

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

The second regular December 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 Curt Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Clerk of Court Gwyn Bosch; Sgt. Alexander Torrez; and Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson.

Bosch presented a previously approved Court Facilities Improvement Grant with modifications. The previous grant will be withdrawn and resubmitted with modifications to include tables that match the furnishings provided by Rough Rider Industries. Bosch presented a quote for \$4,459.00 for the modified amount. The grant was in the amount of \$3,344.25 and requires a 25% in kind contribution from the County, which would equal \$1,114.75.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve modifying and resubmitting the Court Facilities Improvement Grant. Discussion followed ensuring that Ladd was contacted about the renovation and was in agreement. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that the crews continue to work on the washboard roads with temps expected to rise in the next week. They hope to finish up and continue with tree work. Discussion followed. Grey stated that work continues in the shops repairing equipment.

Torrez and Johnson presented a Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show training opportunity for Sgt. Cody Meadows, Sgt. Arlan Swanson and Sgt. Torrez set for January 20, 2025 through January 24, 2025. Sheriff J.R. Kerzmann would like the training to be paid for out of the department's forfeiture funds. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the training request and travel costs with the costs to be covered by the department's forfeiture funds. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Abstained: Olson. Motion carried.

Johnson presented a quote from Enterprise for four new patrol vehicles at \$53,874.24 per year. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Enterprise transit van lease in the amount of \$53,874.24 per year. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham. Nay: None. Abstained: Olson. Motion carried.

Johnson presented a quote from Enterprise to replace the transit van used at the jail and lease a 2025 Ford all-wheel drive, 10-passenger transit van for \$15,403.80 per year. Johnson stated that even with the addition of the transit van to the Enterprise lease the Sheriff's Department is still under the budgeted amount. Discussion followed about concerns for potentially needing budget dollars if a vehicle is damaged later in the year. Knutson stated that forfeiture funds would also be available.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Enterprise transit van lease in the amount of \$15,403.80 per year. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham. Nay: None. Abstained: Olson. Motion carried.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative representatives, Ryan King, Bob Nasset and Shauna Scott, joined the meeting.

Knutson presented the job description for a part-time Custodian I to be assigned to the NDSU Extension office that was previously requested at the October 15, 2024 meeting. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Lee, to approve the job description and hiring of a part-time custodian. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Lee and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented 2025 Beer and Liquor License renewal application for the McLean County Racer's Inc. Background checks for outstanding violations have been completed by the Sheriff's Department and all necessary fees have been received.

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

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application, contingent upon the necessary verification email being received from the manager at Totten Trail Bar, submitted by Bis-Man Reel N Rec to be held at Totten Trail Bar and Grill on February 17, 2025, with prizes listed as: ice augers; ice house; heater; sled; chairs; tackle box; clothes; rods; and reels with total prize value at \$3,275.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tax Equalization Director Todd Schreiner and Assistant Director of Tax Equalization Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting.

Patterson presented applications from the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on December 16, 2024.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve a variance submitted by Mitchell and Stacey Lang involving land located in Lot 19, Lee's Point Subdivision, Wise Township to allow the construction of a structure closer than 15 feet from the side lot line and 25 from the front lot line, as proclaimed in subsection 6 of section 5.2.4 of the revised McLean County Zoning Ordinance as adopted on September 1, 1982 and as amended on May 24, 2022. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Lee and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve a variance submitted by Robert V. Pulver involving land located in Lot 2, Blk 1, Painted Ridge Subdivision, Township 144 North, Range 81 West to allow the construction of a structure closer than 15 feet from the side lot line, as proclaimed in subsection 6 of section 5.2.4 of the revised

McLean County Zoning Ordinance as adopted on September 1, 1982 and as amended on May 24, 2022. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Patterson presented an application submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, requesting approval of a conditional use permit involving land located in the following areas of McLean County to construct the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV transmission line project:

A detailed list can be inspected anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Cottingham stated that residents were present at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting with concerns on easements and damage to roads. Discussion followed.

By resolution of the McLean County Board of County Commissioners, as recommended for approval by the McLean County Planning & Zoning Commission, a conditional use permit is hereby granted to Basin Electric Power Cooperative to construct and operate a 345-kV transmission line from the Leland Olds Station in Mercer County, North Dakota, to the Tande substation in Williams County, North Dakota, traveling through McLean County, subject to approval by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and with the understanding that Basin Electric Power Cooperative is responsible for repairing any roads within McLean County damaged during construction of the transmission line project. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Olson and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Schreiner stated that he is working with States Attorney Ladd Erickson on updating Flood Plain rules. Updates have been sent to the state and FEMA for approval. Discussion followed.

The board signed years of service recognition certificates for the following employees:

- Howard C Anderson, Loretta J Blotske, Sheila K Bruner, Steven W Cottingham, Jesse L Feist, David L Kamp, Troy D Kittler, Christian B Uhlich, and Celeste M Wilfong for five years;
- Paul D Barrette, Mindy L Eng-Anderson, Bradley M Nielsen, James L Schumann, and Arlan A Swanson for ten years;
- Heidi J Anderson, Lee A Husfloen, Daniel Mautz, Sarah M Olson, Lori A Ternes for 15 years;
- Jerry M Kerzmann and Michael M Thyberg for 30 years;
- David R Pederson and Todd Schreiner for 35 years;
- Dale D Neumiller for 40 years, and,
- Glenn A Wiest for 45 years.

Knutson stated that real estate tax statements were going in the mail today.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson to approve the following vouchers for payment, as well as any new payments that arise prior to the end of the year, including P-card payments:

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: Olson, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion carried. Discussion followed. Lee requested that a listing of payments made after today's board meeting and prior to the end of the year be provided to the Commissioners. Knutson stated that the Auditor's Office would provide the listing.

NDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent Sarah Bedgar joined the meeting.

Bedgar was there to discuss an informational meeting that will be held at the Underwood City Hall on January 14, 2025. The meeting is centered around the possibility of a multi-purpose facility in McLean County, with the Underwood area being considered, as it has the McLean County fairgrounds. As a member of the 4-H Leaders Council she has been involved in several conversations concerning upgrading facilities and barns at the McLean County fairgrounds, access to a riding arena and a location for tournaments and practice for shooting sports. Discussion followed.

Bedgar stated that the intention is to develop an advisory committee who will take care of the projects as they arise and apply for the grants to fund the projects. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35a.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