

**McLean County Commission Proceedings**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2016**

A special September meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Doug Krebsbach, and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Les Korgel, Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss, and Alyssa Meier of BHG News Service along with Wes Lindteigen of Ruso; Brad and LaRae Kostenko of Butte; Alan Westman of Benedict; Mike and Debbie McCleery of Riverdale; Edward Hauf of Max; and Orbie Fields, Tim Stiner, and Steve Seidler of Garrison.

Chairperson Lee opened a public hearing at 6:34 p.m. for review and acceptance of the Preliminary 2017 Budget. Sheriff Jerry Kerzmann, Chief Deputy Sheriff/E-911 Coordinator Richard Johnson, County Recorder Beth Knutson, Dakota Central Social Services Director Steven Reiser, Tax Equalization Director Todd Schreiner, Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, Building Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo, Water Board Member Lynn Oberg, Extension Agent Calandria Edwards, and Emergency Manager Noelle Kroll were present. Korgel and Lee presented guidelines for the budget process specifically what the process is for increasing and decreasing as per state guidelines prior to the final budget hearing.

Korgel went on to discuss the handout disbursed to those in attendance titled "Understanding Property Taxes" that was developed by the North Dakota Association of Counties along with the notice of increase that was sent to some county property owners. Fields questioned Korgel on the revenue projections that are used to establish county budgets after his review of the said budgets for the last three years. Korgel went on to present the revenue projections he used for 2017. Mike McCleery questioned what effect the 44% projected increase in mills would have in relation to an increase in his property taxes. Oberg requested the Chair allow Korgel to complete his informational presentation; after which Korgel continued his presentation.

Korgel then presented the proposed mills and all department budget requests recommending to the Commission that they hold salaries at 2016 levels meaning a 0% salary increase for all employees.

The board went on to review Highway Department budget requests which were broken down into five categories. The first category reviewed was *Highway Administration* showing a total request of \$172,621.07. Concurring with the Auditor's recommendation to freeze salaries reduces that amount to \$163,043.34 due to a reduction in *Salaries and Employer Benefit Share*. No other changes were recommended.

The board moved on to *Highway Equipment Expense*. Chairperson Lee recommended the following reductions to the *Capital Outlay* line item: remove \$80,000 requested for tractors; remove \$40,000 requested for a semi purchase; remove \$50,000 requested for pickup purchases; and reduce the amount allowed for miscellaneous expenditures from \$63,000 to \$50,000. He requested an additional \$60,000 be added to the *Capital Outlay* to cover the purchase of extension mower arms for the safety of our operators. These changes would reduce the *Capital Outlay* line item by a net \$123,000 from \$350,000 to \$227,000.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to accept the *Highway Equipment Expense* budget with the above amendments to the *Capital Outlay* line item resulting in a total budget of \$952,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to accept the *Highway Maintenance Sheds* budget with the removal of the \$12,000 requested for the *Building Repairs* line item reducing the total budget to \$7,500. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to accept the *Highway Shop-Washburn/Garrison* budget removing \$75,000 requested for the *Lease/Purchase-Washburn Shop* line item while allowing all other line item requests to remain as submitted for a total budget request of \$28,000. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to accept the *Highway Maintenance/Construction* budget reducing the *Gravel/Sand* line item by \$100,000 resulting in a reduction in number of planned 2017 pits from two down to one taking the total from \$500,000 down to \$400,000 and concurring with the Auditor on the salary freeze for a total budget request of \$2,481,451.08. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to freeze county salaries at the 2016 level for all salary related budget requests noting the county would be covering any increase in health insurance costs in 2017 in lieu of salary adjustments. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Farm to Market Road* budget as submitted with no changes for a total budget \$950,000.00. Korgel stated that there is a mandatory 10 mill limitation set by statute. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Unorganized Township Road* budget as submitted for a total budget of \$350,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Water Resource Board* budget with reductions of \$8,000 to the *4-H Camp/Fort Mandan* line item bringing that line item down to zero; a reduction of \$6,000 to the *Contractors* line item reducing that line item to \$42,000; and a reduction of \$6,000 to the Turtle Lake City project line item reducing that line item to \$6,000 resulting in a total department budget from \$182,080.00 down to \$162,080.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Dakota Central Social Services* budget as presented along with salary increases as recommended by state guidelines. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *County Commissioners* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$61,755.78. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Clerk of Court* budget with the removal of \$500.00 designated for *Equipment Repair* resulting in a total budget of \$160,978.29. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Juvenile Court* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$2,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *County Auditor* budget with the removal of \$250.00 designated for *Miscellaneous* and \$200.00 designated for *Equipment* resulting in a total budget of \$196,172.90. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *States Attorney* budget removing \$25,000.00 designated for *Litigation Costs* to fight the transfer of Lake Sakakawea property to the tribe resulting in a total budget of \$174,516.92. Discussion followed with Suydam stating his reasons to not cut the line item. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: Suydam. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Tax Director/Land Use* budget removing \$13,000 designated for *GIS Parcel Mapping* and \$50,000 for an additional assessor resulting in a total budget of \$201,568.21. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *County Recorder* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$150,337.07. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Superintendent of Schools* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$4,603.76. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Computer Operations* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$139,212.94. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *GIS Implementation* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$0.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *County Buildings and Grounds* budget removing \$500 designated for *Travel*; removing \$5,000 designated for *Equipment Purchase*, removing \$500 for *Training/Conventions*; and reducing the *Heat Pumps/Boiler Repair* line item from \$15,000 to \$10,000 resulting in a total budget of \$189,412.22. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Election Expenses* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$12,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Non-Departmental Expenses* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$252,800.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Employee Benefits* budget reducing the *Retirement* line item from \$425,000 to \$400,000 resulting in a total budget of \$1,574,380.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Utilities* budget reducing the *Natural Gas* line item from \$20,000 to \$15,000 resulting in a total budget of \$141,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

States Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Employee Risk Management Program* budget reducing the *AED* line item from \$15,000 to \$10,000 resulting in a total budget of \$15,400.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Dues/Memberships* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$33,693.78. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the County *Sheriff* budget reducing the *Capital Outlay/Equipment* line item from \$130,000 to \$80,000 allowing for the purchase of three pickups versus the requested four and reducing the *Miscellaneous/LEC* line item from \$1,000 to \$500 resulting in a total budget of \$2,369,734.48. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *County Coroner* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$18,500.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Motor Pool* budget reducing the *Oil* line item from \$1,000 to \$500; reducing the *Tires* line item from \$2,000 to \$1,000; reducing the *Repairs* line item from \$5,000 to \$2,500; and removing the allocation for the *Miscellaneous* line item resulting in a total budget of \$8,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Communications* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$9,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Flexible Benefits* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$1,980.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *County Sheriff's Vehicles* budget reducing the *Gasoline* line item from \$125,000 to \$100,000 resulting in a total budget of \$142,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Vehicle Impound and Towing* budget after the removal of the allocation for the *Miscellaneous* line item resulting in a total budget of \$6,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Advertising/Tourism* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$0.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Loan Repayment* budget in the total amount of \$135,000 to allow 25% repayment of the loan the county is making for cash flow purposes this year. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *County Park Board* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$59,900. The board commented that the county park actually generates enough revenue in a year to cover their budget so no general fund dollars are expended in this area. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Emergency Reserve* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$0.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Parole and Probation* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$4,080.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Jobs Promotion* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$1,600.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Veterans Services* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$23,666.62. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *E-911* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$116,822.66. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to change the allocation of Noelle Kroll's salary from 65% Highway/35% Disaster Emergency Services (DES) to 50% Highway/50% DES to increase state reimbursement for the DES side of the position and to more accurately reflect her actual time spent in the DES position. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Disaster Emergency Services budget with the new salary allocation and with a reduction of the requested *Overtime* line item from \$5,000 down to zero for a total department budget of \$35,805.48. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Extension Agent* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$97,646.92. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *McLean/Mercer Rescue Boat* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$700.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Weed Control* budget with a reduction in the *Salaries* line item from \$93,000.00 to \$90,000.00 resulting in a total budget of \$158,250.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board* budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *McLean County Historical Society* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$26,200.00 noting that they may not receive the full amount since their levy is capped at 0.25 mills. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to approve the *Senior Citizen Fund* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$145,422.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Soil Conservation Districts* budget as presented noting that there is a 2.5 mill cap on their funding. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Krebsbach, to approve the *Special Assessments* budget as presented showing a total budget of \$11,500.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Fields stated that he felt the publicized notice in the newspaper was a misrepresentation of what actually happened tonight. He reiterated his opinion that he feels that it is fiscally irresponsible for the county to rely heavily on oil funding. He feels the county should rely on a fixed economy versus the volatile revenue sources. He closed by commending the county services he receives at what he feels is a bargain price.

Mike McCleery questioned valuation of properties and the board responded that the proper officials to address those issues were no longer present.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Suydam, to accept the preliminary budget as presented with changes made during tonight's preliminary budget hearing and to set the final 2017 budget approval for 10:00 a.m. October 4, 2016. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Krebsbach, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Lee closed the public hearing at 10:14 p.m.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 4. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

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Steve Lee, Chairperson

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Lori Foss, Chief Deputy Auditor