

Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

May 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Walter at 9:03 a.m. with Comms. Fjeldahl, Rostad and Wepler present. Also present were department heads: Amanda Schooling, Betty Braun, Bob Barnard, Dana Larsen, Derrill Fick, Devra Smestad, Kerriane Boetcher, Leona Lochthowe, Melissa Bliss, Roza Larson, Ryan Kamrowski.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve the Agenda with changes. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the regular Commission meeting minutes from the May 1st meeting and special Commission meeting minutes from the May 8th meeting. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve regular bills totaling \$785,629.26 and Social Services bills totaling \$7,874.11. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to open the abatement hearing for Chad Ness at 9:06 a.m. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Ryan Kamrowski appeared with an abatement request for Chad Ness in regard to Parcel #FR260990000050. Mr. Ness spoke and asserts that a building on his property is agricultural and commercial, rather than solely commercial. The Freedom Township Board of Supervisors returned the application with a recommendation to value the property as 78% agricultural and 22% commercial. There was considerable discussion regarding the use of the building as well as the surrounding lot.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to close the public hearing at 9:25 a.m. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to uphold the recommendation of the Freedom Township as to valuation and have Mr. Ness provide a copy of the lease with his lessor annually outlining what percentage of the building is used for commercial purposes. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to open the public hearing to approve Resolution No. 1-2018 at 9:30 a.m. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Roger Mazurek, Executive Director of the YMCA appeared and advised the commissioners that he has been following the communication between the Auditor's Office and the Bond Council. Devra Smestad said that the Bond Council recommends approval contingent upon an agreement with the

borrower to compensate for a potential loss of bank qualified status and that they provide a Form 8038 to confirm that everything is in order. Issuing this particular bond could affect the County's ability to issue any others bonds in 2018 and there is potential for another bond issue this year. There was discussion about how this would affect the County and the YMCA.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to close the public hearing at 9:53 a.m. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, to approve of Resolution No. 1-2018 without bank qualified status. The motion died for lack of a second.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve Resolution No. 1-2018 with the contingencies recommended by the Bond Council. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Ryan Ackerman from the Souris River Joint Board presented an update about current flood reconstruction projects and those projected in the future. Projects are currently in progress at the 83 Bypass to the Moose Lodge and at Broadway to 3rd Street. There are cameras in place so that folks can follow the projects on the SRJB website.

Travis Schmit appeared on behalf of Amanda Schooling and presented the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The document is necessary to apply for hazard mitigation funds and other projects such as the Rice Lake moving and structure elevations.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to approve and sign the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Roll call: all voted yes; motion carried.

Leona Lochthowe from Facilities Management appeared with an update regarding the auction of items in the County North Building. She has had some difficulty finding an auctioneer. Devra Smestad passed out a resolution prepared by the State's Attorney's Office. According to Century Code, the disposition of property should be handled by the Auditor's Office or a designee.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the resolution to dispose of County property. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Nancy Simpson, Planning & Zoning Administrator introduced Joel Quanbeck from KLJ. Mr. Quanbeck provided an update on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan. There have been meetings with the Township Officers and a Task Force meeting was held May 14th. A Study Review Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15th. Outreach to additional stakeholders is planned for the near future. The infrastructure and road system needs analysis has been started and the growth and development framework has also begun.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl seconded by Comm. Wepler, to Receive and File the information provided by KLJ. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Paul Olthoff from the Sheriff's Department provided a Jail Agreement between Ward County and McLean County for approval and signature. This agreement provides for incarceration and care of prisoners in Washburn if needed.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to approve and sign the Jail Agreement between Ward County and McLean County. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Sheriff Bob Barnard appeared with two items. The first is a Memorandum of Understanding between Ward County and Minot School District No. 1. This agreement provides for a School Resource Officer at the school on Minot Air Force Base and Bell School. Minot Public Schools will provide 75% of the funding and Ward County will provide 25%. If funds are not available now, they will be budgeted for in 2019.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Minot School District No. 1 with the caveat that we will participate if funding is currently available and include funding in the 2019 county budget. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Sheriff Barnard also apprised the Commissioners about a possible change to the jail rules regarding social detox. The only facility available to handle social detox cases currently is in Grand Forks. This is in relation to cases of extreme intoxication or drug abuse. The change to the rule would disallow the County to hold intoxicated persons who are in danger to themselves or the public.

Travis Schmit, Assistant County Engineer provided a memo from Amber Rotramel who is resigning from the Ward County Park Board. He asked that the position opening be advertised as soon as possible.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to accept the resignation of Amber Rotremel with gratitude and request that the position be advertised in a timely manner. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Dana Larsen, County Engineer, presented three items for consideration. The first is a bid to seed County Road 20. Premier Landscaping came forward with a bid of \$26,572.00.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to approve the bid from Premier Landscaping in the amount of \$26,572.00 to seed and hydromulch County Road 20 between County Road 9 and County Road 5. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Larsen also presented an update on the hydraulic studies for Second Larson Coulee, Gassman Coulee and Egg Creek with services provided by Houston Engineering and APEX Engineering. The total cost of the studies is \$43,142.00.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to authorize the County Engineer to sign the agreement with Houston Engineering to complete the hydraulic studies for Second Larson and Gasman Coulees and APEX Engineering to perform the study for Egg Creek. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Lastly, Larsen solicited quotes for patching and spot overlay for a 1,315 foot portion of Project Road leading to Old Settlers Park. The low bidder was Minot Paving in the amount of \$58,283.00.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to approve the quote from Minot Paving to patch and overlay 1,315 feet of Project Road from the entrance of Old Settlers Park east to the bridge. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Devra Smestad appeared:

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to Receive and File the following correspondence: Emergency Management – StormReady County & Community; ND Water Resource Districts Association – 2018 Annual Meeting; US Army Corps of Engineers – Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to Receive and File the Monthly Reports including financials: County Recorder; NDSU Extension Service; Sheriff's Department; Tax Equalization. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to Receive and File the Ward County Pledged Securities Report. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve the duplicate warrants for Easi File and Praxair. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve gaming site applications for: American Foundation for Wildlife, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Minot Junior Golf Association, MSU Beaver Boosters, Minot VFW Post 753, North Dakota Association for the Disabled, North Dakota State Fair Foundation. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl, to approve the raffle permit for Minot Aircraft Modelers. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to approve the budget amendment for the State's Attorney's Office in the amount of \$64.00 for reimbursement of an out-of-state subpoena. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to deny the purchase offer for Dave Kohlman as the property is a grant restricted property and to use the Potential Sale of Document approval form for all tax sale properties going forward. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler, to reject the purchase offer from Jason Skar for Parcel #KM200060100020. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Smestad updated the Commissioners on insurance refunds we received from WSI for participating in a Risk Management Plan and Wellness Program for approximately \$58,497.62.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Rostad, to approve the following payroll amendments: Allers, T. – Highway Department (Level 15); Gunville, J. – Highway Department (Level 15); Jackson, J. – Juvenile Detention (Level 18); Kuske, M. – Highway Department (Level 15); Lakoduk, G. – Facilities Maintenance (Level 16); Olson, A. – Highway Department (Level 15); Osteros, O. – Weed Control (Level 15); Peterson, A. – Highway Department (Level 15); Salmi, K. – Highway Department (Level 15); Streitz, K. – Highway Department (Level 15); Stevens, G. – Weed Control (Level 15). Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

At 11:27 a.m. with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.