

Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

March 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Walter at 9:00 a.m. with Comms. Fjeldahl and Louser present. Also present were department heads: Betty Braun, Bob Barnard, Dana Larsen, Derrill Fick, Devra Smestad, Ellen Bjelland, Jodi Johnson, Kerriane Boetcher, Leona Lochthowe, Roza Larson, Ryan Kamrowski.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the Agenda with amendments. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the regular Commission meeting minutes from the March 6, 2018 meeting. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve regular bills totaling \$2,120,884.11 and Social Services bills totaling \$10,798.20 with requested change. Souris Basin Planning expense description was notated as a Sheriff's Department expense but should be a General Fund expense. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Nancy Simpson, Planning & Zoning Administrator appeared and introduced Tom VonBische from Nextera Energy Resources. Nextera is in the process of utilizing meteorological towers and SODAR (Sonic Detection and Ranging) to determine if it is feasible to construct wind turbines in Ward County. Nextera currently has 14 wind farms in North Dakota. They took over the Hartland project and are refreshing their data to see if the project is viable. Nextera is willing to work with Planning & Zoning to help craft an updated wind ordinance in conjunction with the new Comprehensive Plan.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to Receive and File the report presented by Nextera Energy Resources. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Roger Mazurek from the YMCA presented information about their current efforts to refinance and promote continued growth. The board has worked over the last two years to determine the direction the organization is going. He also highlighted how the YMCA participates in service to the community. The YMCA will be coming to the commission to request refinancing of their current bond issue.

Roger introduced Cindy Mueller, Director of Program Services at the Y to talk about their program which offers memberships to foster families in the community. They have received grant funds from the Oppen Family Guidance Institute. This program gives foster families the opportunity to work out and take intentional time for self care.

Leo Schmidt, Building Inspector, presented a building permit for Shaun Uleberg, et al, to build an attached garage to an existing home. Minot Air Force Base was informed and they have no objection.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the building permit for Shaun Uleberg et al. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Kris Weber appeared on behalf of Emergency Management. She asked for approval and authorization to sign a grant in the amount of \$300,000 for a backup generator to be installed in the Sawyer school for sheltering purposes.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve and authorize signature for a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 for a backup generator to be installed in the Sawyer school. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Weber also asked for approval of the new Ward County Debris Management Plan. The plan allows for an additional savings of 5% for federal disasters that have debris. Ward County is the first county in North Dakota to adopt this plan and it has been approved by FEMA and the State of North Dakota.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve the Ward County Debris Management Plan as presented. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Sheriff Bob Barnard presented bid information for six new patrol vehicles. The low bid was in the amount of \$179,826.48 from Westlie Motors. This money is in the General Fund budget for 2018 and the bid amount comes in under budget.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the bid for \$179,826.48 from Westlie Motors for six new patrol cars. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Brian Kunz from Adolfson & Peterson Construction appeared with the monthly update on the construction of the Ward County Jail. On the remodel, the stairwell core demolition is complete and the existing elevator has been removed. The second floor has been painted, ceiling grid and lights installed and floor covering is being installed this week. Also working on fire sprinklers in the existing jail cells as well as the master control system. A&P is hosting a 600 day safety luncheon for their workers as there have been no incidents since the inception of the project. Completion of the project is estimated to be the end of July.

Dana Larsen, Ward County Engineer, appeared with several agenda items. Last month a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Stacey Abel was tabled in order to make changes to the agreement. Mr. Larsen made the corrections and presented the amended agreement for approval and signature. The development is proposed as low density with two-acre lots and is located on

the north side of County Road 14 approximately 1.5 miles east of US 83 (by Meadowbrook Estates). The County's responsibility per the agreement is to construct a left turn lane when needed into the development, remove existing access to Outlot 16 off County Road 14 when the subdivision road is constructed, and to coordinate construction of turn lanes to matchup with proposed access.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Stacey Abel and Ward County. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Larsen also requested approval of the March 12, 2018 bid list which includes bids for both metal and concrete culverts, hot mix (HBP), cold mix, equipment rental and gravel crushing.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the March 12, 2018 bid list to include the accepted bid items. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Larsen asked for authorization for the Highway Department to sell three tandem belly dump trailers, two John Deere 5420 tractors, one 3-point mounted flail mower, three 40,000 lb. winches off of surplus property trucks and one EZ-liner paint striper at the Northern Auction Spring Equipment Sale on April 14th.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the sale of three tandem belly dump trailers, two John Deere 5420 tractors, one 3-point mounted flail mower, three 40,000 lb. winches off of surplus property trucks and one EZ-liner paint striper at the Northern Auction Spring Equipment Sale on April 14th. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Larsen asked the Commissioners to approve and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Ward County and the City of Kenmare. This agreement is for maintenance of the northern (1.4 miles) portion of the Lower Lake Road. There is no obligation to the County but allows for maintenance of the roadway by the Refuge.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Ward County and the City of Kenmare. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Larsen presented another Memorandum of Understanding between Orlan Rovig and Ward County. The purpose is to allow Mr. Rovig to plant alfalfa on flood-acquired farmland that is currently being mowed and sprayed by the County. He proposes to plant and harvest through 2019 without an exchange of funds. As a result, the County will no longer need to maintain the land.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Orlan Rovig and Ward County. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

And finally, Larsen presented a request for fencing from Robert Grant that the Auditor's Office received from Mountrail County. Mr. Grant would like to build a fence along the section line that divides Egan and Passport Townships. He has come to agreement with the adjacent landowner who is in agreement as long as access is assured. The trail is not used due to the steep hills, fence and large sloughs. The request will require a joint meeting between Mountrail and Ward Counties.

Auditor/Treasurer Devra Smestad appeared;

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to Receive and File the following correspondence: Mavo Systems – Acquisition; FCC – Railroad Communication Towers; Wayne Short–Jefferson Trailer Court; Minot Area Chamber of Commerce – Economy at a Glance. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to Receive and File the following Monthly Reports including financials: Public Library; Recorder's Office; Sheriff's Department; Veterans Affairs. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to Receive and File annual reports: 911 Coordinator; Auditor/Treasurer; County Recorder; Emergency Management; Facilities Management; Public Library; Sheriff's Department; Social Services (update); Superintendent of Schools; Tax Equalization; Veterans Services; Weed Control. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Louser, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the event permit for Lawdawgs, LLC and the raffle permit for Apathy Ventures, LLC. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Smestad reminded the commissioners of the City/County/Park/School Liaison Committee on March 22nd at the Grand Hotel.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Louser, to approve the following payroll amendments: Conlee, N. – Social Services (Level 28); Fournier, S. – Highway Department (Level 20); Gasman, R. – Highway Department (Level 20); Osterby, D. – Auditor/Treasurer's Office (Level 19); Paukner, S. – Auditor/Treasurer's Office (Level 18); Walker, S. – Auditor/Treasurer's Office (Level 18). Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Chairman Walter informed the commissioners that the State Highway Department has scheduled a meeting regarding the intersection between Highway 83 and County Road 8 in Ruthville at 10:00 at the City Auditorium on March 21st.

At 10:20 a.m. with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.