

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Bill 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 Department

The trailer that is used for hauling the skid steer and culverts was bought in 2005 and needs major repair. Axles need replacing and major welding needs to be done. The quote for fixing from Quality Auto Body is \$5,465.00 to make all the necessary repairs. Tim Tangen received quotes for a new trailer. A 22' trailer with a 6' stationary platform at the front with 16' tilt quoted from Visto's is a Midsota trailer at \$10,300.00 and General Equipment 22' Trail King trailer is \$13,800.00. RDO bid a 20" trailer with 16" tilt at \$13,000.00. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve purchasing a new trailer from Visto's for \$10,300.00; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carries upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The old trailer will be put on the next county auction. The Highway Department would like to purchase the 2007 Dodge Ram pickup for \$10,000.00 from the Weed Board and the Highway Dept. would sell the 2012 1500 with high mileage. Jason Metcalf and Shane Olauson received Road Scholar One status through NDLTAP and were recognized and congratulated by the commission. The resolution for the Road 4 grade raise resolution needs to be signed as the federal funds are now being received. This project was approved back in 2022. To receive federal funds, the county needs a LEP, LAP, and 504 plan. We do have those plans however we need to add an update for the new jail and for some new buildings in the park. The North Country Trail Association requested additional signage along the bridges south on Kathryn Road and by Wesley Acres. The consensus of the commission is that there is enough signage. The Highway Dept. received bids for a new payloader which includes a scale and a larger bucket. The trade in would be a 1983 Cat Payloader with a high trade value of \$30,000.00. With the \$30,000 trade considered, General Equipment bid \$265,900.00; RDO \$270,000.00; and Butler \$319,447.00. Bill Carlblom made a motion to accept the bid on the Komatsu pay loader from General Equipment for \$265,900.00; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Planning and Zoning

Jessica Jenrich appeared to discuss a variance application from Barnes County North School District to plant one row of shrubs and one row of trees located 141' north of Highway #9 and starting 125" east of township road 101st Ave SE in Uxbridge Township. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the variance; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. Jessica provided information on the data center located west of the City of Ellendale in Dickey County.

Tax Equalization

Stacie Hansen updated the commission on the latest soil survey which will increase some values and decrease some values on ag land. We need to look at the soil surveys every five years and make the necessary updates. She also gave an update on the PRC bill currently going through legislature.

Auditor's Office

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the February 4, 2025, minutes as presented. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting "aye".

Corrections

Jeremy Wolff presented boarding contracts to be signed. Jeremy discussed rehiring previous employee Joylissa Keuhne. Vicky Lovell made a motion to rehire Joylissa Keuhne at an hourly wage where she was at when she left employment and after three months increase her hourly wage to \$23.71. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes.

Water Trail Grant

Bobby Koeplin made a request to the commission for Barnes County to serve as the sponsor and fiscal agent for the \$69,400 Grant from Garrison Diversion Recreational Funds and continue as fiscal agent through construction. After construction, the Water Trail Committee will be responsible for maintenance. Mike Schwehr made a motion for Barnes County to sponsor and be the fiscal agent; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Commission Discussion

Pete Paulson attended the Economic Development meeting where they discussed the Single Housing Pilot Program. Daycare shortage was also discussed. The existing childcare grant program through Economic Development has been exhausted. The John Deere Factory Tour was good. Shawn Olauson attended the Water Board meeting where Legal Drain 2 and the Thordenskjold Drain extension were discussed. There will be a meeting on March 10th at the Nome School at 2:00 p.m. for the Thordenskjold Drain. The Watershed Based Management System Study concerning Clausen Springs Dam will wait until spring. Bill Carlblom will not be able to attend the next commission meeting. Shawn Olauson will chair the next commission meeting.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Oluson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting "aye" and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor