

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, May 04, 2021

The first regular May meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chairperson Barry Suydam. Present were Commissioners Suydam, Steve Cottingham, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson, Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, Disaster Emergency Services Manager/Risk Management Office Noelle Kroll, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, Ralph Mancini of BHG News Service and Robert Bangen of Garrison. Also present by phone were Michelle Baker, Aaron Fuller, and Shelly Fuller, all of Garrison.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey was present with an update on department operations, he reported that work on County Road 4 continues. Grey discussed current county road restrictions and looked to the commission for input as other counties around McLean County are lifting theirs. Commissioners agreed that the road restrictions should be lifted in McLean County. Grey updated the commission on the two new employees that have started in his department, Tristan Weinfortner has filled the Equipment Operator II, and the Equipment Operator II/Sign Technician position has been filled by Christopher Pfeleger.

Grey presented two quotes from Midwest Door with two different types of doors and installation for the Washburn shop. Of the two quotes, one provided a better-quality thermal guard door with a \$1,010.00 difference in pricing.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the purchase of the thermal guard doors for the Washburn shop in the amount of \$30,820.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Recorder Heidi Anderson joined the meeting informing the commission that the Clerk position in the Recorder's office has been filled internally by Cailey Ferber, with a start date of May 17, 2021. Anderson requested the commission waive the six-month probation period since Ferber has been employed by the county for over six months and already has the basic knowledge of legal descriptions needed to perform the duties of the Clerk position.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the waiver of the six-month probation period for Cailey Ferber. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll informed the commission that the City of Benedict started their Rural Water Project. The digging crews have hit water lines due to the utilities maps being too old to determine their location, which resulted in the City of Benedict being notified of a **do not use** water advisory.

Knutson presented a Gaming Site Authorization Application submitted by the Velva Volunteer Fire Department for The Shore at Brush Lake for May 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Gaming Site Authorization Application submitted by the Velva Volunteer Fire Department at the Shore at Brush Lake. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a Gaming Site Authorization Application submitted by Washburn American Legion Victor B. Wallin Post #12 for the Painted Woods Golf Course with the no changes from last year.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the Gaming Site Authorization Application submitted by the Washburn American Legion Victor B. Wallin Post #12 for gaming at the Painted Woods Golf Course. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Iain Woessner of McLean County Independent joined the meeting.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson joined the meeting.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Curtis Malo joined the meeting to discuss the current motor pool vehicles. Discussion followed. Lee stated that we need to determine what type of vehicles are needed to meet the needs of the departments using the vehicles. Knutson discussed the state in which the Chevrolet Blazer has been left after use of the vehicle. [Policy 508 – Use of Vehicles](#) references the use of care regarding the motor pool vehicles. Discussion followed.

Johnson approached the commission regarding the City of Garrison dispatch services. Discussion followed. Lee and Cottingham both suggested \$1,000.00 a month or \$12,000.00 a year beginning in 2022.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve charging \$1,000.00 per month or \$12,000.00 a year beginning in 2022 to the City of Garrison for dispatch services. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a request from Tax Director Todd Schreiner to advertise for the open Property Appraiser (Assessor) position.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve advertising for the Property Appraiser (Assessor) position. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested of the commissioners to set the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to set the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending April 30, 2021. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 92% collected including 96% with discount for 2021 or \$18,083,438.63; Government Reimbursement revenues totaled \$776,246.07 compared to \$852,252.09 in 2020; Fees and Miscellaneous revenues totaled \$695,342.88 compared to \$582,616.87 in 2020; and expenditures were at 23.19% of total budget for 2021.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the following P-Card vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of P-Card vouchers is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00.

States Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Chairperson Suydam opened the 9:15 a.m. discussion regarding the recent 911 addressing changes.

Vern Harchenko, Greg DeHaven, Darcy DeHaven, Joan Roberts, and Jane Schonauer, of Garrison; and Jerome and Michelle Gruenberg, of Coleharbor joined the meeting. Brian Seehaffer was present by telephone.

Area residents attending the meeting in person and by phone expressed their concerns for and against the change in addresses. Discussion followed. The process and reasoning for the changes were explained by Johnson and Erickson.

Deputy Recorder Pandora Hummel joined the meeting.

Chairperson Suydam paused the discussion regarding the 911 addressing due to the set hearing at 10:00 a.m.

Brandon Kisse of Bismarck joined the meeting.

David Lindell joined the meeting.

Chairperson Suydam opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. for the Petition to Vacate a Street in the Highview Acres Addition and Highview Acres Second Addition.

Lindell presented the street vacation as described in the following legal land description of: A 60-foot wide strip of land located between Lot 7, Block 1, of Highview Acres Addition, and Lot 1, Highview Acres Second Addition, Replat of Lot 1 and 2, Block 2, Highview Acres Addition, located in Outlot B of SW¼ of Section 26, Township 148 North, Range 86 West, more described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 7, Block 1, Highview Acres Addition, thence East 60 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 1, Highview Acres Second Addition, Replat of Lot 1 and 2, Block 2, Highview Acres Addition; thence South along the West line of said Lot 1, 251.90 feet; thence West 60 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot 7; thence North along the East line of Lot 7, Block 1, 251.90 feet to the point of beginning. Discussion followed. The land located adjacent to this street is owned by Brandon and Cassandra Kisse and Connie Tarasenko Herington, with each land owner getting 30 feet of the vacant street adjacent to this property.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve vacating the street as described above. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Suydam resumed the discussion regarding the 911 addressing. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented two additional vouchers to be included in previously approved list of payments: McLean Sheridan Rural Water and Marco.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the two additional vouchers to be included in previously approved list of payments. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The board along with Knutson completed the annual performance reviews of Tax Director/Veteran's Service Officer Todd Schreiner, Clerk of Court Bonnie Bohnsack, Highway Superintendent James Grey, Park Manager Leslie Hultberg, Building and Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo, and Disaster Emergency Services Manager/Risk Management Officer Noelle Kroll.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.