

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The second regular September meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, Road Superintendent Jim Grey, Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke, and Cammie Wright of NorDak North Publishing.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on September 6, 2022, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey discussed the motor grader bids received from Butler Machinery Company (Butler) and RDO Equipment Company (RDO) at the September 6 meeting. He had reviewed all bids and recommended accepting the bid from RDO due to price and the standard machine options available.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the purchase of three motor graders from RDO in the amount of \$392,500.00 per motor grader. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that right-of-way mowing continues and gravel work will begin in areas needed.

Grey presented a boring permit request from Reservation Telephone Cooperative. The permit requests to bore 40th Ave NW, in Sections 4 and 5, Township 148 North, Range 84 West, with 1¼" HDPE conduit and fiber optic cable to provide service to Central Power Electric.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the boring permit request from Reservation Telephone Coop as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting to present an application submitted by StorMor LLP, whose post office address is Bismarck, ND, requesting approval of a variance of the setback requirements involving land described as Outlot C and D in SE¼SW¼ of Section 31, Township 147 North, Range 82 West. The above-named applicant seeks a variance to allow the construction of a commercial building closer than the required 250 feet setback from the centerline of the road (State Highway 200).

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the variance request involving land described as Outlot C and D in SE¼SW¼ of Section 31, Township 147 North, Range 82 West. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson had been in contact with McLean-Mercer Regional Library Director Beth Bruestle regarding term limits for commissioners serving on the McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board. States Attorney Ladd Erickson was consulted and does not feel that there is a term limit on a commissioner serving on the board.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to reappoint Barry Suydam to McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed entering into agreement with Eide Bailly LLP for the upcoming 2023 biennial audit of years 2021 and 2022.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve entering into agreement with Eide Bailly for the 2023 biennial audit of years 2021 and 2022. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss joined the meeting.

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Chairperson Lee reconvened the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve Donna Sommer as Election Inspector for the Washburn Vote Center; Leah Odden as Election Inspector for the Garrison Vote Center; Lesli Fiedler as Election Inspector for the Turtle Lake Vote Center; Delores White as Election Inspector for the Precinct 280402; and Peggy Wollmuth as Election Inspector for the Absentee Board. Roll Call: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented the job description for Detective – South Sakakawea Narcotics Task Force. Discussion followed to delete the duplicate line that reads: Will serve and protect persons and property.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the job description as presented with stated deletion. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented a quote from Armor Interactive for Sheriff Datto Upgrade Quote in the amount of \$941.18 with monthly service increase of \$50.00 from \$180.00 to \$230.00 per month. The quote would increase the hard drive storage to 10TB. Discussion followed.

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

Cottingham discussed a request received from Comet Kids Daycare requesting a letter of support for a Partners and Planning Grant application.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve sending the requested letter of support to Comet Kids Daycare. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson informed the board that Ben Gehring has sold Thompson Funeral Home in Garrison. Currently Thompson Funeral Home is one of the two county coroner and Ben Gehring has agreed to continue in that role.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to appoint Ben Gehring as one of two county coroners. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Chairperson Lee opened the public County Budget Hearing at 10:00 a.m.

Building and Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo, Clerk of Court Bonnie Bohnsack, Tax Director and Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner, Assistant Jail Administrator Wade Krohmer, Recorder Heidi Anderson, Deputy Clerk of Court Cassie Smith, Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson, Sheriff J.R. Kerzmann, Director of Emergency Services / Risk Manager Noelle Kroll, State's Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Grey, Verke, and Foss rejoined the meeting.

Knutson presented the 2023 salary survey from Gallagher and the 2023 McLean County Budget. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the final salary survey from Gallagher as submitted. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the McLean County budget for 2023 as presented including the salary increases for 2023 as follows:

A detailed list of the 2023 final budget is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

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

With no additional attendees from the public and no discussion on the budget, Chairperson Lee closed the budget hearing at 10:44 a.m. and immediately reconvened the commission meeting.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2022. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Diane L Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor