

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, November 1, 2022

The first regular November meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee; Barry Suydam; and Steve Cottingham. 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 Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on October 18, 2022, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that gravel work continues in areas needed.

Arnold Wall of Mercer, ND, and Myron Pfennig of McClusky, ND, joined the meeting.

Lee discussed condition of culverts on County Road 29 (CR29) and gravel concerns on CR 15.

Jeff Walcker and Lamoyne Vossler of Mercer, ND, joined the meeting.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of October in the amount of \$9,438.30.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of September in the amount of \$1,195.54.

Ed Hanousek of McClusky, ND, and Chad Olson of Coleharbor, ND, joined the meeting.

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

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

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

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Chairperson Lee reconvened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Grey and Verke rejoined the meeting.

States Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Chairperson Lee invited the audience to voice their concerns regarding the gravel road conditions on 4th Street SW off of CR20 south of Mercer, ND, specifically the Ehler Gravel Pit run by Strata Corporation. Discussion followed resulting in Lee proposing consultation with Erickson on the matter. Erickson recommended a public hearing be set where all parties are notified of the hearing.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to set a public hearing for 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2022, regarding the Ehler Gravel Pit run by Strata Corporation. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Suydam, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chad Olson of Coleharbor, ND, joined the meeting to request a variance of the setback requirements for a non-permanent structure on his land and requested permission to allow the planting of trees closer than the setback requirements. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to grant the variance of the setback requirements. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham and Suydam. Nay: Lee. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to allow the planting of trees where designated. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham and Suydam. Nay: Lee. Motion carried.

Erickson requested approval of the resolution of support for the Painted Woods Flood Control.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Suydam, to approve the resolution of support as follows:

Resolution of Support

The McLean County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the purchase of approximately 172 acres of land by the American Foundation for Wildlife and its partners from the Hecht Family. The sale of the Hecht Family land will provide flood control measures that protect private property in the Painted Woods Creek floodplain. The Commission understands that the ultimate owner of the land purchased will be the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2022.

Steve Lee

Steve Cottingham

Barry Suydam

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

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 28 taxpayers owing \$263,178.39 in back taxes.

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2019-2021 showing a total of \$517,182.67.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending October 31, 2022. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 95% collected including 99% with discount for 2022 or \$18,908,471.00; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$2,258,892.58 compared to \$2,280,689.00 in 2021; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$1,386,788.39 compared to \$1,637,685.16 in 2021; and expenditures were at 78.29% of total budget for 2022.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 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