

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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July 2, 2019

8:30 AM

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

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order. No additions to the agenda.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the June 10, 2019 Special meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the June 18, 2019 minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the June 18, 2019 Board of Equalization minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the June 20, 2019 Special meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and second by Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution awarding Triple D Construction & Leasing Inc. the contract for Project BRC-3428(056), the box culvert replacement project located on County Highway #44. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Auditor/Treasurer, Linda Schlittenhard, presented the Commission with a report on the investment interest account. A total of \$59,288.59 was available in the fund the end of May 2019. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to distribute the entire \$59,288.59 investment earnings to General Reserve. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes. Motion carried.

Commission was informed of a mobile home removed from Pembina County in 2015. The outstanding tax amount is \$219.34, for tax years 2015 -2019. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to remove the unpaid taxes for years 2015-2019. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes. Motion carried.

Request for a gaming site authorization, at Svold Community Hall in Svold, received from Svold Community Hall Association. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the gaming site request as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

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

Dawn (Keeley) Mandt, Red River Regional Council Executive Director, Maggie Suda, Developer, Kathy Stremick, JDA Treasurer, Charles Wellman, JDA Board President and Laci Hinkle, JDA Board member, presented the Pembina County Strategic Plan. The new strategic plan for 2019-2024 was adopted on June 12, 2019. There are six goals for the Strategic Plan. Goal #1 is to continue to support business development by aligning businesses and communities with access to capital and to explore the southern Manitoba growth model. Goal #2 involves workforce development/entrepreneurship by continuing to lead the 21st century workforce development and youth entrepreneurship initiative. Goal #3 is to continue to develop tourism/visitor destinations by continuing the development of the Rendezvous Region Tourism Council, to continue supporting the redevelopment and expansion of Frost Fire Park as a vital regional outdoor recreation and cultural amenity, advocate the implementation of the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Master Plan, continue development at Icelandic State Park and support development and marketing amenities, niche businesses and activities. Goal #4 is to continue to develop the Northeast Manufacturing Group. Goal #5 involves supporting vibrant community development by helping to improve the visual appeal of our rural downtowns, encouraging and supporting community enhancement projects such as trails, beautification, recreation amenities and programming, supporting housing rehabilitation and development, continuing to support maintaining and enhancing healthcare, assisting communities and/or private entrepreneurs with developing or maintaining childcare facilities and developing a leadership development program to encourage more potential leader candidates. Goal #6 involves management of the JDA resources and loan portfolio, managing the Board of Directors and to continue strong public relations to relay the value of the JDA. Dawn presented a handout showing Pembina County JDA's investment and leveraged funds from 2010 to 2018. Dawn is requesting the Commission consider levying the maximum of 4 mills for the JDA 2020 budget.

Rebecca Flanders, Pembina County State's Attorney, updated the Commission on the Multi District Opioid Litigation. Also present by telephone were Curtis

Olafson, North Dakota Field Director for Aronnax Public Strategies, and Jonathan Novak, Attorney with the Motley Rice, Ferrer Poirot Wansbrough & Fears Nachawati consortium. To date seventeen counties and two cities have signed on with the consortium. One county and one city have also joined the litigation utilizing another law firm. Six counties and one city have received or scheduled a presentation. Ms. Flanders informed the Commission that the Attorney General's litigation has fallen through and had several questions for Mr. Novak and Mr. Olafson. Mr. Novak responded to the questions posed by Ms. Flanders. There is no cost to the county to sign on with the consortium. Mr. Olafson and Mr. Novak discussed the indemnity clause which is part of the retainer agreement. Discussion followed. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Hugh Ralston to join with the consortium for Opioid Litigation. Discussion followed on review of the retainer agreement and consideration of some of the clauses and options discussed by Mr. Novak. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson- yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes. Motion carried.

Kim Ruliffson, Eastern North Dakota District Director for NDSU, available by telephone. Kim informed the Commission that the North Dakota Legislature approved funding for the SBARE initiative, which will bring the former base policy back and that the Agricultural and Natural Resource position, which was vacated when Samantha Lahman resigned, is very high on the NDSU list of positions to be filled. Kim discussed a pilot project where there would be a merger with Cavalier County to share an Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent and Family and Community Wellness Agent, which would allow both agents to focus on their specialty areas. A 4-H coordinator/agent/assistant would be hired to serve both counties with that workload. Kari Helgoe, FCW agent and Sandy Letexier, Extension Administrative Assistant, also in attendance. Kari discussed potential workload and responsibilities for each agent and the 4-H position that would need to be filled. Commissioner Benjaminson thanked Kari and Sandy for the wonderful job they did at the recent Hamilton Fair. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to have the NDSU Extension Office remain as it currently stands, filling the vacant ANR agent position when the opportunity arises. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Memorandum of Agreements, for the administration of the Public Assistance (PA) Program, between Pembina County and the organized townships of Crystal and LaMoure were presented for signature. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreements as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Andrew Kirking, Emergency Manager/Weed Officer, presented a listing and maps of the areas in Pembina County included in the DR4444 Flooding Disaster declared last month. Andrew reviewed a Security Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) draft for county offices. Planned events and specific trainings identified include critical threat incident response, annual fire drill, severe weather alert test, panic button test, and an AED/Stop the bleeder refresher. Andrew also presented a Facility Security Plan which outlines the procedures and measures

employed by Pembina County to address security needs at various risk levels and how to respond effectively. Andrew reviewed the ALICE model for active shooter awareness. Andrew would like the Commission to review the plans and report any changes they would like at the next meeting.

Debra Olson, DVAC Executive Director, for Cavalier, Pembina and Walsh counties thanked the Commission for Pembina County's support of the DVAC over the past 15 years. Ms. Olson discussed the budgetary needs of the organization by giving a brief overview of the needs of the individuals they serve. Victim Services costs have increased from \$1,200.00 in 2004 to \$6,500.00 to date for 2019. Due to the increase in general cost of living expenses, Ms. Olson is requesting consideration of an increase of \$4,000.00 to the 2020 donation. Commissioner Walker introduced her daughter, Dawn Walker, Sales Director for Mary Kay Cosmetics Company. Ms. Walker would be willing to write a letter of endorsement for the DVAC grant application. Mary Kay Cosmetics Company offers a \$20,000.00 grant to at least two DVAC centers in each state annually. Discussion followed on additional options for grants. Ms. Olson thanked Ms. Walker for her assistance. Ms. Olson will forward budget actuals to the Auditor for Commission review prior to budgetary decisions.

Commission was presented with the proposed 2020 salaries for review. No action taken at this time.

Commission was reminded of the Social Service Redesign meeting scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2019 at 8:30AM in the Lila Mielke room in the lower level of the Chase Building in Grafton.

Motion by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Hugh Ralston to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.