

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

The first regular November 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, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, Wold Engineering representative Mike Rivinius, NDSU West District Director Jim Gray, Sarah Bedgar, and Todd Kjelland, Central McLean News Journal Editor.

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.

NDSU West District Director Jim Gray introduced Sarah Bedgar to the commission. Bedgar has accepted the open position of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent and 4-H Lead. Gray announced that NDSU Family and Community Wellness Extension Agent Courtney Hoikkala will move into the county's office coordinator role due to former Extension Agent Calla Edwards leaving.

Grey was present with an update on department operations, reporting that work continues on County Road 4. Grey informed the commission that he measured the frontage road across from Krause's SuperValu in Garrison as previously requested. Discussion followed which resulted in adding an additional stop sign adjacent to the existing one on the opposite side of the road.

Mike Rivinius presented the commission with the 2022 McLean County 5-Year Paved Road Plan for approval. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the 2022 McLean County 5-Year Paved Road Plan and accept the Engineering Contract with Wold Engineering for preparation of the projects. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the current Notice of Sale of Property listing to the commissioners. The sale is set for November 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers of the McLean County Courthouse.

Knutson presented the commissioners with the State of North Dakota's final proposed county redistricting map. Knutson outlined McLean County and broke down the five districts within the county. Knutson stated that she had previously emailed all of the legislators regarding McLean County's districts and only received a few responses back. Knutson and Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss have scheduled a meeting with Senator Erin Oban regarding changes to the district boundaries on the proposed map.

Knutson presented the county commissioner redistricting map. The population of each of the commission districts must fall within a 10% deviation. Knutson discussed that the appointment of a township representative for the Redistricting Board; Nick Faulkner has agreed to be the representative.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to appoint Nick Faulkner to the Redistricting Board as township representative. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that the Redistricting Board will consist of the following people: Chairperson Suydam, States Attorney Ladd Erickson, member from largest city located in the county which is the City of Garrison, township representative Nick Faulkner, a city at large member, and Auditor Beth Knutson will be there as an ex-officio, non-voting member for the purpose of advising the Redistricting Board. Knutson requested the commission to set the Redistricting Board meeting for November 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to set the Redistricting Board meeting for November 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from Farmers Security Bank of Washburn, ND. On October 31, 2021, total public deposits were \$11,666,286.02 and total pledged securities were \$12,410,988.07.

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

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Office in the amount of \$10,092.90 for the month of October.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,545.24 for the month of October.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending October 31, 2021. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 94% collected including 99% with discount for 2021 or \$18,504,486.53; Government Reimbursement revenues totaled \$2,280,689.00 compared to \$1,885,110.61 in 2020; Fees and Miscellaneous revenues totaled \$1,637,685.16 compared to \$2,348,801.28 in 2020; and expenditures were at 71.64% of total budget for 2021.

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

Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson, Assistant Jail Administrator Wade Krohmer, and Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss joined the meeting.

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

Krohmer requested approval to advertise for a part-time Federal Prisoner Transport Officer.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve advertising for a part-time Federal Prisoner Transport Officer. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson informed the commission of department promotions due to the retirement of James Young Bird and Gordon Malaterre. Patrol Deputy-Senior Officers Cody Meadows and Arlan Swanson were promoted to Patrol Sergeants while Patrol Deputies Tanner Altenhofen and Alex Torrez were promoted to Patrol Deputy-Senior Officers. Foss presented the proposed promotional salary increases to the commission with discussion regarding Policy 602 – Promotions guidelines. The proposed salary adjustments consists of the following: Cody Meadows salary would increase to \$64,075.00, Arlan Swanson salary would increase to \$64,075.00, Tanner Altenhofen salary would increase to \$52,521.61, and Alex Torrez salary would increase to \$52,521.61.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the salary adjustments effective November 1, 2021, for Meadows, Swanson, Altenhofen, and Torrez as recommended by the Auditor's Office. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented the commission with the proposed promotional salary increase to \$40,156.56 for Cailey Ferber's promotion to Deputy Recorder.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the salary adjustment for Cailey Ferber as recommended by the Auditor's Office effective November 1, 2021. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. 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