

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

## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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February 20, 2018

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: James Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford, Hugh Ralston, and Hetty Walker.

Chairman Benjaminson called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the February 6, 2018 minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the North Dakota Department of Transportation letter related to safety inspections of concrete box culverts. The NDDOT has received permission to extend the inspection cycle from 24 months to 48 months, provided the culverts are at least 3 years old, are NBI coded 6 (satisfactory or better) are not deficient and several other NBI ratings related to the box culverts condition. The Board reviewed the NDDOT listing of box culverts that meet the criteria. The NDDOT is requesting the county go to a four year cycle on the listed box culverts. Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, reviewed the list prior to the meeting and has no issues with the structures being inspected on a 48 month cycle. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of agreement as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County Housing Authority minutes of January 16, 2018 were reviewed.

Pembina County Fair Board minutes of January 17, 2018 were reviewed.

Pembina County received a letter of approval from the Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee for updating security cameras for the courtroom, judicial chambers and third floor surveillance surrounding the courtroom. Total project cost is \$7,965.00 with the grant worth \$5,973.75 and the county share of the project being \$1,991.25.

Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance, and Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented a handout from Storage Pros for storage containers. There is a need for additional storage since the old jail was remodeled for storage of permanent records and evidence rooms. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hetty Walker to authorize the purchase of one 40' double door container to be placed at the County Shop. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County Water Board updated the Commission on the letter they received from Helm Enterprises and their response to the inquiry. Discussion followed on Drain 79, Drain 72 and Drain 66. The Water Board is exploring the option of bonding for drain debts.

Cheryl Osowski, CLG Coordinator for Red River Regional Council, unable to attend. Cheryl emailed the application page and assurances page from the 2018-19 Certified Local Government Grant Program of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The grant application is seeking funding to support the administration of the WCHPC, reprinting of brochures for the NDDOT Rack Program, geocaching historic sites and trails, member education, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Church/Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Pembina. The local cash match for the grant application would be approximately \$2,207.80, which comes from the Red River Regional Council. Motion made by Hetty Walker and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the application and assurances pages as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the January financial statement and claims. Motion made by Hetty Walker and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the January financial statement and claims, as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Sheriff Terry Meidinger stopped by to show the Commission the plaque the Sheriff's Department received from Morton County for assisting during the DAPL protest.

Jon Markusen, Kadramas, Lee & Jackson, and Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented a handout showing the findings of the bore sample taken on County Road 1. The Geotech report states the subgrade is poor and has organic matter in the material 4.8% to 7.4%, which typically should be 5% or less. The report recommends a complete reconstruction, stating that a mill & overlay would be a short term fix. Preliminary costs of a complete reconstruction on the 14.7 miles is approximately \$875,000.00/mile for an estimated total of \$12,862,500.00. Discussion followed on continuing with temporary fixes on the road since the subgrade is poor. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hetty Walker to explore bonding to do a complete reconstruction on the 14.7 miles of County Road 1 from Highway 18 to Interstate 29. Roll call vote: Laverne

Doyle – yes, Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes.  
Motion carried.

Roger Olafson, Thingvalla Township Clerk/Treasurer, expressed his concerns with the motion made at the February 6, 2018 meeting regarding assessors placing values on all property in Pembina County, including exempt property. Mikka Willits, Tax Director, also present. Roger cited NDCC 57-02-14, related to valuation of real property exempt from taxation, and stated he feels having a valuation attached to all exempt property would be an extreme waste of time for local assessors and a high cost to all political subdivisions. Mikka cited NDCC 57-02-11, which states all real property subject to taxation must be listed and assessed every year with reference to its value, on February first of that year. According to Linda Leadbetter, State Supervisor of Assessments, all properties are assumed taxable, until proven to be exempt. Applications for exemption must be completed annually and returned prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> for review. Having valuations for property will improve the efficiency of the Tax Equalization office as well as eliminate additional work for assessors during their "off-season". Mr. Olafson is requesting the Commission rescind the February 6, 2018 motion requiring valuations be set for all property. No action taken at this time.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.