

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

The first regular June meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Steve Lee and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen; Road Superintendent James Grey; Chief Deputy Lori A. Foss; and James Falcon of NorDak North Publishing. Absent was County Commissioner Steve Cottingham.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting held on May 23, 2023, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Foss requested approval to purchase six new replacement Toughbook laptops for the Sheriff's Department from Route1. The total cost is \$14,760.78.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to authorize the purchase of six Toughbook laptops for the Sheriff's Department as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that work on County Road 2 by Max will be completed June 6, 2023, and graveling across the county continues.

Grey presented a boring request from RTC Networks requesting to bore 14th St NW in SW¼ of Section 20, Township 148 North, Range 84 West, and NW¼ of Section 29, placing fiber inside plastic conduit pipe to provide services to DeTrobrind Bay Estates.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the boring permit request from RTC Networks as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Grey presented the following boring permits requested by Falkirk Mining Company requesting to bore three in SE¼ of Section 8, Township 146 North, Range 83 West, to SW¼ of Section 9, Township 146 North, Range 83 West, placing 12-inch pipe to convey water from mining pits; two in SE¼ of Section 4, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, to NE¼ of Section 9, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, placing 12-inch pipe to convey water from mining pits; and two in SE¼ of Section 4, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, to SW¼ of Section 3, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, placing a 10-inch pipe to convey water from mining pits.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve all seven boring permits requested by Falkirk Mining Company as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$24,578,182.41 and the total pledged securities were \$26,662,202.00 on May 31, 2023.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Suydam. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson updated the commission regarding damages to Sportsmen's Centennial Park due to a recent water line break.

Knutson presented the contract from Department of Corrections for Parole and Probation Officer Terry Grumbo's building rent. The contract entails \$100.00 a month or \$1,200.00 a year for building rent.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the Department of Corrections contract of \$100.00 a month or \$1,200.00 a year for building rent. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of May in the amount of \$8,371.70.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of May in the amount of \$1,858.16.

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: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2020-2022 showing a total of \$1,203,947.08.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending May 31, 2023. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 92% collected including 96% with discount for 2023 or \$18,643,272.93; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$892,534.66 compared to \$890,981.14 in 2022; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$754,906.02 compared to \$673,083.44 in 2022; and expenditures were at 30.51% of total budget for 2023.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 41 taxpayers owing \$433,362.45 in back taxes.

Vice-Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Vice-Chairperson Lee reconvened the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Foss rejoined the meeting to requested approval to purchase Microsoft Office software for the six new Toughbooks from NRG. The total cost is \$1,899.06.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to authorize the purchase Microsoft Office software from NRG as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

McLean County Board of Equalization Meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2023

The Board of Equalization meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Steve Lee and Barry Suydam. Also present were: Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Tax Director Todd Schreiner; Property Assessor Ryan Oberg; Property Assessor Elizabeth Patterson; and Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen.

Schreiner stated that sales are the driving force behind what the county does along with the current market. He reported that overall, agricultural (ag) land in 2023 increased 1.31% compared to 2022 values. Ag values are assessed according to soils and not sales or current market. The figures used are derived from NDSU Extension Office located in Fargo, North Dakota. There were 51 commercial sales used in the sales ratio for McLean County with an overall percentage of 93.9%. There were 118 residential sales used in the sales ratio from McLean County with an overall percentage of 92.4%. Schreiner informed the commission that the ratio was initially at 88% and to achieve the acceptable rate set by the State of North Dakota between 90% and 100% of value residential structures in McLean County were increased by 5%.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the 2023 market values for commercial in the amount of \$178,853,234.00 and final ratio of 93.90% as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the 2023 market values for residential in the amount of \$773,980,304.00 and final ratio of 92.40% as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the 2023 overall ag values in the amount of \$765.03 per acre as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam and Lee. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Steve Cottingham. Motion carried.

Hearing no further comments and there being no further business, the vice-chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Vice-Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor

Vice-Chairperson Lee reconvened the commission meeting at 10:15 a.m.

There being no further business, the vice-chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Vice-Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor