

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, June 7, 2022

The first regular June meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Barry Suydam. Also present were: Auditor Beth A. Knutson, Road Superintendent Jim Grey, and Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen.

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

Grey was present with an update on department operations reporting that clean-up work around guard rails has started. Speed limit and advisory signs were discussed for County Road (CR) 8. Grey also reported that CR 17 is now fully open.

Grey requested to add Travis Verke to the 2022 Commuter Benefit Employees list.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the addition of Travis Verke to the 2022 Commuter Benefit Employees list. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested permission to advertise for one or more Equipment Operator III positions for the Butte Shop, filling a vacancy due to upcoming retirement.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve advertising for one or more Equipment Operator III positions in the Butte area. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the bridge inspection billing received from North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) showing the county share for the project at \$10,965.25.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve payment to the NDDOT in the amount of \$10,965.25. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a request to remove today's scheduled 9:00 a.m. hearing for Blue Flint's Property Tax Incentive from the agenda.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$16,081,869.78 and the total pledged securities were \$19,551,609.00 on May 31, 2022.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank for the month of May. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested permission to advertise for appointments to the McLean County Library Board and the Underwood area representative on the Planning and Commission position.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve advertising to fill the vacant board positions. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Office in the amount of \$13,904.40 for the month of May.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,422.85 for the month of May.

Craig Argabright and Brian Johnson, of Minot, joined the meeting.

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

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending May 31, 2022. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 92% collected including 96% with discount for 2022 or \$18,340,737.21; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$890,981.14 compared to \$942,789.06 in 2021; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$673,083.44 compared to \$801,463.62 in 2021; and expenditures were at 35.90% of total budget for 2022.

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2019-2021 showing a total amount of \$955,187.62.

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

Knutson updated the commissioners regarding the status of the current election.

Knutson discussed property owned by McLean County which include assessed specials. Discussion followed.

Grey rejoined the meeting.

Argabright and Johnson addressed the commissioners regarding the removal of a stop sign on 36th Ave. SW near Wolf Creek. Johnson requested the commission look into funding from North Dakota Game and Fish and the Army Corp of Engineers for road suppressant. Discussion followed which resulted in the Highway Department evaluating the speed sign placement along 36th Ave. SW, along with other options.

Tax Director Todd Schreiner and Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting.

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

**McLean County Board of Equalization Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

The Board of Equalization Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Barry Suydam. Also present were: Auditor Beth A. Knutson, Tax Director Todd Schreiner, Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson, Property Assessor Ryan Oberg, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, and Ethan Bender.

Schreiner stated that sales are the driving force behind what the county does along with the current market being followed. He reported that overall, agricultural (ag) land in 2022 reduced 1.5% compared to 2021 values. Ag values are assessed according to soils and not sales or current market. The figures used are derived from NDSU Extension Office located in Fargo, North Dakota. There were 76 commercial sales used in the sales ratio from McLean County with an overall percentage of 96.5%. There were 147 residential sales used in the sales ratio from McLean County with an overall percentage of 95.4%. Schreiner informed the commission that there was no overall large increase to values. Value increases in McLean County that did occur were due to new construction, improvements to property, current condition, and sales which accounted for a number of value adjustments to a number of lake and rural subdivision properties.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the 2022 market values for residential in the amount of \$719,243.91 as presented. Discussion followed from Bender regarding his received assessment letter regarding his assessed value. Oberg discussed the value of the Bender property. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the 2022 market values for commercial in the amount of \$155,541.35 as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the ag values as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor