

## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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January 17, 2012

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: Andy Adamson, Gary Nilsson, Hugh Ralston, Corene Vaughn, and Hetty Walker. Also present was Pembina County Sheriff, Brian Erovick.

Chairman Adamson called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Corene Vaughn and seconded by Gary Nilsson to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2012 meeting as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County Fair Board minutes and financial statement were reviewed.

Additions to the agenda include a Weed Board Conference report from Commissioner Vaughn and the suspension of Pembina County State's Attorney, Stuart Askew.

Commission discussed appointing an interim State's Attorney. A letter of resignation from Wendy Hartje was presented to the Commission and Sheriff Erovick reported on his conversations with Cameron Sillers and Barb Whelan. Discussion followed. Motion made by Gary Nilsson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to appoint Barb Whelan as interim Pembina County State's Attorney. Roll call vote: Gary Nilsson - yes, Corene Vaughn - yes, Hugh Ralston - yes, Hetty Walker -yes, and Andy Adamson - yes. Motion carried. Sheriff Erovick will contact Barb Whelan.

Neil Hanson, Hamilton, was contacted, by phone, regarding a drain assessment that was attached to his real estate taxes on land that is in EWP and WRP. Discussion followed. Commission will discuss with the Water Board.

Pembina County Housing Authority Board minutes were reviewed.

Commission was informed that Lynette Flage has declined her reappointment to the Job Development Authority Board. Lori Estad, Red River Regional Council, stated there is no need to fill the vacancies left by Lynette Flage or Leon Dubourt.

Commission reviewed the application for a raffle permit submitted by Pembina County Mayville State Alumni. Motion made by Gary Nilsson and seconded by Hetty Walker to approve the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission discussed the stakeholder survey received from the Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) and North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) regarding the Pembina-Emerson Port of Entry Transportation study. Discussion followed.

Pembina County Water Resource Board met with the Commission. Robert Fleming, Water Board Attorney, also present. Chairman Adamson addressed the Water Board regarding Neil Hanson's concerns on the drain assessment added to his tax statement. Discussion followed. The Water Board informed the Commission that they will retain Randy Wagner as the representative for the Canadian Dike lawsuit. Water Board informed the Commission of a request from Russell Edgar to add rock to the dam near his farm. Water Board will contact Troy Kittelson regarding hauling the rock.

Julie Doyle, Tax Director, met with the Commission to discuss information pertaining to mobile home tax collections.

John (Doc) Johannesson met with the Commission. Also present were Chief Robert Delorme, Keith Delorme, Leo Delorme and Glenn Delorme. Mr. Johannesson and the Delormes are requesting to have 13.5 acres in the SE ¼ of Section 1, Township 162, Range 52, Carlisle Township, removed from the tax rolls of Pembina County. Discussion followed. Commission will discuss with the State's Attorney and have the Auditor report back to Mr. Johannesson.

Walsh County Commissioners contacted the Commissioners to discuss the appointment of Barb Whelan, as interim Pembina County State's Attorney. Luther Meberg, Walsh County Commissioner, expressed his concerns about the time involved since the Walsh County State's Attorney office recently had an individual resign. Mr. Meberg suggested Cavalier County State's Attorney, Scott Stewart, be contacted to see if he would be able to help out as well. Discussion followed. Walsh County Commission has agreed to allow Ms. Whelan to represent Pembina County as interim State's Attorney.

Motion made by Gary Nilsson and seconded by Corene Vaughn to accept the letter of resignation from Wendy Hartje. Roll call vote: Gary Nilsson – yes, Corene Vaughn – yes, Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes; Andy Adamson – yes. Motion carried.

Commission contacted Scott Stewart, Cavalier County State's Attorney, requesting his assistance during Mr. Askew's suspension. Mr. Stewart will visit with Barb Whelan regarding his concerns and will contact the Auditor within the next couple of days.

Ron Berg, Pembina County Veteran's Service Officer, met with the Commission. Mr. Berg updated the Commission on the workload of his office and the schedule for the Disabled American Veteran's van. Mr. Berg addressed his concerns with the operations of his office. Discussion followed. The Commission thanked Mr. Berg for his service to Pembina County.

Gerry Wieler, Wieler Construction, updated the Commission on the progress of the window project. Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance, also present. Mr. Wieler informed the Commission that the Marvin Representative will be onsite to make necessary adjustments.

Barb Whelan, Walsh County State's Attorney, contacted the Commission, by phone, regarding her appointment as interim Pembina County State's Attorney. Ms. Whelan suggested a paralegal that is currently interning in her office temporarily fill the Administrative Assistant position. Judge Laurie Fontaine was informed of the appointment of Barb Whelan. Judge Fontaine will schedule a meeting with Ms. Whelan.

Commission contacted Jerod Tufte, ND Governor's Office, with questions related to Mr. Askew's suspension.

Commission reviewed the November Financial statement. Motion made by Gary Nilsson and seconded by Hetty Walker to approve the November Financial statement as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Hetty Walker and seconded by Corene Vaughn to approve the claims as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission contacted Cameron Sillers, Pembina County Assistant State's Attorney, regarding the suspension of Mr. Askew. Mr. Sillers will continue to work on child protection and juvenile cases.

No further business; meeting adjourned.