

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

The first regular December meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Cottingham. Present were Commissioners Cottingham, Steve Lee, and Curt Olson. 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; Brad Darr and Craig Faul, representatives of the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT); Justin Tucker representing Ramsey Hill Logistics; and Jon Martin and Mike Rivinius of Wold Engineering.

Rivinius presented customer appreciation gifts and expressed holiday greetings on behalf of Wold Engineering.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that snow removal was needed for last week's snow event. Grey stated that as long as the weather cooperates, they will be doing some tree work otherwise work is being done in the shops. Discussion followed on snow removal in Strawberry Lake area.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo joined the meeting. Malo discussed sand that is being delivered, proposing that it come out of the Maintenance budget and not the Highway Department since it is to be used for the parking lot. Discussion followed on the type of sand being used.

Malo presented a proposal from Electric Systems, Inc, in the amount of \$1,842.00 to upgrade receptacles in the office area in the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the proposal for electrical upgrade work at the LEC in the amount of \$1,842.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Malo also presented a quote from Northern Plains Plumbing, Heating & Air in the amount of \$24,655.00 to replace the water heater at the LEC. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the quote for water heater replacement. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Darr, representing Ramsey Hill Logistics, LLC, presented a 129,000 Pound Large Truck Network Request for portions of ND Highway 22, 48 and 200 prepared by NDDOT. Discussion followed. Cottingham requested that an acceleration lane be considered from 200 to 83. Olson mentioned the dip east of Riverdale that has two sloughs on each side and will require trucks to slow down and needs to be considered.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Lee, that a letter be drafted in support of the large truck network request. Discussion followed on acceleration lanes at each intersection. Tucker presented Google maps and their study of inherent risk and stated that wear and tear on the roads is being considered. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tucker discussed load volume and stated that volume is significant when looking at the Bakken as a whole; 100 loads of sand per day, 3,000 loads per month, this large network request will reduce the number of trucks by 25% and lowering the weight per axle will be beneficial for wear and tear on roads. He stated that Hazen is the main source of sand right now.

Knutson opened up discussion regarding additional truck traffic and the effect it will have on the recreation areas and tourism in the county. Discussion followed. Lee asked that our concerns be presented in the letter of support. Tucker stated that the truck traffic being reduced would be beneficial and with the lower axle weight you are actually able to stop faster than the current trucks.

Knutson presented 2024 Beer and Liquor License renewal applications for the following: Totten Trail Inc, Garrison Golf Club, and Painted Woods Recreation Area. Background checks for outstanding violations have been completed by the Sheriff's Department and all necessary fees have been received.

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

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$14,479,766.41 and the total pledged securities were \$16,687,276.00 on November 30, 2024.

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

Moved by Olson, seconded by Lee, to approve the following Transfer of Funds Resolution:

TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION

Be it resolved, that the McLean County Board of Commissioners approves the following transfers of funds to between TruCommunity Bank accounts as follows:

Transfer \$5,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/01/24;

Transfer \$15,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/04/24;

Transfer \$25,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/05/24;

Transfer \$400,096.46 from MMDA (20900009) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/07/24;
Transfer \$130,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/07/24;
Transfer \$10,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/08/24;
Transfer \$270,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/12/24;
Transfer \$5,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/13/24;
Transfer \$5,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/14/24;
Transfer \$15,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/15/24;
Transfer \$255,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/18/24;
Transfer \$80,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/19/24;
Transfer \$35,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/20/24;
Transfer \$539,124.19 from MMDA (20900009) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/21/24;
Transfer \$10,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/21/24;
Transfer \$5,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/22/24;
Transfer \$15,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/25/24;
Transfer \$630,000 from Sweep Account (20390002) to General Checking (20030090) on 11/27/24;
Transfer \$5,000 from General Checking (20030090) to Sweep Account (20907080) on 11/29/24;

Approved this 3rd day of December, 2024.

Steve Cottingham, Chairperson

Beth A. Knutson, Auditor

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

Knutson presented the employee commuter list for December 2024 through November 2025.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson to approve James Grey, Travis Verke, Curt Malo, Vance Tomlinson, and Troy Kittler as 2025 Commuter Benefit Employees. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented two options for the Board of County Commission meetings for 2025. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson to adopt Option number 1 for the Board of County Commission Meetings for 2025 with meetings set for January 7 and 22, February 4 and 19, March 4 and 18, April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17, July 8 and 22, August 5 and 19, September 3 and 16, October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18, November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed scheduling the annual township meetings. Commission agreed to set meetings for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, with meetings in Turtle Lake at City Hall at 10:00AM and at the Cubby Hole in Garrison at 2:00PM.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Lee, to set January 15, 2024, as the annual township meetings date in Turtle Lake and Garrison. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson and the commissioners discussed the remaining delinquent properties. Three properties were redeemed before the sale by the previous owners and two properties were sold at the sale. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented a Joint Powers Agreement for juvenile housing for the Sheriff's Department between McLean County Board of Commissioners and the Ward County Board of Commissioners. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of November in the amount of \$1,527.72

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of November in the amount of \$7,895.30.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, 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, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 59 taxpayers owing \$571,152.65 in back taxes.

Knutson requested an extended lunch hour for the annual potluck on December 17, 2024 after the next commission meeting. Service awards will also be presented.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve an extended lunch hour to at least an hour on December 17, 2024. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43 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