

## McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

The second regular November meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:31 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, Road Superintendent James Grey, Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke, and Wold Engineering Representative Mike Rivinius.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 7, 2023, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that mowing has been completed. Graveling and blading will continue weather permitting.

Grey stated the previously approved Little Falls reversible plow for \$9,900.00 was inaccurately quoted. The current quote from RDO, in Bismarck, for a snow plow is \$23,600.00.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to accept the snow plow quote from RDO, in Bismarck, in the amount of \$23,600.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

City of Riverdale Auditor Del Kolke joined the meeting.

Grey updated the commission regarding the current status of the Torgerson gravel pit. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to notify the owner of the Torgerson gravel pit that McLean County is no longer interested in purchasing gravel from the pit. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Rivinius presented the cost estimate for Bridge Projects 28-137-11.0 and 28-165-32.0. He stated the county has to choose the percentage of funding requested for the grant applications to North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to apply for funding for Projects 28-137-11.0 and 28-165-32.0 with county participation at 20% of cost share. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed the Vision West membership.

Knutson presented 2024 Beer and Liquor License renewal applications for the following: Hwy 83 Lawn and Leisure Inc; DL's Strawberry Cooler; and TOTNTRL, Inc. Background checks for outstanding violations have been completed by the Sheriff's Department and all necessary fees have been received.

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

Knutson stated the City of Turtle Lake requested a letter of concurrence regarding the city's sanitation sewer rehabilitation project through the USDA Rural Development program. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve sending the letter of concurrence as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The board signed service recognition certificates for the following employees: Merlin Dahl, Shannon Dieterle, Jennifer Drybread, Rebecca Reed, Carissa Schumaier, and Jericho Swanson for five years; Keith Ellison, Terri Guderjahn, Jaime Oberg, Harlan Patterson, and Jeffrey Turning Heart, Jr. for ten years; Craig Salhus, Anna Six, and James Valandra for 15 years; Ladd Erickson, Noelle Kroll, Curt Malo, and Curtis Olson for 20 years; and Vance Tomlinson for 30 years.

Knutson stated the Sheriff's Department was awarded one-time Back the Blue funding which was provided by the North Dakota House Bill (HB) 1307 in the amount of \$58,194.00. The award could be disbursed equally between Patrol Deputies and Correctional Officers resulting in a payment of \$1,385.58 per eligible employee.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to accept the HB 1307 funds. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize distribution of the HB 1307 funds to the Patrol Deputies and Correctional Officers as presented with the November 30, 2023, payroll. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner joined the meeting.

Knutson presented the Election Joint Powers Agreement to the commission, recommending an increase to the minimum charge from \$50.00 to \$100.00.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the minimum charge increase to \$100.00 for the Election Joint Powers Agreement. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson called for nomination of officers for Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the upcoming year.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to nominate and reelect Steve Cottingham as Commission Chairperson effective December 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to appoint Barry Suydam as Commission Vice-Chairperson effective December 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Schreiner presented an application from the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting held on November 20, 2023.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the variance submitted by Harvestone Low Carbon Partners – Blue Flint Ethanol, whose post office address is Underwood, ND, on behalf of Falkirk Mining Company involving land located on Government Lot 1 in the NW¼ of Section 18, Township 145 North, Range 82 West. Discussion followed. 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: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Clerk of Court Bonnie Bohnsack joined the meeting to provide input on the transfer of Municipal Court Cases to District Court. Discussion followed which resulted in Lee requesting a meeting be held between the Sheriff and State's Attorney, with information provided at the next commission meeting.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to change the meeting time from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for the December 5, 2023, commission meeting. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Suydam, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. 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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Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor