

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, February 01, 2022

The first regular February meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson, Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen, Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, Assistant Highway Superintendent William Carlson, George Klemetsrud, and Alyssa Meier of BHG News Service. Absent was Commissioner Steve Cottingham.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes from January 4, 2022, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Grey was present with an update on department operations, reporting that he received an email stating that McLean County was not approved for the bridge funding as submitted by Wold Engineering. Discussion followed.

Grey requested permission to advertise for bids for gravel crushing and equipment rental; the call for bids reflects a bid opening date set for March 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to authorize Grey to advertise for bids for gravel crushing with a bid opening set for March 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Carlson submitted his resignation to the commissioners with an effective date of August 31, 2022. Discussion followed.

Grey requested to advertise in-house for the Assistant Highway Superintendent position to be filled effective March 1, 2022.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve advertising in-house for the Assistant Highway Superintendent position. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lee informed Grey of a phone call he received regarding a walking path in the Turtle Lake area. Discussion followed.

Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting with recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting held on January 24, 2022.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Keith Ellison, of Garrison, ND, involving land located in SE¼NE¼ of Section 32, Township 148 North, Range 86 West, more specifically identified as Outlot A containing 3.70 acres. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed the courthouse ATM with the commissioners reporting that West River Telecom (WRT) has been contacted and McLean County will be billed the amount of \$79.00 per month for the internet line. The Sheriff's Department agreed to have the ATM being placed in the Law Enforcement Center to provide 24/7 access. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the WRT line access fees. Lee requested that the agreement with TruCommunity Bank be for one year at a time. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Armor Interactive quote for a new commission minutes laptop in the amount of \$1,317.60. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the purchase of a new laptop at a cost of \$1,317.60. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson informed the commission that the Sheriff's Department has promoted Brad Nielsen to Detective. Knutson stated that after consulting with Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss, their recommendation was to increase the wage to \$56,032.28, which has been discussed with Sheriff J.R. Kerzmann. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve Detective Brad Nielsen salary increase to \$56,032.28, effective February 1, 2022 with no further increase after six months. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by Lisa Skolrud and Gabe Dove, to be held at the Hometown Tavern and Bottle Shop in Garrison, on April 1, 2022, with proceeds directed toward the Lee Kraft Cancer Benefit including the following prizes Pit Boss pellet grill, one week summer camp or retreat, \$50.00 Cookies for You gift card, and a \$50.00 Munchkin's Pottery gift card. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits on December 31, 2021, were \$12,285,978.48 and the total pledged securities were \$15,016,872.75.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from Garrison State Bank & Trust. The total public deposits were \$3,366,591.00 and the total pledged securities were \$4,502,473.30.

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

Knutson received the Clerk of Court funding agreement for the 2023-2025 Biennium from the State of North Dakota. The funding agreement included three options with the first option being making the Clerk of Court employees state employees; the second option is entering into a funding agreement; or the third option of the Board of Commissioners election to provide the Clerk of Court services. Knutson stated that in the past the second option of entering into a funding agreement has been chosen. Knutson visited with Clerk of Court Bonnie Bohnsack and Bohnsack felt that the second option of a funding agreement is sufficient for the 2023-2025 Biennium year. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to enter into the Clerk of Court funding agreement for the 2023-2025 Biennium. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Office in the amount of \$10,420.10 for the month of January.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,201.85 for the month of January.

Knutson informed the commissioners of the scheduled hearing date for Midwest Ag Energy on March 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Knutson requested the commission set the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 7, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to set the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 7, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

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

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2019-2021 showing the total amount of \$9,630,911.12

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending January 31, 2022. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 51% collected including 53% with discount for 2022 or \$10,104,818.96; Government reimbursement revenues totaled \$207,828.86 compared to \$307,288.46 in 2021; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$92,515.78 compared to \$310,010.93 in 2021 and expenditures were at 6.85% of total budget for 2022.

Commissioner Lee requested a one-time change to move February's second regular meeting date to February 17, 2022.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to move February's second regular meeting date to February 17, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. 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 and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Klemestrud addressed the commissioners regarding the possible wind project coming to McLean County. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor