

## McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

The first regular July 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, Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A Foss, Road Superintendent Jim Grey, and Cammie Wright of NorDak North Publishing.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on June 21, 2022, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey joined the meeting discussing weekend washouts on County (CR) 20 near the Max Guenther residence. Guenther notified the Sheriff's Department of the washouts and Grey visited and flagged the area yesterday; the department will try to repair the spots today. Butler has delivered mowing tractors and they are being readied for ditch mowing starting August 1. An ad will be placed in local publications this week notifying interested individuals of the county's mowing start date. Motor graders are expected to arrive next week. Knutson and Grey discussed an issue with the financing that was remedied last week due to an increase in interest rates over what was quoted.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Special Events Liquor License transfer for Ryder Star Bar of Ryder for a wedding to be held at the Hiddenwood Lake near Ryder, on July 9, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the change in mileage reimbursement for use of personal vehicles increasing from \$0.585 to \$0.625 as instituted by the State of North Dakota effective July 1, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed the budget memo for 2023 received from the ND Association of Counties including various information such as the county's projected state revenues for the upcoming year including Prairie Dog funding; costs of various state programs; projections for Clerk of Court funding and Senior Citizen Mill Levy match; dues expenses for various county associations; employee benefit costs; and Workforce Safety Insurance County Employee Group (CEG) premium estimate.

Knutson presented an abatement request from Lonnie Barth of Bismarck for land described as Lot 6, Schock Resort, located in Wise Township. The request was to lower the taxable value of the property by \$3,912 due to the removal of a mobile home from the property. The Tax Equalization department was not aware of the removal at the time tax statements were generated.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the abatement request from Lonnie Barth of Bismarck for land described as Lot 6, Schock Resort, located in Wise Township, reducing the value by \$3,912. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson joined the meeting requesting permission to advertise for one or more Patrol Deputy positions due to a recent resignation effective at the end of July.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to authorize advertising to fill one or more Patrol Deputy positions. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Washburn School District No. 4 and the McLean County Sheriff's Department regarding access to their surveillance cameras. The MOU is similar to the earlier agreements with the Underwood and Turtle Lake-Mercer School Districts for the same purpose. Johnson requested authorization to enter into the MOU with Washburn School District No. 4.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the MOU between Washburn School District No. 4 and the McLean County Sheriff's Department. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of June in the amount of \$405.10.

Matthew and Sydney Hiatt joined the meeting regarding their interest in purchasing a county owned parcel in Washburn. The parcel in question is McLean County Parcel 81-3001-00067-000 described as unplatted land, specifically 293.7' x 445' in Section 13, Township 144 North, Range 82 West, in the City of Washburn. Knutson explained to the board that the all proceeds from the sale will go to the City of Washburn to offset the costs of specials applied to the property. The City of Washburn at their Commission Meeting held on June 12, 2022, stated that the parcel should never have been assessed special assessments and they will do their best to make sure that the property will be exempt from future assessments due to the fact that the parcel receives no services.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to forgive penalty, interest, and cost on the above referenced parcel. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson then presented the bid proposal submitted by Matthew Hiatt in the amount of \$5,000.00 for McLean County Parcel 81-3001-00067-000 described as unplatted land, specifically 293.7' x 445' in Section 13, Township 144 North, Range 82 West, in the City of Washburn.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the sale of county owned property in the City of Washburn to Matthew Hiatt for \$5,000.00 for the parcel described as McLean County Parcel 81-3001-00067-000 described as unplatted land, specifically 293.7' x 445' in Section 13, Township 144 North, Range 82 West, in the City of Washburn. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the deed for the purchase for signing.

Foss presented the proposed budgets for 2023 for Superintendent of Schools, Computer Operations, Flexible Benefits, and GIS Implementation. Superintendent of Schools showed increases in all line items with total budget presented, not including Salaries, \$4,600.00. Flexible Benefits showed a decrease with total budget presented, \$1,452.00. GIS Implementation showed an increase with total budget presented, \$3,000.00. Computer Operations showed increases in Travel, Dakota Programs Maintenance, Active Directory Accounts, Anti-Virus Protection, and Capital Outlay which increased from \$28,375 to \$72,700 due largely to an upgrade to all computers on the internal courthouse network. Computer Operations showed decreases in Ink & Toner and Exchange E-Mail Accounts. Total budget presented, not including Salaries, \$122,447.03.

Due to the unforeseen absence of Fair Board President Diane Schell, Knutson presented the proposed Fair Board budget for 2023 showing increases in Electricity, Advertising, Office Supplies, Rentals, Premiums, Livestock-open, Dues/Membership/Travel/Mtgs, Special Assessments, and Water/Sewer. Repairs and Equipment showed decreases over 2022. There were no questions from the board. Total budget presented, \$87,000.00.

Knutson presented the proposed budgets for 2023 for County Coroner, Election Expenses, Jobs Promotion, McLean County Library Board, and Parole and Probation. County Coroner showed the same requests for all line items as 2022 with total budget presented, \$28,500.00. Election Expenses showed a large decrease over 2022 since there are no elections planned for 2023 with total budget presented, \$500.00. Jobs Promotion showed the same requests for all line items as 2022 with total budget presented, \$1,600.00. McLean County Rescue Board showed a decrease in Training from \$1,500.00 to \$500.00 which is in line with the county's participation phase out plan for that fund with total budget presented, \$2,500.00. McLean County Library Board showed an increase in Salaries-Board from \$0.00 to \$1,000 with total budget presented, \$1,000.00. Parole and Probation showed the same request as 2022, total budget presented, \$4,080.00.

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

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:21 a.m. with plans to reconvene at 9:30 a.m.

Lee reconvened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Knutson presented the financial recap for the period ending June 30, 2022, showing uncollected taxes at \$654,896.59 for 2021 and including the list of delinquent taxpayers owing more than \$4,000.00 which shows 33 taxpayers owing a total of \$324,880.35. She presented data showing oil and gas revenues at \$31,056.07, a decrease of \$33,000.00 from May. Government reimbursements are at \$1,563,948.00 compared to \$1,538,219.53 in 2021. Fees and miscellaneous revenues are at \$797,393.75 compared to \$992,539.13 in 2021. Property taxes are at 94% collected, 98% with the discount, for a total of \$18,609,812.91. Expenses are at 43.83% expended or \$6,782,847.03; at this point in the year, we should expect to have expended 50.00% of the total budget. She presented additional detail for fuel expenses of the Highway and Sheriff's Departments showing the Sheriff's Department has expended 74.04% of their 2022 budget due to the increase in the cost of fuel.

Lynn Oberg and Gerard Goven of the Water Resource Board joined the meeting presenting the board's budget for 2023. They detailed various projects including a drainage project in Washburn and a Painted Woods project. Cottingham questioned the purpose of the Contractors line item. Oberg replied that it is the line item used to cover board members' service expenses and other contractor expenses as designated by former County Auditor Leslie Korgel.

Beth Bruestle, Director of the McLean Mercer Regional Library (MMRL), and MMRL Board Member Kayla Oberlander joined the meeting.

Bruestle presented the proposed budget for the library for 2023. She explained that the library needs four mills for 2023 to qualify for State Aid. She discussed the various options for salary adjustments for the member libraries' staff including a request to increase monthly hours by 10 for Max, Stanton, Underwood, and Washburn. She presented the revenue picture for the library including the amount in reserves and then presented a complete picture of proposed non-salary expenditures. Total budget presented, \$590,000.00 with McLean Counties portion being \$377,000.00

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

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Steve Lee, Chairperson

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Lori A Foss, Chief Deputy Auditor