

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

The second regular January meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Cottingham. Present were Commissioners Cottingham, Steve Lee, and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke; Risk Manager Noelle Kroll; Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson; Civil Engineer Jon Martin of Wold Engineering; Wold Engineering Representative Mike Rivinius; and Greg Cunningham of Washburn.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meetings held on December 6 and 27, 2022, and January 3, 2023, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that road widening continues.

Grey requested approval to advertise for bids for gravel crushing and equipment rental; the call for bids reflects a bid opening set for February 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize Grey to advertise for bids for gravel crushing and equipment rental as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested approval to purchase 38,000 ton of crushed gravel at \$5.50 a ton for the City of Benedict area from Shannon Torgerson.

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

Grey requested approval to utilize Steffes Group, Inc. for online auctioneer services for unused highway items.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the use of Steffes Group, Inc. as presented as soon as possible. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested approval to add Shop Foreman Troy Kittler to the 2023 Commuter Benefit Employees list.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the addition of Kittler. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested approval to hire John Saylor for the open Equipment Operator II position since he is a relative of Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve hiring John Saylor as Equipment Operator II. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested approval to reopen the advertisement for the Equipment Operator II position in the Garrison area.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to reopen the advertisement for one or more Equipment Operator II positions in the Garrison area. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Suydam requested a change in speed limit to 65 mph for vehicles and 55 mph for trucks on a seven-mile stretch of County Road 9 (CR9).

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to change the speed limit as presented. Discussion followed which resulted in Lee requesting to table the motion until the second regular commission meeting on February 21, 2023, in order for Wold Engineering to access the road design. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to have Wold Engineering assess that seven-mile stretch of CR 9. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Cottingham. Nay: Suydam. Motion carried.

Mayor Alex Taylor and Public Works Representative Mike Dirk, representing the City of Riverdale, joined the meeting.

Rivinius informed the board that five bridges were submitted to the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) for funding.

Martin requested to change the current right-of-way policy easements to a per acre easement instead of per quarter as it states now.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to amend the right-of-way policy for road project acquisition as presented and to increase the price per acre to \$3,000.00 for permanent acquisition and \$1,000.00 per acre for temporary acquisition. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson presented an invoice from Guardian Fleet Safety for purchase of four 2023 White Tahoes for the Sheriff Department in the amount of \$195,700.00. Discussion followed.

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

Kroll was present with the Risk Management accident statistics for January through June 2022, showing nine accidents needing medical attention and 16 accidents not requiring medical attention.

McLean-Mercer Regional Library (MMRL) Board Member Kayla Oberlander joined the meeting.

Taylor was present to discuss a long term plan for the MMRL building in Riverdale. Taylor stated the building is in need of repairs and inquired if the county would potentially agree to purchase the building. Discussion followed which resulted in Lee requesting Oberlander discuss it at the next MMRL board meeting.

Jerry Blotter of Coleharbor, joined the meeting to request closing a section line south of his homestead. Discussion followed which resulted with a request for Knutson to research the process and reach back out to Blotter with further information.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$20,830,695.30 and the total pledged securities were \$21,791,799.35 on December 31, 2022.

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

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of December in the amount of \$7,710.80.

Knutson presented the commissioners an Application for Abatement from Ethan and Megan Bender, of Garrison, requesting a hearing. A two-week advertisement is needed and Knutson requested to set the hearing for 9:00 a.m. on March 7, 2023.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to set Ethan and Megan Bender's Abatement Hearing for 9:00 a.m. on March 7, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by Magic City Youth Baseball for a raffle to be held at Totten Trail Bar and Grill, Coleharbor, on January 28, 2023, with prizes listed as non-guided fishing trip, five gallon bucket, hand warmers, propane cylinders, and ice fishing supplies with total prize value of \$1,600.00. The proceeds will be directed towards Magic City Youth Baseball program. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

Knutson discussed the Annual Township Ledger Report (ATLR) software with the commission. The software program has a cost of \$50.00 per organized townships which would be a county total of \$1,400.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize purchasing the software program for the organized townships in the amount of \$1,400.00 with no cost to the organized townships. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to designate Deputy Auditor Kayla Oberlander as point of contact for the software program. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Cottingham, Chairperson

Diane L Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor