

Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners
May 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Fjeldahl at 9:05 a.m. with Comm. Louser, Walter, Wepler, and Nybakken, present. Also present were Department Heads: Dana Larsen, Roza Larson, Devra Smestad, Ryan Kamrowski, Melissa Bliss, and Kerrienne Tyler.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve the agenda with additions. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting on May 3, 2016. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Auditor/Treasurer Devra Smestad then presented the bills. Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve regular bills totaling \$2,822,513.77 and the Social Welfare Fund of \$6,917.45. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Suyi Hou, representative from Minot Young Professionals, appeared with information about their organization. He extended an invitation to the Commissioners to host the next monthly Power Hour meeting in the Ward County Administration Building and provide a tour of the building. He will coordinate details with Smestad.

Ryan Ackerman, representative from Ackerman Estvold appeared with Souris River Joint Board update. He stated the view of their organization is to keep moving forward to provide flood protection for the entire Mouse River Valley and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to receive and file the Souris River Joint Board Quarterly Update. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Steve Aberle and Jarid Lundeen, representatives from Rice Lake Recreational Service District, appeared with proposals to establish natural drainway. Last year, the state authorized \$2 million to clean up debris from the lake and work on infrastructure problems related to the flooding. Lundeen stated less than \$300,000 was used for cleanup, leaving \$1.7 million for infrastructure improvements.

Their first project involves purchase of property for added lift station and secure natural outlet for the lake. The intent is to donate this property back to the county once project is complete. Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Weppler to move forward with process of obtaining required property with Memorandum of Understanding to clarify specifics of the agreement. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

The second proposed project involves raising and widening the road that circles the lake to better accommodate two-way traffic and safe passage for school bus. However, one property owner does not want a culvert placed on his land, so alternatives are being explored, but come at a greater cost to the community. Since the county does not have the authority to acquire the needed property through eminent domain, Lundeen was encouraged to keep working on a solution.

Lundeen then asked the Board for permission to use County borrow pit with the understanding that the land will be reclaimed once complete. Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Nybakken to approve request with Memorandum of Understanding to specify terms and conditions. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Highway Engineer Dana Larsen appeared.

Larsen presented Resolution for County Road #24 Grade Raise funded by the Department of Defense. Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Wepler to authorize chairman sign document awarding bid to Farden Construction in amount of \$784,748.60.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the bid in the amount of \$784,748.60 from Farden Construction Inc. received in the opening bid of May 13, 2016 for Project ROM-0300(129) was the low bid received.

WHEREAS, this bid is considered reasonable.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of WARD County will award to Farden Construction Inc. the contract for Project ROM-0300(129) and hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign said contract.

It is further understood that the County shall reimburse the North Dakota Department of Transportation for any payments made under this contract, which are not collectible from the Federal Highway Administration.

Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Additionally, Larsen presented update on expansion of 2016 Graveling Project. Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Nybakken to authorize Highway Department to add the additional 32 miles of graveling onto 2016 County Wide Graveling Project with Sundre Sand & Gravel, total cost around \$2,000,000. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Larsen also provided update on county grade raise projects using CDBG funding. He stated contractors are on track for project completion prior to June 1st deadline.

Assistant Highway Engineer Travis Schmit appeared to inform Board of dedication/open house for Burlington Willow's project on May 31st, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Beyond Shelter will also be inviting Senators, the Governor, and HUD representatives.

Director of Tax Equalization Ryan Kamrowski appeared with request to send recently updated Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) Report forward, hoping to regain Class 5 status for Ward County. Newly developed initiatives may foster insurance premium discounts to eligible properties in Ward County. Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Walter to approve request. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

States Attorney Roza Larson appeared and asked Board to ratify earlier decision whereby States Attorney employee was recipient of leave donated by county employees. Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Walter to approve request. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Auditor/Treasurer Devra Smestad appeared.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Walter to receive and file the following correspondence: Chief Deputy Barnard – SO Monthly Report April 2016; UND Center for Family Medicine – New Deputy Coroner; and Vision West ND –Succession Planning for Public Service. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Nybakken, seconded by Comm. Louser to accept Letter of Resignation from Trent Shervan, School Reorganization Committee Member for District South, advertise open position and receive and file letter. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to respond back to Mr. Mark A. Kirkorsky, attorney retained by Ferguson Waterworks, to inform them all

referenced job invoices for Jail and Juvenile Detention project have been paid. Ferguson Waterworks is pursuing payment from Sub-Site Technologies, LLC for outstanding invoices and asking County's assistance with contact information for this subcontractor. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Walter to receive and file the following correspondence: Mark A Kirkorsky, P.C. Attorney at Law – Unpaid invoices to Sub-contractor. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Nybakken to receive and file Monthly Reports, April 2016 Financial Report, and information about Centennial Silver and Gold Coins owned by the County. They will be appraised and placed in safe deposit box pending future disposition. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Nybakken, seconded by Comm. Weppler to approve Special Event Permit for VFW. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to approve Gaming Site Authorizations for MSU Beaver Boosters, North Dakota Association for the Disabled, and Pheasants for the Future. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to protest City of Minot Assessments for three Nuisance Abatements on Ward County property. Meeting of the Finance Committee of the City Council will be held May 31, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. to consider assessment of property. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried. Board is requesting representative from City of Minot Finance Committee appear at future Commission Meeting to explain this assessment.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Louser to move forward with purchase of additional Tyler Software Modules at cost of \$27,950 with annual fees of \$4,379 to better serve the public and county employees. Roll call: all votes yes; motion carried.

Smestad will prepare Budget Amendment to cover cost of purchase and present to Board at future meeting.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Louser to open discussion with City of Minot for one-time access fee to Tyler Software Web Portal. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Louser to expand Web Portal access to realtors, banks and affiliates at minimum recommended annual membership charge of \$100. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Nybakken to approve the following payroll amendments: Ted McDaniel – Highway Dept (Level 15); Tyler Allers – Highway Dept (Level 15); Austin Holtz – Highway Dept (Level 15); Paul Metz – Sheriff's Dept (Level 18); Misty Shearer – Social Services (Level 28); Nancy Conlee – Social Services (Level 26). Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Wepler to obtain certified architect plans required for renovation of Morgan Building. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

At 11:30 a.m., with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.