

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The second regular March meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:33 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 James Grey; and Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on March 5, 2024, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented the updated Road Policy to the commission. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to accept the changes made to the Road Policy. Discussion followed which resulted in Lee withdrawing his motion due to previous agreements with grandfathered sections. Lee requested Grey consult with State's Attorney Ladd Erickson.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that a section of County Road 27 is being eroded by water. Discussion followed.

Michael Thyberg of Washburn joined the meeting.

Grey reported that Matthew Richard has been hired as Equipment Operator II for the Washburn area.

Knutson discussed using interest earned from Certificates of Deposits as previously discussed at the March 5, 2024 meeting. Discussion followed with Lee stating to leave it to the discretion of Knutson.

Knutson received communication from a Vision West representative requesting to host a meeting in McLean County on November 20, 2025. Discussion followed.

Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss joined the meeting to present changes to the Deputy Auditor-Tax and Risk Management job description.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the changes to the Deputy Auditor-Tax and Risk Management job description. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tax Equalization Director Todd Schreiner and Assistant Director of Tax Equalization Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting.

Chairperson Cottingham recessed the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

Chairperson Cottingham reconvened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and opened an abatement hearing for a request submitted by Michael Thyberg for land described as Lots 1-2-3-4 in Section 1, Township 144, Range 84, which includes 34.70 Industrial Acres. The request was to lower the value of the acreage from \$168,300.00 to \$140,540.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to reject the abatement request and leave the assessed value at \$168,300.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cottingham proceeded with the second abatement application request submitted by Michael Thyberg for land located in SE¼ of Section 32, Township 145, Range 83. The request was to lower the assessed land value from \$133,500.00 to \$131,800.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to reject the abatement request and leave the assessed value at \$133,500.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cottingham concluded the abatement hearing at 9:45 a.m. and recessed the meeting.

Chairperson Cottingham reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Paul Hardy, Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss, Road Superintendent James Grey, Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke, and State's Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to enter into Executive Session for an employee grievance hearing. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to leave Executive Session. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cottingham reconvened the commission meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to decline the appeal on the termination of Paul Hardy. Discussion followed. 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:

CHECK #	VENDOR NAME	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
308823	ALLSTATE PETERBILT OF BISMARCK	PARTS, ENGINE OIL	177.78
308824	FORCE AMERICA INC	FREIGHT	112.05
308825	GARRISON CITY	WATER, SEWER, GARBAGE	62.70
308826	HIGHWAY 83 LAWN LEISURE	PARTS	77.25
308827	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	PARTS	2,481.47
308828	MDU	WASHBURN, TURTLE LAKE, MAX, GARRISON SHOPS	886.93
308829	MID-DAKOTA WHEEL ALIGNMENT	WHEEL ALIGNMENT	3,090.60
308830	PAHLKE STEEL, INC	SUPPLY	103.88

308831	PARKLAND USA CORP	DIESEL	24,719.08
308832	SCOTT'S HARDWARE	STRAIGHT CLEVIS, CARB CLEANER, FURNACE FILTERS	116.44
308833	SUNDRE SAND & GRAVEL INC	45,290T CLASS 13 CRUSHED GRAVEL AT THE EDINGER PIT	179,348.40
CHECK #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
308834	SARAH BEDGAR	REIMBURSEMENT FOR GRAZING LANDS ANNUAL MEETING	110.00
308835	C & S REPAIR	OIL CHANGES, WATER PUMP, SPARK PLUGS, ETC.	1,715.49
308836	DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS	DETENTION CARE FOR JUVENILE COURT	8,264.42
308837	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	TIRE REPAIR	70.00
308838	GUARDIAN LOCK & SECURITY	LABOR, MILEAGE	1,139.69
308839	HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY	INMATE PRESCRIPTION	57.37
308840	HIWAY 83 EXPRESS	GAS	137.54
308841	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	WAN, ADOBE ACROBAT, MISC. RECURRING BILLING, ADUP, VAN, OFFICE 365, INTUNE, DATA PROCESSING	5,139.39
308842	LAKESIDE AUTO & SPORTS	8 X 20 ENCLOSED TRAILER	100.00
308843	LIGNITE TIRES	TIRES	631.00
308844	MARK'S PLUMBING PARTS	PARTS	49.20
308845	MDU	COURTHOUSE, LEC	513.62
308846	MERCER COUNTY SO	INMATE HOUSING	1,050.00
308847	MIDCO	CABLE TV	150.05
308848	NADCO RESOURCE GROUP	REPLACE AUDITOR LAPTOP	1,759.50
308849	NORTH AMERICAN RESCUE, LLC	60 TOURNIQUETS, 28 TOURNIQUET HOLDERS	1,888.24
308850	PRESORT PLUS	PICKUP FEE COURIER SERVICE	86.29
308851	RIVER CITY HEATING & AIR	REPAIR WALK-IN FREEZER, LABOR, MILEAGE, TRIP CHARGE	452.46
308852	SCOTT'S HARDWARE	SMOKE DETECTORS, PARTS, ETC.	130.92
308853	S & S TRANSMISSION	REPAIR	6,832.80
308854	TUBBY'S HEAVY TRUCK REPAIR	GREAT RIVER TRANSFER	2,102.00
308855	MAIN STREET MARKET	INMATE GROCERIES	2,888.15
308856	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	CONFIGURE TAXWISE, CONVERSION TAXWISE, SCHOOL PRO CONFIGURE	6,035.00
308857	UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE	LEASE RENTAL	230.40
308858	WARD COUNTY DETENTION CENTER	JAILER/DISPATCHER SCHOOLING	75.00
308859	WRT	911 TRUNKING RECURRING	574.36
308860	WEX HEALTH	MONTHLY ADMIN FEE	93.50
308861	WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE	INMATE WORK RELEASE PREMIUM	250.00
CHECK #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
5127	JAN HANSON	REIMBURSE FOR SUPPORT STAFF CONFERENCE, APPAREL	200.00
5128	DIANE BLUMHAGEN	REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELECTION TRAINING TRAVEL	52.26
5129	TERRI GUDERJAHN	REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELECTION TRAINING TRAVEL	46.90
5130	KAYLA OBERLANDER	REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELECTION TRAINING TRAVEL	107.20
5131	ISAAC DARR	REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL, MEALS	959.64
5132	RICHARD JOHNSON	JANUARY - MARCH CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT	90.00
CHECK #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
308817	DACOTA PAPER CO	GARBAGE BAGS, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, ICE MELT, ETC	368.51
308818	QUADIENT FINANCE USA	POSTAGE MACHINE REFILL	2,000.00
308819	DACOTA PAPER CO	TOILET PAPER, NITRILE GLOVES, CLEANING SUPPLIES, ETC	683.94

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

Rainbow Energy Center Representative Lindsey Remmick joined the meeting.

Erickson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rainbow Energy Center (REC) and McLean County. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to adopt the MOU between REC and McLean County. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to set the hearing for Apex Clean Energy's application seeking approval of their Discovery Wind project for 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024, at a Special Meeting of the McLean County Commission to be held in the McLean County Courtroom. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. 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