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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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May 21, 2019

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, Nick Rutherford, and Hugh Ralston. Absent: Hetty Walker.

Vice-Chairman Ralston called the meeting to order. No additions to the agenda.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the May 7, 2019 minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request for a raffle permit received from the Devon Grube Memorial Scholarship Fund. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the request. All voting in favor; motion carried.

No additional Memorandum of Agreements for the PA Program were received from the townships.

Commissioner Rutherford presented a request from the Highway Department to allow a clothing allowance for the Administrative Assistant. Several years ago the Commission approved an annual clothing allowance of \$350.00 for the highway department employees. At that time there was not an Administrative Assistant in the Highway Department. Commission will discuss with Highway Superintendent prior to making a decision.

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

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, presented an Application for Property Tax Exemption for a 24' x 48' addition to the existing home on Parcel 06-0120000. The plan is to have the project completed by the end of 2019. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve a 100% property tax exemption on the addition for tax years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Jill Mullen met with the Commission to request a liquor and beer license, for special events, at the Gardar Country Club. Gardar Township has approved the request. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve and pro-rate the on sale only liquor license at an annual cost of \$50.00 and the on sale only beer license at an annual cost of \$25.00. Discussion followed. Roll call vote; Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, representing Dawn Schurman, present for abatement hearing. The application is for abatement on property described as N 24' of Lot 11, Block 40, OT, City of Walhalla – Parcel 35-1700005. Ms. Schurman is requesting the true and full value be lowered from \$8,025 to \$4,500. Walhalla City approved the abatement request at the assessor's valuation of \$4,767. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the request at the assessor's valuation of \$4,767. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, representing Dennes Papenfuss, present for abatement hearing. The application is for abatement on the commercial part of the property described as W ½ Lot 3, Block 11, City of Cavalier– Parcel 27-1730000. The request is to lower the 2017 true and full value from \$40,768 to \$14,300 and the 2018 true and full value from \$43,622 to \$14,300. The abatement request was approved by Cavalier City. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the request as presented and refund the difference for tax years 2017 and 2018. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, representing Mary Ann Young, present for abatement hearing. The application is for abatement on property described as Part of the E½ SE¼ of Section 7 of Midland Township – Parcel 17-1890010. The abatement request is to refund the 2017 taxes based on the Retired Farm-Surviving Spouse portion of the Farm Residence Exemption. Midland Township Board decided not to make a decision and have the county make the final decision. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the request as presented. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, representing Thomas Zaharia, present for abatement hearing. The application is for abatement of the 2019 taxes on a 2000 Friendship 16' x 76' mobile home in Pembina Township– Parcel 20-9010000. Mr. Zaharia informed the Tax Director that the mobile home was sold and moved out of the county in 2010. Pembina Township approved the abatement for the 2019 taxes on the mobile home. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the request as presented and refund the 2019 tax. Discussion

followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Terry Meidinger and Chief Deputy Marcus Ramsay met to discuss the proposal for Pembina County and Walhalla City to share an officer. Commissioner Benjaminson visited with Steve Gapp, Walhalla City Council, regarding the financial aspects of the proposal. Walhalla City would like to utilize a 50/50 split for the cost of the officer and have the County supply the patrol car. Commission would like a 50/50 split of all expenses, including the patrol car. Discussion followed on other options to fill the position. No decision made at this time.

Kyle Gagner, Bill Crosby, Rachel Morrison and Jeanna Kujava, Cavlandic Trail Association members, presented a power point showing the contract proposal for the repair of the trail. Kyle discussed the grants the Association has already received and informed the Commission that the Association has applied for an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. The Association will be informed if the grant will receive a recommendation for approval by June 7, 2019. The Association is requesting the County contact ND Department of Transportation for a 5 to 10 day extension on their response. Auditor will contact Pam Wenger with ND Department of Transportation.

Katrina Hodny, Walsh County Veteran's Service Officer, informed the Commission that Walsh County would be open to a Joint Powers Agreement between the counties for Veteran's Services. Katrina is willing to assist Pembina County on a trial basis. Katrina explained her expectations of being a shared officer, she would like to maintain only one office and one contact number. Discussion followed on the Pembina County Veteran's Service files and the scheduling and driving of the Veteran's van. Katrina will inform Walsh County that Pembina County is interested in sharing an officer through a Joint Powers Agreement. Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, will be contacted to initiate the agreement for review by both Commissions.

Motion by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:10PM.