

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

The first regular April meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:34 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; and Road Superintendent Jim Grey.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on March 21, 2023, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations including letting the board know the department has shifted to a four-day week. Grey notified the board that some areas have placed road restrictions and requested permission to do the same on county roads starting at 7:00 a.m. on April 7, 2023.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the following resolution authorizing Grey to implement restrictions effective 7:00 a.m. on April 7, 2023:

Resolution

Whereas, NDCC ' 39-12-03 provides that whenever any highway will be seriously damaged or destroyed by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic condition unless the weight of vehicles, trucks, or other commercial vehicles thereon is limited, local authorities may by resolution impose restrictions as to the weight of the vehicles and the same shall be noticed by erection of signs designating the provisions of the resolution at each end of the portion of the highway effected thereby; and

Whereas, the Board of McLean County Commissioners has determined that highways which are under its jurisdiction may be seriously damaged by reason of deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions unless the weight of vehicles, trucks, or other commercial vehicles thereon is limited;

Therefore, It Is Hereby Resolved; that 6 ton per axle not to exceed 65,000 pounds road restrictions are imposed on all McLean County asphalt roads except McLean County #18 to the Great River Energy Plant;

That 6 ton per axle not to exceed 65,000 pounds road restrictions are imposed on all other McLean County roads except McLean County Highway #16 extending 7 miles south of Riverdale to the Fisher Industries (Sand and Gravel) Plant.

It Is Hereby Ordered that the McLean County Highway Superintendent shall cause notice of such restrictions to be posted at each end of the portion of the highway effected thereby. Road restrictions imposed shall begin within 24 hours after said signs have been erected.

Dated: This ___ day of _____, 2023.

McLean County Board Of Commissioners

Steve Cottingham - Chairman

Barry Suydam

Steve Lee

Attest:

Beth A. Knutson, Auditor

It Is Hereby Resolved that the above-stated road restrictions are hereby removed.

Dated: This ___ day of _____, 2023.

McLean County Board of Commissioners

Steve Cottingham - Chairman

Barry Suydam

Steve Lee

Attest:

Beth A. Knutson, Auditor

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

Grey informed the board that Samuel Boyd has been hired to fill one of the open Equipment Operator II positions and that the new loader has arrived.

Grey presented two quotes from Butler Machinery Company, of Jamestown, and McLean County Implement, of Washburn, for two Schulte mowers.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to accept the quote from McLean County Implement, of Washburn in the amount of \$38,259.89 per unit for a total of \$76,519.78. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to move the first meeting of May from Tuesday, May 2, 2023, to Tuesday, May 9, 2023, and to move the second meeting of May from Tuesday, May 16, 2023 to Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson informed the board that Elmer Jesme guidelines are under review and she will advise of any changes.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve signing the contract with Mayo Construction Company Inc, of Cavalier, ND, for Project SC-2804(055). Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve signing the contract with Gladen Construction Inc, of Laporte, MN, for Project BRJ-0028(051). Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the following Transfer of Funds Resolution:

Transfer of Funds Resolution

Be it resolved, that the McLean County Board of Commissioners moved to make the following transfer of funds to update revenue funds to the correct account as follows:

- Transfer \$40,469.11 from General Fund-County Road (2100-2901-000) to Purchases-Funded by Equipment Sales (2100-3641-000).

Steve Cottingham, Chairperson

Beth A. Knutson, Auditor

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

Knutson presented the calendar for the 2024 budgeting process with preliminary budget approval on August 8 and the final budget approval tentatively set for October 7.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the 2024 Budget Calendar. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the proposed 2024 Police Service Contract amounts to the commission. The proposed amounts are as follows: Benedict at \$2,301.84; Butte at \$5,524.44; Coleharbor at \$5,524.44; White Shield at \$184,456.08; Max at \$32,226.24; Mercer at \$5,524.44; Riverdale at \$32,226.24; Turtle Lake at \$38,731.44; Underwood at \$94,773.12; Washburn at \$184,456.08; and Wilton at \$103,283.52. The total of all contracts is \$689,027.88 which is a zero percent increase from 2023.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the 2024 Police Contracts as presented and directed that they be sent out to each entity. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss presented a short-term Telecommuting request submitted by Sheriff J.R. Kerzmann for Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson. Foss stated that home inspection of work areas has been completed by Risk Manager Noelle Kroll.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the short-term Telecommuting Agreement for Richard Johnson as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested permission to advertise for open appointments to the McLean County Library Board.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to advertise for open library board member positions. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the Special Events Liquor License transfer for Hometown Tavern and Bottle Shop for a wedding to be held at Cricket on the Hearth, on June 3, 2023. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of March in the amount of \$7,516.60.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of March in the amount of \$2,007.96.

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

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2020-2022 showing a total of \$1,495,006.24.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending March 31, 2023. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 90% collected including 94% with discount for 2023 or \$17,687,109.74; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$543,955.59 compared to \$544,635.65 in 2022; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$401,035.36 compared to \$337,312.17 in 2022; and expenditures were at 21.29% of total budget for 2023.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 54 taxpayers owing \$517,273.53 in back taxes.

Lee discussed radio upgrades for the Highway Department or the possibility of cell phone reimbursement for the employees.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 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