

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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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September 17, 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. Andrew Kirking and Terry Meidinger unable to attend and were removed from the agenda.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the September 3, 2019 minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor presented a quote from Mapping Solutions for updated plat books. Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Auditor to sign the contract as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Pembina County JDA minutes of June 12, 2019 were reviewed.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, met with the Commission for omitted property hearings on the following described properties:

Pt W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect 36, Midland Township

Bryan and Jane Uggerud presented paperwork showing the property has NOT been omitted property. Tax Director will review further and respond to the Uggerud's.

Pt S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect 10, Cavalier Township

Kelli Truver, Cavalier City Auditor, and Robert Fleming, Cavalier City Attorney, in attendance. NDCC 57-02 was discussed. Rebecca Flanders, Pembina County State's Attorney, was unable to attend at this time. No action at this time.

Pt NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect 35, Akra Township

No individuals appeared for the hearing.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the addition of the above described omitted property for the 2019 tax year. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission received an application for a two year New Single Family Residence exemption, according to NDCC 57-02-08(35), on property described as Pt E½ SE¼ of Section 8-Township 163-Range 54, Parcel 10-0940000 in Felson Township. The exemption allows up to \$150,000.00 off the assessed value for two years. Felson Township passed a resolution approving the exemption. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to approve the tax exemption for tax years 2020 and 2021. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Ms. Willits informed the Commission that Dustin Bakken, Kompleks Assessments Solutions, LLC, will be reviewing the county soils valuations to determine if they are near compliance with the NRCS detailed soils survey. Dustin will present an estimate to assist the county with soil valuations.

Rebecca Flanders, State's Attorney, shared her opinion on the Cavalier Township omitted property hearing. Ms. Flanders believes the property should be taxed. Ms. Willits will be contacting the State Tax Commissioners Office for further review. The omitted property hearing has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 11:00AM.

Luann Kemp, Water Board Secretary and Zach Herman, Houston Engineering, gave an update on the Tongue River Cut-off Project. The State Water Commission will not review the application presented for the project until the middle of 2020. Mr. Herman is asking if the Commission wants to move forward without possible cost share funding or wait until the State Water Commission reviews. Commission would like to move forward.

Zach updated the Commission on the Tongue River Snagging and Clearing project. Last year's project has been completed and closed. With the State Water Commission cost share, which matches dollar for dollar, there should be sufficient funding to cover 10 plus miles. Bids were opened at the Water Board meeting this morning and the project will be awarded to Triple D Construction for fall/winter work, once the dams are drawn down.

The NDDOT Traffic Safety grants for underage drinking, impaired driving, and Click it or Ticket were reviewed. NDDOT will reimburse Pembina County Sheriff's Department for incurred costs, not to exceed \$12,350.00. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the grant paperwork as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

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

Dawn (Keeley) Mandt, Red River Regional Council Executive Director, Maggie Suda, Regional Council Developer, and Chuck Thacker, JDA Chairman, met with the Commission to discuss the proposed 2020 JDA budget. Others in attendance

were: Jerry Symington, Terry Symington, Ian Symington, Kyle Gagner, Bill Crosby, Rachel Morrison, Lacey Hinkle, Kelli Truver, Mike Duerre, Drew Olafson, Kristin Laxdal, Chris Burgess, Pat Chaput, Corene Vaughn, Dennis Sevigny, and Kathy Stremick. Vice-Chairman Ralston informed those in attendance the Commission chose to allow a 2 mill levy for the 2020 budget. Chairman Thacker commented on several projects JDA has assisted new business owners achieve. Ms. Mandt reviewed the accomplishments of the JDA over the past 27 years. Ian Symington, Border Town Wire Products, Jerry Symington, Woodside Industries, and Terry Symington, Rimco, shared their experiences of working with the JDA, expressed their appreciation of the organization and staff, and thanked the Commission for their continued support of the program. Kyle Gagner, Nodak Mutual Insurance, explained the added benefits to the county made possible through the work of the JDA and expressed his gratitude for the JDA. Choice Bank President Pat Chaput discussed the work of the JDA and Regional Council, from loan servicing to researching, developing and planning of potential projects and programs, and thanked Dawn and the staff for all of their hard work. Dennis Sevigny, Rendezvous Region Tourism Council, expressed his appreciation of the work the JDA has done, which has increased the recreation and leisure opportunities in Pembina County, and thanked the Commission for their continued support of the program.

Culvert request received from Landis McDonald to replace an 18" x 40' culvert with a 24" x 60' culvert, in the NE¹/₄ of Section 4 of North Cavalier Township. The application has been signed by two township officials, approved by the Water Board and Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the request as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Drainage application received from Landis McDonald to widen the crossing, along County Road #1 in Section 7 of North Cavalier Township. The application was approved by the Water Board and Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to authorize the Chairman to sign the application as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The State Board of Equalization will be meeting on September 25, 2019 to determine if there will be any state mandated increases to property in Pembina County. Auditor will review the 2020 preliminary budget once the State Board of Equalization meeting is finalized and prepare for Commission review at the October 1, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.