

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

The second regular May 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 James Grey; Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke; and Mike Rivinius of Wold Engineering.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on May 9, 2023, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize removal of the road restrictions on county roads effective May 23, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that most of the shoulder work has been completed and gravel work continues.

Grey requested permission to purchase two tree chippers from RDO in the amount of \$16,500.00 for the pair. Discussion followed.

James Falcon of NorDak North Publishing joined the meeting.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize purchasing two tree chippers in the amount of \$16,500.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented the McLean County Highway Department CDL Training Costs Agreement to the commissioners. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve using the agreement as presented as needed when hiring Equipment Operators. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Cottingham. Nay: Suydam. Motion carried.

Grey reported that Payton Huebner was hired for the Equipment Operator I but failed to show for his first day of work. Grey requested permission to advertise for one or more Equipment Operator I, Equipment Operator II, or Equipment Operator III for the Garrison area.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to continue to advertise as requested. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested permission to purchase a GMC sign truck in Moorhead, MN, in the amount of \$26,500.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the purchase of a sign truck as discussed for the amount of \$26,500.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Lee requested an update on 4th Street SW off of CR20 south of Mercer, ND. Discussion followed.

Rivinius updated the commission regarding the County Road 17 relocation project and the County Road 28 project. Discussion followed.

The board along with Knutson completed the annual performance review of Road Superintendent James Grey.

Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting to present an application from the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting held on May 15, 2023.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and conditionally approve the request for a variance submitted by Aaron and Jessamy Fornshell of Minot involving land located on Lot 38, Garrison Creek Cottage

Site, St. Mary Township, McLean County. The variance is conditionally approved that the structure does not affect the natural drainage. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson informed the commission that the State Library Board stated that a new commissioner is need to be appointed to the McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board as term limits do apply. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to appoint Chairperson Steve Cottingham to the McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board for a four-year term. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Special Event Permit was removed from the agenda per the applicant.

Knutson requested permission to designate Monday, July 3, 2023, as a paid holiday. Discussion followed with Lee requesting a policy change for future occurrences of Independence Day occurring on a Tuesday.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to designate July 3, 2023, as a paid holiday. 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.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 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