

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

The first regular August meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:44 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; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss; Weed Control Officer Vance Tomlinson; Michael Thyberg; and Glen Philbrick.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, and May 7, 2024, meetings, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey provided a department update. Graveling continues in the Mercer and Turtle Lake areas and will move to Garrison area. Discussion followed. He stated that bridges and culverts are being mowed along with right-of-ways. Discussion followed.

Grey requested that a brush cutter be purchased as the weed eaters are not the correct equipment for the type of maintenance needed. He suggested a walk behind brush cutter be purchased with the correct attachments. Lee asked if budget money was available and thought the brush cutter would be useful and save wear and tear on other equipment. Cottingham stated he would like Grey to get pricing for the purchase and bring to an upcoming meeting. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that the door openers in all outshop buildings need replacement. He presented an estimate from Midwest Doors in the amount of \$9,554.00 to complete all five outshops, which includes openers, mileage and installation. Grey budgeted \$10,000 for these replacements.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve installation of doors in all five outshop buildings by Midwest Doors for \$9,554.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that motorgrader training will be conducted on August 28, 2024, for all new operators as well as existing operators that would like to attend.

Grey presented a permit from Falkirk Mining Company requesting permission to trench and install on highway right-of-way, three 5-inch dewatering wells into coal seams off of County Road (CR) 16.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the permit presented by Falkirk Mining Company to install three 5-inch dewatering wells. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented a boring permit request from Rainbow Energy Center LLC to install two bored underground utilities and one overhead utility to cross 29th Ave. SW in McLean County. The facilities will be located on the west side of power plant for the substation.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the permit presented by Rainbow Energy Center LLC to install two bored underground facilities and one overhead utility. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented a boring permit from Ottetail Power Company to bore a 41.6Kv line under 18th Ave SW in the SE¼ of section 34, Township 143 North, Range 80 West, located east of Wilton.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the boring permit from Ottetail Power Company for the two underground bores. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented an NRG Technology Services quote to purchase a replacement laptop, including software and support contract in the amount of \$2,048.09. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to authorize purchase of laptop, software, and maintenance contract in the amount of \$2,048.09 from NRG. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tomlinson and Philbrick discussed a spraying incident near Philbrick's property. Discussion followed resulting in Tomlinson stating the ditches around his place will not be sprayed in the future as long as they are being taken care of in a timely manner by Philbrick. Both were in agreement.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending July 31, 2024. The total public deposits were \$19,958,841.70 and the total pledged securities were \$21,591,841.70 with an overage of \$1,633,000.00.

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

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

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Dakota Central Human Service Zone (DCHSZ) Transfer of Funds Resolutions and the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolution. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolutions and the McLean County Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions are on file in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Lee requested that an insert be included with the preliminary estimated tax statements stating that the numbers were preliminary and do not reflect the actual taxes due. He also requested that the insert be on a bright colored paper. Discussion followed. Cottingham requested the third budget scenario be decreased by \$61,000 so the mills were single digits. Lee suggested the Emergency Fund be reviewed, but Knutson recommended with approval of Curt Malo, Building Maintenance Supervisor, that the parking lot budget line item for \$100,000 could be removed due to the lack of contractors available to complete projects. With this change, Cottingham was comfortable with the third budget scenario presented by Knutson.

Knutson presented the commission with the preliminary budget as follows:

The preliminary budget is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to accept the third scenario of the preliminary budget with the smallest increase after removing the parking lot budget line item for \$100,000 from building and grounds. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of July in the amount of \$7,195.30.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of July in the amount of \$2,447.82.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending July 31, 2024. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 93% collected including 98% with discount for 2024 or \$20,338,533.77; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$1,947,682.70 compared to \$1,739,072.25 in 2023; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$943,376.95 compared to \$1,211,328.83 in 2023; and expenditures were at 53.02% of total budget for 2024.

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2021-2023 showing a total of \$1,221,898.75

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 46 taxpayers owing \$1,221,898.75 in back taxes.

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: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The commission will recognize Leslie Hultberg's retirement at the September 4th meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 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