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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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October 6, 2020

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, Hugh Ralston and Hetty Walker.

Chairman Ralston called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the September 8, 2020 Special meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Hetty Walker to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the September 15, 2020 Special meeting minutes, related to the 2021 budget hearing, as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County Fair Board minutes of July 13, 2020 and the July financials were reviewed.

Commission discussed the appointment of a North Dakota State Fair Delegate. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to nominate Kari Helgoe as the North Dakota State Fair delegate for 2021. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to authorize the Chairman to sign the county deeds, for the sale of county property to Canton City, as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Request to purchase property described as Lot 8, Block 24, Emmerlings 1st Addition, City of Walhalla, (Parcel 35-1120000). Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the sale of said property. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission discussed the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission's request to utilize the Pembina County EIN number to set up an account for their organization. Amy Munson, State SHPO Coordinator, stated that since the PCHPC is a committee created by and governed by the county, they should use the county's tax ID number. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hetty Walker to allow the PCHPC to use the county's tax ID number. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The NDDOT annual Maintenance Certification for County Federal Aid projects was reviewed. The certification states that Pembina County is properly maintaining the projects that had federal aid for construction. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the Requests for a Duplicate Warrant received from Cavalier Municipal Utilities. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor/Treasurer, Linda Schlittenhard, presented the Commission with a report on the Social Service Levy funds remaining in the account from previous years when the county was able to levy for Social Service. A total of \$810.61 remains in the fund as of August 2020. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Hetty Walker to distribute the entire \$810.61 Social Service fund to General Reserve. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the appraisal listing for foreclosed property. There are 22 new properties added this year.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, available by telephone to review the properties, discussed at the June 2, 2020 Board of Equalization meeting, that may need to be added as Omitted Properties. Most of these properties are Farm Residence Exemption applicants that had not returned an application or did not follow through on obtaining the Gross Income Tax Statement required to be filed with the application. Omitted Property hearings were scheduled for September 18, 2020 and only one individual appeared. Four individuals completed the required paperwork prior to their scheduled hearing and were approved for the Farm Residence Exemption. The following properties were reviewed for not returning the Farm Residence Exemption application:

Parcel 01-2500010 - Pt SE¹/₄; Sec-33 Twp-161 Rang-055

Parcel 20-0430030 - Pt N¹/₂SW¹/₄; Sec-9 Twp-163 Rang-051

Parcel 20-2000010 - Pt SE¹/₄SE¹/₄; Sec-07 Twp-163 Rang-052

Parcel 21-0010015 - Pt NE¹/₄NW¹/₄; Sec-01 Twp-163 Rang-055

Parcel 23-0230010 - Pt NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ (Pt Govt Lot 2); Sec-04 Twp-160 Rang-056

Parcel 23-1240000 - SW¹/₄SE¹/₄; Sec-15 Twp-160 Rang-056

Parcel 23-2280000 - S¹/₂SE¹/₄; Sec-28 Twp-160 Rang-056

Parcel 23-2690000 - NW¹/₄NE¹/₄; Sec-33 Twp-160 Rang-056

The following properties did not return the Gross Income Tax Statement with their application:

Parcel 23-0940000 - NW¼; Sec-13 Twp-160 Rang-056

Parcel 23-2150000 - SW¼; Sec-26 Twp-160 Rang-056

The following property did not meet the 66% Farm Gross Income guideline:

Parcel 20-9110000 - 2011 Schult Herthsid III located in Pt E½SW¼; Sec-15 Twp-163 Rang-052

Per NDCC 57-14-04 the Board of Commissioners must review and agree with adding these values to the tax rolls for tax year 2020. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the addition of the above described omitted properties for the 2020 tax year. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Julie Hardy, Public Health Director, updated the Commission on the COVID-19 pandemic statistics. The numbers are escalating in Pembina County, staying around 32–36 positive cases. Julie reported there have been 36 cases within the school systems in Pembina County, including teachers and students, with the largest population of positives coming from contacts. Julie commends the schools for the precautionary measures they are implementing as soon as a positive case occurs within their system. With the new guidance that came out last week it was decided that contacts of positives do not have to quarantine as long as both parties were wearing masks at all times. The contact will continue to be monitored even though they are not under quarantine. Studies have been done that show wearing masks does help with the spread of the virus, it does not guarantee you will not contract the virus but it could lessen the effects of the virus. The governor approved this recommendation for workplaces, health care facilities and schools. Discussion followed on the monitoring of COVID-19 positive individuals and their contacts.

Sheriff Terry Meidinger presented a Mutual Aid Agreement with Kittson County, Minnesota. Under this agreement the counties would share resources and aid and assist each other in the event an emergency situation should occur. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement as presented. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Lt. Rick Cowan, Regional Director at the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), a national grassroots organization that opposes legislation allowing heavier and longer trucks. The CABT is funded by the railroad and trucking industry. These road trains would be up to 200 feet long and weigh up to 360,000 pounds. CABT is opposed to the introduction of these massive multi-trailer trucks because they would seriously threaten motorist safety and cause insurmountable infrastructure damage across North Dakota. A road train project – D3005 – unanimously passed the Agriculture and Transportation Interim Committee and could be considered as early as January 2021 by the full North Dakota legislature. Study

after study has shown that adding more weight and length to a truck makes it more dangerous. Lt. Cowan is requesting the Commission submit something in writing to the committee prior to the committee hearing scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2020, if they are against this legislation. Commission agreed to send a letter opposing "Road Trains" in North Dakota to Dustin Assel of the Legislative Council.

Drainage permit received from Tisdale Farms LLC to clean the ditch to the existing culvert elevations along County Road #11, in the SE¼ of Section 33, in North Midland Township. The permit has been signed by the landowner and approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage permit received from Landis McDonald to clean the high areas on the bottom of the ditch along County Road #2, in Section 34, of Felson Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage permit received from Landis McDonald to clean the high areas on the bottom of the ditch along County Road #2, in Section 4, of North Cavalier Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage permit received from Landis McDonald to clean the high areas on the bottom of the ditch along County Road #1, in Section 9, of Bathgate Township. The permit has been approved by Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission reviewed the proposed 2021 budgets for county departments. Discussion followed on areas for potential cuts to the proposed budget. Adjustments were made to the following funds: Comprehensive Health, Insurance Reserve, Retirement and Social Security, Dispatch, Sheriff Department and Tri-County Crisis. These adjustments lower the preliminary budget levy of 87.74 mills to 86.95 mills. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Hetty Walker to approve the 2021 budget with the above mentioned adjustments. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the September payroll and claims. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.