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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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March 7, 2023

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Vice-Chairperson Cull called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Roll call: Blaine W. Papenfuss, Darin Otto, and Andrew Cull. Absent: Jim Benjaminson and Laverne Doyle. A quorum was declared.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda with the following changes/additions: Camburn Shephard would like to be included in the discussion on Ag land valuations, the cancellation of the Executive Session and Robert Vivatson and Nick Heuchert to discuss Ag Land valuations. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission discussed the Ag land valuations presented at the February 21, 2023 meeting. In person were Dave Moquist, Clyde Reilly, Joshua Heuchert, Mark Myrdal, Roger Olafson, Darren Olafson, Tom Zaharia, Robert Vivatson, Nick Heuchert, Zelda Hartje and Angelle French. Available by phone was Camburn Shephard. Camburn referred to NDCC 57-02-27.2. Nick Heuchert and Robert Vivatson presented handouts showing comparisons in valuations for three different properties. Mikka Willits, Tax Director, stated graze land, rangeland and pastureland are all inclusive in the pasture land use modifier and discussed the productivity indexes in Pembina County. Discussion followed. Motion made by Darin Otto to approve the 2023 Ag Land valuations with the addition of an available rangeland soil use modifier, with the value of the rangeland being determined by the Tax Director and the Soils Committee. Motion fails due to lack of a second. Commissioner Otto stated that if the rangeland modifier would be approved it would be the landowner's responsibility to file the appeal. Discussion followed on the appeal process. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the Ag Land valuations and if the landowner has a concern with the PI on the property they would be required to contact NRCS and if they have an issue with a land use modifier they would be required to contact the Tax Director's office with those concerns. Second by Andrew Cull. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto –

no; Andrew Cull - yes. Motion carried. Discussion followed. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to rescind his original motion. Second by Andrew Cull. Roll call vote: Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the 2023 Ag Land values as presented. Second by Andrew Cull. Roll call vote: Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – no; Andrew Cull - yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the ND Department of Transportation Certifications of Local Match for Bridge Inspection/Load Rating forms for Project BRC-BRS-0099(011) PNC 22818 and Project BRC-BRS-0099(015) PCN 23409. The forms certify that Pembina County provided non-federal funds from the Road and Bridge Levy to cover Pembina County's 19.07% match. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the certifications as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor presented the Drayton City Assessor Services Agreement approved by Drayton City for Commission signature. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the agreement as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Revel Sapa, Veterans Service Officer/Human Resource, presented a handout describing the Wall of Honor, which honors Veterans and First Responders. Revel informed the Commission that North Star Community Credit Union is willing to transition the Wall of Honor from their Cavalier location to the County Courthouse. There would be a \$41.00/month cost to the county for the software for the Wall of Honor and an additional cost to install the electrical to operate the monitor. Revel will reach out to businesses and individuals for donations. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to authorize Ms. Sapa to move forward with the project. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Stacie Sevigny, Red River Regional Council Developer, met with the Commission to discuss the 2022 ½ mill "Self-Help" funding grants. Stacie introduced Angelle French, Pembina County JDA Director. Pembina County budgeted \$16,500.00 for the 2022 grant program to support up to \$1500.00 for each of Pembina County's eleven cities. Due to a lack of participation from some cities and inquiries from other cities to submit more than one application, the Pembina County Commission revised the program guidelines to allow full benefit of the program for participating cities. Each city can now submit up to two applications for two separate projects. City park districts or other non-profit organizations can apply for a project if agreed to by the City, however the city must be the applicant and specify which application is the priority if only one is funded. The deadline for applications was December 15, 2022. Pembina County received fourteen requests for projects totaling more than \$83,000.00. Total requests for this year's program are \$19,921.00. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to award \$16,500.00 as follows for the 2022 ½ Mill "Self Help" Program:

Priority 1 projects - Bathgate City - \$1,259.00, Cavalier City - \$1,500.00, Crystal City - \$1,500.00, Mountain City - \$1,500.00, Pembina City - \$662.00, St Thomas City - \$1,500.00, Walhalla City - \$1,500.00

Priority 2 Projects: Bathgate City - \$1,050.00, Cavalier City - \$1,050.00, Crystal City - \$1,050.00, Mountain City - \$1,050.00, Pembina City - \$1,050.00, St Thomas City - \$1,050.00, Walhalla City - \$1,050.00. Roll call vote: Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes, Andrew Cull - yes. Motion carried.

Casey Krieg, Cavalier City Auditor, met with the Commission to speak on behalf of Nikki Schmidt, Extension Administrative Assistant, to request permission for Ms. Schmidt to accept the position of Assistant Softball Coach with the Cavalier Recreation Board for the 2023 season. Discussion followed on utilizing vacation hours, flex hours or unpaid leave. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to allow the secondary employment for Ms. Schmidt. Roll call vote; Blaine Papenfuss - yes; Darin Otto - yes; Andrew Cull - yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the February payroll and claims. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Rachelle Puppe, Public Health RN, unable to attend. Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to reschedule Ms. Puppe to the next meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.