

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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November 21, 2023

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Chairperson Benjaminson called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

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

Also in attendance are Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder, Terry Meidinger, Sheriff, and Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the November 7, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The Court Services Contract between Pembina County and Walhalla City was reviewed. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the contract as presented. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – recused; Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Schlittenhard presented NDCC 63-05, Cutting Weeds and Grasses on Highways, and reviewed the mowing notice requirements changes voted on at the November 7, 2023 meeting. Per NDCC 65-05-01, "The cutting shall be completed not later than September fifteenth or October first, as prescribed by the board of county commissioners.". At the November 7th meeting a motion was made to set the deadline for mowing to October 15th, which does not follow NDCC 63-05 requirements. The height of the stubble to be left and minimum width of the cut is a county commissioner decision. Motion made by Darin Otto to rescind his motion made on November 7, 2023 regarding the mowing notice. Second by Blaine Papenfuss. All voting in favor; motion carried. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to set the mowing deadline as October 1st. Second by Laverne Doyle. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Auditor presented the County Federal Aid Contract, from Gowan Construction Inc., for Project BRP-BRC-3400(050). Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract as presented. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes, Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed Board appointments. Auditor has placed an ad in all county papers. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to table a decision to the December 5, 2023 meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor presented the Grand Forks County Jail Housing Agreement between Pembina County and Grand Forks County to house inmates. Standard housing for individuals not requiring single cell occupancy housing will be provided at a base rate of \$102.50 per day per inmate. Intensive custody care shall be provided at a base rate of \$179.38 per inmate for any portion of a day requiring intensive custody care. Medical, emergency dental and prescription drug expenses incurred by Pembina County inmates must be reimbursed to Grand Forks County. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract as presented. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairperson to sign the repurchaser deed, for foreclosed property that was redeemed prior to the County Sale date, as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Carma Hanson, Safe Kids Grand Forks Project Coordinator, forwarded the NDDOT grant application for the Northeast North Dakota service area. The NE North Dakota CPS, Pedestrian & Wheeled Sports Safety Coordination project grant is for the implementation of Child Passenger Safety (CPS) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) strategies for NE North Dakota. The NDDOT is requiring documentation from the counties of operation of local benefit for Traffic Safety programs stating they will be involved in the initiation, development, and implementation of the program. The counties included in the NE Region are Grand Forks, Walsh, Pembina, Cavalier, Nelson and Ramsey. There is no legal or financial obligation from the counties. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairperson to sign the grant application as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Lisa Keney, Tax Director, present for abatement hearing. Jeff Stevenson also in attendance. The application is for abatement on property described as W½SW¼ of Section 7, Akra Township; Parcel 01-0480000 and the W½NW¼ of Section 18 of Akra Township; Parcel 01-1320000. Mr. Stevenson is requesting a refund of his 2021 and 2022 taxes, on both parcels, based on land use. The abatement requests were approved by Akra Township, on November 2, 2023. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to approve the abatements as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Keney requested approval of the following land use classifications for 2024: drains, woodlands, shelterbelts, water, roads, cemetery, gravel pit, farmstead, pasture, waste, Native Woodland Program (NWL), and Government Easement Program (WSE/EWP/WRP). Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the land use classifications as presented for 2024. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Keney discussed a concern presented by Sidwell. There are a few small cities that are not drawn out on the mapping. It is necessary that all parcels are included on the mapping prior to Vanguard starting their appraisals. Ms. Keney has requested a quote from Sidwell to complete the mapping so the program will be complete. No decision will be made until the quote is received.

Water Board members Don Kemp, Bill Gunderson, Ted Juhl and Randall Emanuelson met with the Commission. Also present were LuAnn Kemp, Water Board Secretary, and Rob Fleming, Water Board Attorney. Paul LaClaire, Houston Engineering, updated the Commission on the following projects: Tongue River Cutoff Channel, the US Fish & Wildlife Services request to utilize the cutoff as a fish passage, Tongue River Snagging & Clearing, Bourbanis Dam, Drain 81, and the 2023 FEMA projects. Paul reported on the Park River Joint Water Board meeting. Commissioner Cull discussed the Drain 16 project, a beaver dam in the Tongue River, and asked if the dams have been drained down for the year.

Sale of County Property set for 11:00AM:

Bid received on property described as, Lot 24, Block 31, Comstock & White's Addition, City of Bathgate; Bid of \$125.00 received from Dan Aubol

Bid received on property described as, Lots 1-3, Block 2, OT, City of Canton (Hensel); Bid of \$3,000.00 received from Corey Nelson

Bid received on property described as, Lots 46 & 47, Block 1, OT, City of Crystal; Bid of \$50.00 received from David Landsteiner with American Real Estate Recovery LLC

Bid received on property described as, Lots 13-14, Block 30, OT, City of Hamilton; Bid of \$75.00 received from Sue Enerson

Bid received on property described as, Lots 10-12 & W½ Lot 13, Block 5, St. Amour's Add, City of Neche; Bid of \$50.00 received from David Landsteiner with American Real Estate Recovery LLC

Bid received on property described as, Lots 5 & 6, Block 14, OT, City of Walhalla; Bid of \$500.00 received from David Landsteiner with American Real Estate Recovery LLC

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Laverne Doyle to accept the high bids as listed above for the above-described properties. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Board reviewed the October financial statement and claims. Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Darin Otto to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.