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## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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May 4, 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 Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the April 20, 2021 meeting minutes with the following correction: Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented an estimate from Dakota Northern Railroad to repair the crossing on County Road 12 by **Backoo** (not Leroy). All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the agenda with the following additions: a letter from the Cavalier Township Board regarding the North Star Coop Fertilizer structure, Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent and Chief Deputy Marcus Ramsay. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County Fair Board minutes from January 20, 2021 and February 24, 2021 and the January and February financials were reviewed.

Auditor presented a progress report from Melissa Morden, Deputy Clerk/Recorder, on the Court Facilities Improvement Grant. The project has been delayed due to materials being more difficult to obtain, partly due to COVID. The network and phone line has been activated, carpet has been ordered and several other materials have been purchased. The contractor hopes to begin construction soon.

Commission reviewed a Summons and Notice of No Personal Action related to property described as Part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  (sometimes known as Government Lot 4), of Section 3, Township 161, Range 54, in the City of Cavalier, which was purchased by virtue of a County Deed by Douglas M. Johnson and Jan Watson, on January 11, 2011. 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 Jim Benjaminson to authorize the Chairman to sign the Admission of Service as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request received from Chizzy's to transfer his liquor license to the Leroy Hall on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 6:00PM to 1:00AM. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the transfer as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request for a gaming site authorization, at Svold Community Hall in Svold, received from Svold Community Hall Association. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the gaming site request as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the resume of Emily Laaveg and a message from Amy Munson, Grants & Contracts Officer/CLG Coordinator, with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that Emily Laaveg currently qualifies as a citizen member, but could qualify in history once she achieves two years of full-time experience. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to appoint Emily Laaveg to fill the unexpired term of Molly Skadsen on the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the April payroll 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.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, present for abatement hearing. The application is for abatement on property described as Part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32 of Cavalier Township– Parcel 06-4590020. The request is to lower the 2019 true and full value from \$177,692.00 to a value of \$160,558.00, for a difference of \$17,134.00 to match the valuation for the 2020 tax year. Cavalier Township denied the abatement request, at a Special Meeting held April 12, 2021, due to the 2020 valuation being lowered due to scheduled depreciation. Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to deny the abatement request due to scheduled depreciation taking place in 2020 And the recommendation of Cavalier Township. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Willits and the Commission reviewed the letter from Cavalier Township Board of Supervisors. Mikka reviewed the decisions that were made at the June 7, 2011 and September 19, 2013 with the Commission. Cavalier Township is requesting the Commission revisit the Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) plan for the taxing of the North Star Coop Fertilizer structure. The original motion was to revisit the PILOT once construction was complete and upon completion of an appraisal. Mel Carsen, Carsen Appraisal Services, completed the appraisal during the summer of

2020. Cavalier Township Board of Supervisors, in light of the new assessment, request the Commission to rescind the motions made at the June 7, 2011 and September 19, 2013 meetings and add the new valuation to the tax rolls for tax year 2021. Discussion followed. Commission would like to discuss with the Cavalier Township Board, Cavalier Township Assessor and Timothy Faust, North Star Coop Manager, prior to making a final decision.

Drainage permit received from John Steinke to clean the ditch and remove the east approach along County Road #1 in the SE¼ of Section 2 of Advance Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage permit received from John Steinke to clean the ditch and remove the approach on the east side of County Road #12 and widen the approach on the south side of County Road #1 in the NW¼ of Section 12 of Advance Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Culvert request received from John Steinke to remove an 18" x 30' culvert and replace it with a 24" x 40" culvert on the south side of County Road #1 in the NW¼ of Section 12 of Advance Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit pending township approval. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Culvert request received from James Longtin to replace an 18" x 40' culvert with a 24" x 40' culvert in the NE¼ of Section 4 of Advance Township. The application has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the request pending approval by the township. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented a quote of \$25,287.45 for 911 signage from 3D Specialties. The new retroreflectivity requirements require all current 911 signage be updated to be in compliance. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Hugh Ralston to approve the quote from 3D Specialties as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Chief Deputy Marcus Ramsay presented a letter from Sheriff Terry Meidinger and himself regarding the relocation of the dispatch office. Others in attendance were Dan Garvens, Kory Flaagan, Cory Mortensen, Brigetta Thebeau, Calvin Cluchie, Billie Joe White, Patrick Swift, and Ron Storie. Concerns related to costs, functionality and safety of the employees were brought forth by Calvin Cluchie, Billie Joe White, Patrick Swift, Kory Flaagan, Brigetta Thebeau, Cory Mortensen and Ron Storie. Commissioner Rutherford requested Samantha Weeks,

911/IT/GIS Coordinator, and Samantha Diemert, Emergency Manager/Weed Officer/ Dispatch Supervisor, be contacted to attend the meeting. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the relocation. Commissioner Ralston stated that the move has already started and will continue as originally approved. Employee safety concerns were discussed further along with a request for two additional employees for the Corrections Department. Budget concerns were discussed. Commissioner Benjaminson stated he totally opposes moving the dispatch center to the lower level of the Law Enforcement Center. Commissioner Rutherford stated that Commissioner Benjaminson voted in favor of the move at the February 25, 2021 Special meeting. Motion made by Hugh Ralston to place an ad for one full time Correctional Officer at this time. Seconded by Nick Rutherford. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Hugh Ralston and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.