

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

The second regular October 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, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder, Road Superintendent James Grey, and Chief Deputy Auditor Lori A Foss.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that mowing is finished, but graveling continues. Discussion followed.

Grey requested that the Highway Department be allowed to continue working 10-hour days as long as weather permits.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Highway Department working 10-hour days as long as the Highway Superintendent chooses for the duration of 2024. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried

Grey discussed the upcoming equipment auction and his conversation with Steffes Auctioneers.

Grey presented a boring request from McLean Electric to bore an existing overhead crossing to underground with cable at least forty feet deep with trenching.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the boring permit requested by McLean Electric Cooperative. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss requested the approval of salary adjustments for two deputies due to previous experience. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the salary adjustments as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham.

Discussion followed on the county's hiring process and advertising positions until they are filled.

Knutson requested approval to hire a high school student to clean once a week at the NDSU Extension office. It was decided that a job description will need to be created before the position can be filled. Discussion followed.

Knutson requested approval to allow Foss to carry over more than 240 hours of annual leave. Foss has played a vital role in the implementation of the new accounting and tax systems requiring her to work overtime. This has resulted in her not being able to use her vacation overage and Knutson does not feel she should lose her vacation hours.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve allowing Foss to carry over more than 240 hours for 2024. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cottingham presented retiring Clerk of Court Bonnie Bonshack with a distinguished service recognition certificate.

Knutson discussed the appointment of Kathy Neumiller as the 2024 ND State Fair Delegate.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to appoint Kathy Neumiller as the 2024 ND State Fair Delegate, contingent upon her acceptance. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson informed the commissioners that the new phone system has been installed and is working well.

Knutson presented a voucher from Emineth Plumbing for installation of a three-compartment sink at the Law Enforcement Center stating that additional work was needed making the bill higher than the original bid. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the Emineth Plumbing voucher as well as the vouchers below. Discussion followed.

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

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

Chairperson Cottingham opened the hearing at 9:03 for acceptance of minimum sale prices for 2021 Delinquent Tax Properties for the upcoming Tax Sale set for November 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to accept the minimum sales prices as presented on October 3, 2024. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

With no attendees from the public or cities, and no discussion, Chairperson Cottingham closed the hearing at 9:06 and immediately reconvened the commission meeting.

Knutson started discussion on the NDDOT meeting at the Event Center in Bismarck on Monday with the NDACO conference following.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09 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