

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

The first regular June meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 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, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, and Ralph Mancini of BHG News Service

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

Grey was present with an update on department operations, he reported that work on County Road 4 should be completed today and work will start on County Road 3 with adding gravel from the Meyer pit. Discussion followed regarding the 50th Avenue detour being placed soon.

Grey discussed the cost of replacing hydraulic hoses. Grey has a sales representative from Auto Value coming to discuss the cost of purchasing a machine for under \$5,000.00 that will allow the department to make replacement hydraulic hoses on site. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize the Highway Department to purchase equipment and supplies to make hydraulic hoses. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey discussed purchasing a portable diagnostic scanner for troubleshooting engines. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the purchase of a portable diagnostic engine scanner. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey discussed looking for a mini excavator and a belly dump trailer. Discussion followed.

Grey also discussed selling a single-axle dump truck and a tandem-axle dump truck at the upcoming auction sale and using the proceeds to purchase a tandem or triple-axle dump truck. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Highway Department to purchase a tandem or triple-axle dump truck not to exceed \$30,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Knutson presented the previously discussed 2019-2020 Audit Report from Rath and Mehrer for approval.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve and accept the 2019-2020 Audit Report from Rath and Mehrer. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss joined the meeting.

Knutson discussed registering for the North Dakota Association of Counties conference. The Commission meeting on October 5, 2021 is at the same time as the conference. Knutson proposed moving the October 5, 2021 meeting to Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve changing the first regular meeting of October from October 5, 2021 to October 7, 2021 at the regular starting time of 8:30 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented the commissioners with the salary options for the new Patrol Deputy, Craig Ware. Ware comes to the position with significant experience and Foss requested an adjustment to his starting salary to \$49,079.05 with an increase to \$50,194.36 after successful completion of the six-month probation.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the starting salary as recommended at \$49,079.05 with an increase to \$50,194.36 after the successful completion of the six-month probation period. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the commissioners with two McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board appointments with terms that will expire on June 30, 2021. The open board positions will need to be advertised in the paper for two consecutive weeks.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve advertising for two McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board members. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson received an email from Bob Frohlich of the North Dakota Game and Fish (NDG&F) regarding the high water boat ramp at Sportsmen Centennial Park. The NDG&F is willing to extend the high-water boat ramp and riprap area while the water is low. The total project would be around \$12,000.00 with the park's share being \$3,000.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the NDG&F extending the high-water boat ramp at Sportsmen Centennial Park. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the commissioners a Petition to Vacate a Street, for part of Ireland Avenue located between Lakeview Estates and Lakeview Estates Third Subdivision submitted by David Lindell on behalf of Debra K. Howe and Iver J. and Marla J. Eliason. Lindell requested the hearing be set for 10:00 a.m. on July 6, 2021.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to set the Hearing to Vacate the Street described above for 10:00 a.m. on July 6, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, 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: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending May 31, 2021. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 92% collected including 97% with discount for 2021 or \$18,114,313.44; Government Reimbursement revenues totaled \$924,789.06 compared to \$1,000,847.23 in 2020; Fees and Miscellaneous revenues totaled \$801,463.62 compared to \$724,487.35 in 2020; and expenditures were at 30.81% of total budget for 2021.

Knutson reported that the first round of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds has been received.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m. until the McLean County Board of Equalization Meeting set for 11:00 a.m. today. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Barry Suydam, Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor