

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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May 18, 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. Available by telephone: Hetty Walker.

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

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the May 4, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the May 7, 2021 Special Meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the May 10, 2021 Special Meeting minutes as presented All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the agenda with the following additions: Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, asphalt bids, Rebecca Flanders, State's Attorney, out of state travel and a letter from the Cavalier Township Board regarding agricultural valuations. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request for a raffle permit received from Growing Hope in Pembina County. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the request. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the letter from Cavalier Township requesting the Commission to reconsider accepting the work presented by Kompleks Assessment Solutions LLC. Commissioner Ralston stated there will be clarification for these individuals at the County Board of Equalization Meeting scheduled for June 8, 2021, at the Cavalier School Gymnasium.

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

Commission received bids from the following to furnish Pembina County with asphalt products for the 2021 work season:

NorMont Equipment: \$2.33/gallon delivered

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to accept the bid of NorMont Equipment. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Samantha Weeks, IT/911/GIS Coordinator, and Samantha Diemert, EM/Weed/Dispatch Supervisor, informed the Commission that Rich Johnson will be transferring to the Corrections Department and Nikki Burt will be transferring to the Dispatch Center. Samantha Weeks reached out to Brent Nelson, Walsh County Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, to see if any of the Walsh County dispatchers would be willing to assist Pembina County Dispatch personnel until Pembina County Dispatch becomes fully staffed with trained personnel. Three Walsh County dispatchers are willing to assist Pembina County and stated they would be willing to fill in for scheduled vacations as well. Samantha is requesting to hire the three flex dispatchers, at their current hourly rate with Walsh County. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the hire of three flex dispatch employees. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Samantha Diemert updated the Commission on the Weed Department and the Fire Emergency and Burn Ban Declaration.

A public hearing was held at 10:00 AM, as required in NDCC 61-16.1-09.1, on the proposed Tongue River Cutoff project for channel improvements. Those in attendance include Pembina County Water Board members Rick Kendall, Don Kemp, Randall Emanuelson, Ted Juhl, and Chuck Thacker, LuAnn Kemp, Water Board Secretary and Robert Fleming, Water Board Attorney, Zach Hermann and Paul LaClaire with Houston Engineering. Public attendance included Bill Gunderson, Robert (Kayo) Vivatson, Rick Brown, Kelly Brown, Kevin Brown and Michael Brown. Zach presented a handout and reviewed the proposed project. The preliminary cost of the project is estimated to be \$5.2–\$5.6 Million, with a possibility of receiving a 45% cost share from the North Dakota State Water Commission. If a cost share were received the local match remaining would be approximately \$3.2–\$3.4 Million. Discussion followed on the assessment amounts, with a maximum annual assessment of \$4.00/acre on agricultural land, 3 cents/acre on woodland, and \$2.00/\$500 of tax value on non-ag land. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the Tongue River Cutoff project, at a maximum assessment of \$4.00/acre for agricultural land and \$2.00/acre for non-ag land, with a \$2.00/acre agricultural

land and \$1.00/acre non-ag land assessment for tax years 2021 and 2022 since construction may not begin until 2023. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker - yes. Motion carried.

Zach updated the Commission on the Drain 66 project by the Enbridge pipeline. A 45% cost share from the State Water Commission has already been approved. Considering Federal permitting requirements, the project may not begin until late summer.

Monica Brusseau, Victim Witness, presented a request, on behalf of Rebecca Flanders, State's Attorney, to attend the For Seeking Justice and Serving Communities Conference in Virginia Beach, VA from July 16-21, 2021. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the request as presented. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.