

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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June 1, 2021

8:30 AM

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

Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the May 18, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the agenda with the following additions: Mikka Willits, New Single Family Dwelling tax exemption request and a Letter of Support for the Pembina Gorge Foundation's Frost Fire Park infrastructure improvements and expansion. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request for a raffle permit received from Pembina County Memorial Hospital Foundation. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the request. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor presented the Sanford Health Occupational Medicine Contract for drug and alcohol testing. Discussion followed on the number of employees to test each quarter since the policy was changed to cover safety sensitive employees only. This lowers the number of employees available for the quarterly draw from 44 to 17 each quarter. Previously there were 8 employees drawn for testing each quarter which could now be lowered to 4 employees per quarter. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to change the number of employees chosen for quarterly draws from eight to four and authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the letter from Beaulieu Township related to agricultural land valuation increases. This will be reviewed at the Equalization meeting scheduled for June 8, 2021 at the Cavalier School Gymnasium.

Commission reviewed a Summons and Notice of No Personal Action related to property described as N 20' of the S 75' of Lot 12, Block 39 (20' x 50'), in the City of Walhalla, Parcel 35-1610020. The object of the action is to quiet title to said premises and make no personal claim against the named and unnamed defendants. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the Admission of Service as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Sheriff Terry Meidinger present for bid openings for county property:

2009 Ford Crown Victoria - \$50.00 and \$152.00

2008 Ford Expedition - \$452.00

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to reject all bids as presented. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes. Motion carried.

Commission received an application for a two year New Single Family Residence exemption, according to NDCC 57-02-08(35), on property described as Pt NW¼ SW¼ of Section 12-Township 161-Range 52, Parcel 05-0560005 in Carlisle Township. The exemption allows up to \$150,000.00 off the assessed value for two years. Carlisle Township passed a resolution approving the exemption. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the tax exemption for tax years 2021 and 2022. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Discussion followed on federal funding which will be allocated to counties by the American Rescue Act. Considering the guidelines for the use of these funds are not clear at this time, the Auditor is requesting to establish a special fund for the American Rescue Plan funding and dedicate the fund for all activity of the American Rescue Plan until December 31, 2024. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to open a special fund for the American Rescue Act funding as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission was presented a handout reviewing Phase 3 – Snowmaking, lighting, parking, accessibility and a groomer for the Frost Fire Park rebuild. Dawn Mandt, Red River Regional Council Executive Director, is requesting a letter of support from Pembina County for the Pembina Gorge Foundation's Frost Fire Park infrastructure improvements and expansion. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to send a letter of support for Phase 3 of the Frost Fire Park rebuild. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the May payroll 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 made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.