

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

www.pembinacountynd.gov

June 18, 2019

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: Jim Benjaminson, Nick Rutherford, Hugh Ralston and Hetty Walker. Absent: Laverne Doyle.

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 4, 2019 minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Request for a Duplicate Warrant received from Mountain-Thingvalla Fire District. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor informed the Commission the payment from SB2016, the special road distribution to townships, was received. The total for the 24 Pembina County townships was \$195,000.00. The second payment for Social Service was also received in the amount of \$559,508.62.

Auditor requested to transfer all remaining funds in the previous Social Service Levy fund. These funds were levied through the county prior to the State pilot project, which took place for tax years 2017 and 2018. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to transfer the remaining funds to the General Reserve. Roll call vote; Jim Benjaminson – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes. Motion carried.

Request for a gaming site authorization at Chizzy's received from Bartlette-Resler Post 62. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the gaming site request as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission was presented with the Final Certification of Local Match for project HLC-3400(014), for traffic safety projects. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the certification as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

A public hearing was held at 10:00 AM, as required in NDCC 61-16.1-09, on the proposed Snagging and Clearing project on the Tongue River in Pembina County. Those in attendance include Pembina County Water Board members Chuck Thacker, Randall Emanuelson, Don Kemp and Rick Kendall, LuAnn Kemp, Water Board Secretary, Rob Fleming, Water Board Attorney, Gregg Thielman and Paul LeClaire, Houston Engineering, and interested landowners Scott Gunderson, and Clarence Boettger. Gregg Thielman presented a handout explaining the process for the project and drone footage showing part of the area that would be cleaned if the project moves forward. During this past legislative session the legislature reenacted funding availability through the North Dakota State Water Commission for a 50% cost-share on snagging and clearing projects. The Water Board has applied and should be notified by August 2019 if they will receive a cost share. If approved for the cost share it could be possible to clean approximately 14 miles of the Tongue River, which would end at Cavalier City. Discussion followed on the assessment amounts, which are expected to remain the same as last year. Scott Gunderson informed Gregg and the Water Board of a few small issues with the portion that was cleaned last year. Gregg will have a final inspection of the area completed and contact the contractor to correct any issues. A motion was made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to establish the Snagging and Clearing project and approve the assessment for the 2019 tax year. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker - yes. Motion carried.

Paul LeClaire presented the Tongue River Cutoff Channel Improvement scope of services and associated costs of engineering. Phase 1 will be an existing conditions assessment, Phase 2 covers repair recommendations, and Phase 3 is the concept design report. The fee estimate for engineering service for the project is \$189,620.00. Discussion followed on the assessment area. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to schedule a hearing for the proposed project. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker - yes. Motion carried.

Jill Denault, Social Service Director, available by telephone. Jill gave background information on the Child Protection Unit. Currently there is one Supervisor and one intake worker for the counties within the Child Protection Unit, which include Pembina, Cavalier, Walsh, Ramsey, Benson, Towner, and Rolette. Jill is requesting to hire an additional Social Worker, as a backup intake worker/floater for the Child Protection Unit. This worker would travel to where the need is. Counties involved in the unit have agreed to commit funds for the position for the remainder of this year, and it will be put in the budget for next year. Currently there are two Social Worker positions available in Pembina County and one in Cavalier County. The estimate is approximately \$80,000.00 to fill the position with other counties reimbursing Pembina County for a portion of the costs. Discussion followed on the Social Service redesign with the State. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the hire of an additional Social Worker as an intake worker/floater for all counties in the Child Protection Unit. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Jeff Daley, Kadramas, Lee & Jackson, discussed the bid for the box culvert on Highway 44 north of Drayton. The low bid of \$397,270.00, from Triple D Construction, is higher than the estimate presented earlier. There are sufficient funds in the Road & Bridge Levy fund to cover the additional cost. Jeff estimates the project would not be started until August. Discussion followed. Jeff updated the Commission on the Cavlandic Trail Repair project, County Road 1 project, and the asbestos inspection for the house in Neche.

Devin presented a draft of the 129,000 lb. permit for limited roadways in Pembina County. Devin noted that Walsh County has specific dates on their permit and asked if the Commission was in favor of using specific dates. Discussion followed. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston, to approve the permit, adding specific dates. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin discussed the Alert Code 3 bridges list from the ND Department of Transportation. Bridges with Alert Code 3 remarks are critical and require attention as soon as possible. Devin presented plans, from On the Level Construction, for the repair of Bridge Number 34-116-25.1, located 3 miles east and 2 miles south of Hensel, which is on a legal drain. The estimated cost is approximately \$55,000.00. There would be a 60/40 split between the County and Water Board. The updated structure information must be sent to the NDDOT no later than July 15, 2019. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to repair the bridge according to the plans. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin and Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance, discussed adding parking spaces along the street between the Courthouse parking lot and Social Service building. The Highway department would be able to do the majority of the work. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to move forward with the project. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, respectfully declined the full time position she was offered. Tanya informed the Commission the Veteran's Service position ad has been placed. Tanya also discussed the rider scheduling coordination and the need for additional drivers for the Disabled American Veteran's (DAV) van. Tanya contacted the Veteran's Service Office in Bismarck requesting assistance with scheduling and additional drivers for the DAV van. Tanya has not heard back, but will reach out to them again.

Sheriff Terry Meidinger and Chief Deputy Marcus Ramsay visited with the Commission about allowing the Customs and Immigrations employees to use the shooting range to qualify. Border Patrol has been using the range for quite some time. Sheriff Meidinger would like to allow Customs and Immigration and Border Patrol to use the range on Tuesday and Thursday only. Commission told Sheriff Meidinger to use his discretion. Terry informed the Commission that Walhalla

City hired their own officer. Terry discussed hiring two additional officers for the county.

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

Motion by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.