

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

The first regular September meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Cottingham. Present were Commissioners Cottingham, Steve Lee and Barry Suydam. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Gorlyn Wohlk; and Daryn Wohlk.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024, August 6, 2024 and August 20, 2024, meetings, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey provided a department update and stated that graveling continues in the Butte area. Graveling will then move to the Garrison area and he expects to remain there until the graveling is completed for the season. Grey stated that mowing is going well and mowers are working as they should. Mowing is anticipated to be complete by the middle to end of October. Discussion followed.

Grey provided an update on the Sterling plow truck in Bismarck for repairs from being rolled this past winter. The estimate for repair was over \$40,000 and with the existing damage and previous issues, he does not feel that the truck is worth this to make the repair. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to accept the insurance payment totaling the Sterling plow/sanding truck and put the truck up for sale for parts at the appropriate time. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey received a request for a sign to be posted at the Nygaard slough. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the placing of signs at the Nygaard slough with the exception that the signs and posts be installed by the county to ensure proper placement. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that they interviewed two qualified candidates for the operator position, however neither were willing to accept the position at the current salary range. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to reclassify the current opening from an Equipment Operator II position to an Equipment Operator III with a salary that is better suited for the applicants' qualifications. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that the previously discussed motor grader training was moved to September 23, 2024, for all operators.

Grey presented a boring permit from Ottetail Power Company to bore a 2.4Kv line under 18th St SW in the SE ¼ of Section 35, 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. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey discussed used equipment that is being sold at the upcoming auction this fall. He will provide a detailed listing when we get closer to the auction. Discussion followed.

Suydam stated he had been contacted about some highway signs that are not providing enough clearance for combine headers to pass through. Discussion followed.

Gorlyn Wohlk presented his concerns regarding an accident he was involved in on Highway 83 near Max. He asked that the commissioners take his concerns into consideration and speak with the States Attorney. Cottingham told Wohlk that he would discuss his concerns with the States Attorney and contact him with any updates. Discussion followed.

Adam Ourada, representing Falkirk Mining Company, joined the meeting

Ourada presented maps of areas south and west of Underwood where mining was conducted in the mid-80's to mid-90's. The section lines were temporarily closed during that time. Ourada was present to verify that those section lines are still considered closed based on the previous petitions approved by the commission as Falkirk Mining Company would like to go back into that area and begin mining where they left off. Discussion followed.

Lee stated that we need to ensure the roads have not been opened and would then assume they would still be considered closed temporarily. The Commission was in agreement that the existing section lines that were previously closed would still be considered temporarily closed and new filings and/or hearings were not necessary. The minutes reflecting such will be sufficient. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented the Lewis & Clark Regional Development Resolution prepared by the State's Attorney office. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the following resolution of support for Lewis & Clark Regional Development.

Resolution Of Support

The McLean County Commission (Commission) supports the application of the Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council for a Regional Livestock Planning Grant to study suitable locations within McLean County for animal feeding operations, agricultural processing and storage facilities, and other agricultural related economic development.

If suitable sites for the development listed above are identified, the Commission agrees to review the county zoning ordinances, and coordinate with the organized townships the county zones for, if zoning rule changes are needed to accommodate suitable agriculturally related development after receiving recommendations from this site analysis process.

Approved by the McLean County Commission on this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Steve Cottingham, Chairperson
McLean County Commission

Steve Lee
McLean County Commission

Barry Suydam
McLean County Commission

Attest:

Beth A. Knutson
McLean County Auditor

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

Knutson presented a letter of retirement from Clerk of Court Bonnie Bohnsack with her retirement date to be October 18. Cottingham opened up discussion regarding the selection process for her replacement.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending August 31, 2024. The total public deposits were \$17,626,777.61 and the total pledged securities were \$22,097,347.00 with an overage of \$4,470,569.39.

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

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, 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. Discussion followed. 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.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of August in the amount of \$14,518.85.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of August in the amount of \$1,516.16

Knutson presented the Uncollected Tax List for years 2021-2023 showing a total of \$1,148,895.51.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 44 taxpayers owing \$449,864.95 in back taxes.

Knutson presented the budget narrative for period ending August 31, 2024. She presented data showing property tax collections are at 94% collected including 98% with discount for 2024 or \$20,390,051.91; government reimbursement revenues totaled \$2,147,537.96 compared to \$1,993,470.85 in 2023; fees and miscellaneous revenues totaled \$1,089,265.67 compared to \$1,339,688.93 in 2023; and expenditures were at 60.54% of total budget for 2024.

Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A. Foss joined the meeting to answer questions about hiring the Clerk of Court's replacement. Discussion followed.

Cottingham asked that the position be opened up to the public as well as internal applicants. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, second by Suydam, to advertise the position internally and externally with applications to close on October 2, 2024 with interviews to be scheduled soon after. 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: Lee, Suydam and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that the budget hearing is set for the next meeting. Discussion followed.

The commission rescheduled Leslie Hultberg's retirement recognition for the October 2, 2024 meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Cottingham, Chairperson

Lynda Snyder, Administrative Assistant