, 20 years and Betty Olson, 35 years; State’s Attorney’s Office - Tanya Zachrisson, 5 years; IT - Jason Thiel, 20 years; Dispatch - Christina Drake, 5 years; Highway Department - Tim Tangen, 30 years; Dick Korf, 15 years; Richard “Bird” Risser, 15 years; Jamie Smith, 15 years; and Jacob Piatz, 5 years; Building & Grounds - Bob Nelson, 25 years; Corrections, - Jeremy Wolff, 10 years; and Carrie Kolpin, 10 years.

Commission Discussion

Commissioners shared portfolio updates.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Pete Paulson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Bill Carblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor