

The following are "unofficial minutes", subject to change at the next meeting.

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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February 16, 2021

8:30 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Jim Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford, and Hugh Ralston. Available by telephone was Hetty Walker.

Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order. Andrew Kirking and Devin Johnson will be added to the agenda.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor presented a letter of resignation received from Molly Skadsen. Molly is resigning from the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission as she will be starting a new position in South Dakota. Auditor contacted Zelda Hartje, Historic Preservation Commission President, regarding the resignation. The Historic Preservation Commission will request resumes to fill the vacancy.

Auditor presented a letter from Stacie Sevigny, Developer with Red River Regional Council, related to a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. A public meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 10:00 A.M., via Zoom. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the program, discuss the impact the program has on Region IV, seek input from the Region IV entities and to review/update the short and long term goals for Region IV.

Commission reviewed the claims. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Andrew Kirking, Emergency Manager/Weed Officer, informed the Commission that he is resigning his position, effective March 19, 2021. Andrew has accepted a position with Stutsman County Emergency Management/911 Communications beginning March 22, 2021. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to accept Andrew's notice of resignation. Discussion followed.

All voting in favor; motion carried. The Commission thanked Andrew for his service and wished him luck in his new endeavor.

Commission discussed lifting the "limited access" for all County offices. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to open all county offices effective immediately, however, all COVID-19 precautionary measures in place (mask requirement, social distancing and tracking all individuals visiting your office) will remain in place. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Julie Hardy, Public Health Director, informed the Commission that Pembina County will not be receiving the number of vaccines originally anticipated and will need to postpone some scheduled vaccine clinics, due to the vaccine shipment delay caused by the winter storms across the states. The state will be sending 50 vaccines, which should be received today, but they will still need to postpone approximately 100 plus appointments. Julie discussed the BinaxNow tests that employees who travel out of state or internationally are required to take before returning to work. Julie suggests individuals test upon return and again after 5-6 days, but they will be allowed to return to work if the first test is negative.

Water Board met to discuss the proposed Tongue River Cutoff project. In attendance were Don Kemp, Chuck Thacker and Randall Emanuelson, Water Board Managers, Robert Fleming, Water Board Attorney, Paul LeClaire, Houston Engineering, Scott Gunderson and Bill Gunderson. Available by phone were Dennis Lindsay, Kevin Brown, Rick Brown and Paul Gunderson. Water Board Managers Rick Kendall and Ted Juhl attended virtually, via Zoom. Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering Project Manager, presented proposed improvements for the project that could alleviate landowner concerns from the December 15, 2020 meeting, regarding impacts to Rosebud Coulee. Decision tabled until March meeting.

Duane Littlejohn, Insurance Associates, met with the Commission for the annual insurance review. The North Dakota State Fire and Tornado policy is now being administered through the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF). Discussion followed on appraised values of all county buildings and adding insurance for vandalism to county dams. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to renew the insurance policy as presented for 2021. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin discussed repairs that should be completed on Bridge #34-101-03.2, located 3 miles north and 3 miles west of Walhalla. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize Devin to request quotes and move forward with the project. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage permit received from Ronald P. Symington to remove an unused approach $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of County Road #55 on County Road #12 in St Joseph Township. The permit has been approved by the landowner and Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by

Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Culvert request received from Ron Corrick to reinstall a crossing, using a 24" x 60' culvert, in the NW¼ of Section 23 of Drayton Township. The application has been signed by two township officers and approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the request as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Sheriff Meidinger updated the Commission on resignations and new hires in his department.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.