

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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July 19, 2022

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Chairperson Rutherford called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Roll call: Jim Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford, Dave Moquist, and Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the agenda with the following additions/changes: corrective county deed, Safe Kids grant, NDACo representatives, abandoned cemeteries and an update on the sound system. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Andrew Cull to approve the July 5, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairperson to sign the corrective County Deed, for the sale of county property in Walhalla City. There was a clerical error on the legal description that needed to be corrected. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Carma Hanson, Safe Kids Grand Forks Project Coordinator, forwarded the NDDOT grant application for the Northeast North Dakota service area. The NE North Dakota CPS, Pedestrian & Wheeled Sports Safety Coordination project grant is for the implementation of Child Passenger Safety (CPS) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) strategies for NE North Dakota. The NDDOT is requiring documentation from the counties of operation of local benefit for Traffic Safety programs stating they will be involved in the initiation, development, and implementation of the program. The counties included in the NE Region are Grand Forks, Walsh, Pembina, Cavalier, Nelson and Ramsey. There is no legal or financial obligation from the counties. Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Dave Moquist to authorize the Chairperson to sign the grant application as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor updated the Commission on the sound system. The "main brain" of the system is expected to be delivered the second week of August and the microphones are expected in late August or early September. The contractor will be up to install as soon as all components are received.

Auditor informed the Commission of the email received from Linda Svihovec, NDACo Research Analyst, regarding the Prairie Dog Funding from the state. The funding for counties is estimated to be released in the first quarter of 2023. Pembina County's share is expected to be \$2,577,598.00.

Auditor discussed maintenance of abandoned cemeteries with the Commission. Commission supplied area names regarding the mowing of abandoned cemeteries. Auditor will reach out to these individuals for quotes.

Commission discussed the election of an NDACo 2022 Annual Conference delegate and an alternate delegate. County officials granted membership by the State Council in attendance were Mikka Willits, Revel Sapa and Linda Schlittenhard. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to elect Linda Schlittenhard as the NDACo delegate. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Dave Moquist – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to elect Revel Sapa as the alternate delegate. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Dave Moquist – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Pembina County Water Board members Don Kemp, Randall Emanuelson, Ted Juhl, and Bill Gunderson, Water Board Secretary LuAnn Kemp, and Water Board Attorney Rob Fleming met with the Commission. Paul LaClaire, Houston Engineering, also present. Paul updated the Commission on the Snagging and Clearing project, work on legal Drain 66, the Tongue River Cut-off project, and a partial decommission project for Bourbanis Dam. The preliminary estimate for the Bourbanis Dam project is around \$4.5 M with 75% being covered by the state and another 20% by Red River Joint Water Board, leaving the remaining covered by the county. All engineering costs for the Bourbanis Dam project will be covered by NRCS. Paul also discussed an estimate for a snagging and clearing project for the Cart Creek watershed area.

Ryan Ehli, Vanguard Appraisals, Inc, and Mikka Willits, Tax Director, met to discuss a total reappraisal process for Pembina County. Also in attendance were Lisa Wieler, Deputy Tax Director and Lisa Keney, County Assessor. Ryan presented and reviewed a handout of the programs offered through Vanguard Appraisals. Ryan also explained the importance of good assessment data, a sales study statistic which measures the equity of current assessments (COD), and the price related differential (PRD) which measures the equity between high value properties compared to low valued properties. Ryan also explained how an increase in the aggregate value would allow the County to lower millage rates, which can have an economic development advantage. Work would not be able to start until 2027 for the 2028 assessment year. Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to table the decision. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Dave Moquist – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the June financial statement and claims submitted for payment. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Andrew Cull to approve the claims as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Andrew Cull to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 AM.