

## McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, November 13, 2024

The first regular November meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:36 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; Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke; Highway Department Administrative Assistant II Noelle Kroll; Randy Neset of Neset Consulting Services; Amanda Douglas and Zandy Augustinis representatives of the Energy & Environmental Research Center of University of North Dakota (EERC); Civil Engineer Jon Martin of Wold Engineering; and Joseph Poe representing Hall Trucking.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on October 15, 2024 and October 29, 2024, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that graveling and mowing will continue as weather permits. Centennial Park is completed and vault toilet was removed. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that the Steffes equipment auction will be November 12-19, 2024. He also stated that one of the spare plow trucks blew a tire causing damage to the front end and the funds generated from this auction may be used to replace the spare plow truck.

Verke stated that the North Dakota Department of Transportation has been contacted by a county resident in regards to trucks driving recklessly when hauling rock near the Falkirk Mine. Discussion followed.

Grey presented a plan for year-round, four-day work week for the Highway Department. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Highway Department working four-day work weeks year-round effective immediately. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Martin presented the chip seal contract for 2025 which includes roughly 41 miles to be chip sealed. Martin stated that a combination of federal aid and county funds will be utilized for the project. He also stated that the bidding will begin in February or March for project start date of April with project completion in September. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to authorize Wold Engineering to move forward with 2025 chip seal contract. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll discussed three grants that have been awarded to McLean County. A 2024-2025 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$4,033.60 which is an 80/20 split of the total project cost; an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$20,011 which is a 50/50 split of the total project cost and a State Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$37,488.00 which is paying the project costs in total. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize acceptance of all three grants as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Augustinis presented information from the EERC regarding the Coal Creek Carbon Capture project at Rainbow Energy. Seismic studies started November 5, 2024, the study will take approximately two to three months. Discussion followed. Douglas presented a map showing the haul route to Vision 1 well site. Discussion followed.

Poe presented an overview of the drilling process and the timeframe for the feasibility study. Discussion followed.

Lee raised discussion on responsibility for the road damage due to the size of the loads to set up the well. He also requested a haul agreement prior to the start of the project. Verke stated that there are already soft spots in the road that they are aware of and need to be considered. Poe stated that a contingency plan will be prepared for building the road back up to its original state once hauling is completed. Discussion followed.

Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo joined the meeting and presented two quotes. The first quote was for replacement of the water heater that is failing in the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). Discussion followed. The initial bid with installation is \$27,000, however Malo is requesting additional bids. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to order a new water heater not to exceed \$15,000.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Malo presented a second quote for replacement of the humidifier in the boiler room at a cost of \$4,000.00. The computer board burned out and the system crashed. Malo requested to add a water softener at this time as well at the additional cost of \$500.00.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to repair the humidifier and install a water softener at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson opened discussion on the City of Garrison's court contract. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to allow the City of Garrison to withdraw from the municipal court contract. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a 2025 Beer and Liquor License renewal application for Hwy 83 Lawn and Leisure Inc. Background checks for outstanding violations have been completed by the Sheriff's Department and all necessary fees have been received. Taxes are paid in full.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the Beer and Liquor License renewal application as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$15,839,574.48 and the total pledged securities were \$16,696,796.00 on October 31, 2024.

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

Knutson presented the new process for transfer of funds for the Dakota Central Human Service Zone (DCHSZ). Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the DCHS Transfer of Funds Resolutions and the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolution. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, 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.

Knutson and the Commissioners discussed the remaining delinquent properties and seven county deeds were presented to be signed back to the land owners. Discussion followed.

Knutson discussed nomination of officers for Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the upcoming year. Century Code states that the nominations will become effective the first meeting in January. Discussion followed.

County appointments were discussed with Knutson notifying the board that all appointments will take place at the first meeting in January. Knutson stated that there are sixteen board appointments and requested to approve to advertise for the open positions.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve advertising for the sixteen county appointments in November and December. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried

Knutson discussed changes to the commission meeting dates due to scheduling conflicts. Discussion followed. Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve removing the November 26, 2024 meeting date and change December meeting dates to December 3, 2024 and December 17, 2024 with authority given to the Auditor's Office to pay bills through the end of 2024. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of October in the amount of \$7,829.60

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of October in the amount of \$1,071.55.

Knutson requested approval to pay a poll book clerk that filled in last minute on election day at the rate of \$18 per hour instead of \$16. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve paying \$18 per hour to the replacement clerk. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cottingham recessed the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Chairperson Cottingham reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Moved by Suydam seconded by Lee, to approve the following vouchers for payment: Including Lonna Nelson.

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 10:08 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

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Steve Cottingham, Chairperson

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Lynda Snyder, Administrative Assistant