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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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February 17, 2026

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse.

Chairperson Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call: Patrick Hardy, Scot Becker, Blaine Papenfuss, Darin Otto, Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director; Terry Meidinger, Sheriff; Randy Emanuelson, Don Kemp, LuAnn Kemp, Robert Fleming, Mike Ferrie, Houston Engineering.

Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda with the addition of the Highway 44 project and have Rachel Ramsay give an update on the measles. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The public comment portion was started at 9:03 AM.

The public comment portion was closed at 9:19 AM.

Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the February 3rd, 2026 meeting minutes. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the gaming permit for St. Joseph's Preservation Society. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Election training discussed. The need for the entire office to attend discussed. It is a mandatory training for the auditor. Kelsey Dawson and Christine Henke attended this training in 2024. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve Auditor Gapp and Taylor Danielson to attend the election training in Bismarck from March 4th through the 6th. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Human Resource conference in April discussed. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to send up to 3 department heads to the HR Conference. All voting in favor, motion carried.

The water board met with the commission with updates. They have opened drain 5. Don Kemp stated the Red River Basin Commission is trying to work on a project with the Army Corp of Engineers to improve or divert the Aux Marais Coulee.

Mike Ferrie of Houston Engineering discussed the Tongue River Snag & Clear project. They presented an estimate to fly the drone starting at Renwick and following the river channel and go approximately 12 river miles. They also presented a map showing the area to be flown. This would just be video and be available on a YouTube link. Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Darin Otto to approve this drone footage plan and pay for half of the cost from the general fund reserve. Patrick Hardy, yes; Scot Becker, yes; Blaine Papenfuss, yes; Darin Otto, yes; Andrew Cull, no. Motion carried.

Don Kemp gave an update on the dams. He stated the state has committed to inspecting all remaining dams with slip liners. They are pursuing cost share as well with the State and Red River Joint Board. They are also going to meet with Cavalier County to ask for participation.

Commissioner Papenfuss stated it was brought to his attention that just south of the seed place on number 3 people have been pushing snow across the road and is causing a big bank. He stated Garret was going to send them a letter to get it cleared off. He stated it was still there this morning. He feels there should be a notice in the paper each year and it is in century code. It would be a similar notice to the mud on road and mowing of ditches. The auditor will make a note to have this on the agenda for October.

Zelda Hartje, Chair of the Pembina County Historical Preservation Commission, presented the annual grant application that was discussed at the last commission meeting. She stated \$7,542.00 is the federal amount of the grant application and the matching in kind share is \$19,008.00. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the presented federal and matching share amounts of the grant and have Chairman Hardy sign the grant application. All voting in favor, motion carried.

An updated engineering cost to the Highway 44 project discussed. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve and move forward with the updated engineering costs for the Highway 44 project. The amount will be reimbursed to the county. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director, addressed the commission on measles in Pembina County. She stated last week was the first reported case and we are currently at 5. She stated there will be more added because they are waiting on more pending test results. She stated she was on call all weekend and worked all weekend and all day yesterday gathering all information from the state and getting it to the schools etc. She stated people who are 50 and older only have one vaccination and should get a booster. She stated children 6 months to 11 months should get early vaccination. She

stated sometime around 1968 to 1970 they switched the vaccine to be a live virus. She is requesting that the commission approves extra hours for her nurses as vaccination clinics are required. She stated public health does not test for measles and has placed signs on the doors so people with symptoms do not enter the building. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to compensate the nurse's extra hours through the emergency fund. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Andrea Stegman requested approval to change her outside employment from Sammy's to No Place. Christine Henke also requested her outside employment with the Walhalla Ambulance on weekends and occasional evening hours be approved. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the outside employment for these two employees. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Commission reviewed the January financial report and claims. Motion made Blaine Papenfuss and by Darin Otto to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.