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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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July 15, 2025

9:00 AM

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

Chairperson Otto 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, Kathy Stremick, Terry Meidinger, Sheriff; Marcus Ramsay, Chief Deputy; Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director; Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder; Randy Emanuelson, Ted Juhl, Donald Kemp, Luann Kemp, Robert Fleming, Bill Gunderson, Richard Kendall, Mark Stremick, Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Samantha Weeks, IT; Samantha Diemert, Emergency Manager.

Motion made by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss with a friendly amendment to approve the agenda with the addition of Samantha Weeks and Samantha Diemert for an update on the sirens and paging system not working because of a lightning strike, setting the budget meeting date, but leave off the Stremick request and only allow them to speak but no decisions to be made today. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Patrick Hardy and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the July 1st, 2025 meeting minutes. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Patrick Hardy to approve the duplicate warrant request of Charlotte Crowston for \$10.00. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the gaming permit for the Pembina County Memorial Hospital Foundation. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Rachel Ramsay addressed the commission on the jail contract between Pembina County Public Health and the Pembina County Sheriff's Department. She stated there have been multiple medication errors. She stated she has addressed the issues with correction officers, supervisor and administrator with little to no change. She stated the public health nurses are hesitant to go over there. She stated she has made up multiple

training resources for them and it gets better for a while, then starts to slip again. She used to teach them to get certified for giving medication but has stopped because she does not want her RN license tied to their certifications. She stated she feels she has followed the chain of command and taken the proper steps. She stated there is no accountability from the top down. She is asking for their recommendations. She stated some counties have their own correctional health nurse for their jails. She stated when there is a medical error, a report is filled out. Sheriff Meidinger stated he would like to be kept in the loop when these errors are occurring. Rachel stated writing them up every time isn't the solution. She asked is there something in her teaching that she is missing to get the importance of the rules across. She stated she asks the correction officers if they need more training or information but they all say they are good but the errors continue. Commissioner Cull stated he wants to run this through the states' attorney. Rachel stated she has emailed him but hasn't heard back yet. The commission will get an opinion from the state's attorney before moving forward and Rachel is willing to keep handling it until a decision is made. In the meantime, Rachel will get information on what other rural jails are doing and Terry will speak with the jail supervisor and CO's regarding the situation.

Donald Kemp from the water board gave an update to the Renwick Dam erosion situation. They requested 90 percent cost share which was approved by executive committee and it will be going before the full board of the Red River Joint Board for approval this week. The pump station west of Joliette needs some culvert work on drain 64. They are working with Enbridge and it sounds like they will be doing the installation if the water board supplies the culverts. It is still in negotiations with the state. He also discussed the presence gauges. There is one at Renwick and more will be being added this summer. The water board is asking for the full mills available for their budget for 2026.

Rachel Ramsay came back up and had another update. She discussed the opioid litigation funds which are used for the Credible Mind program. She stated she needs the commission to acknowledge the plan is still current and accurate. She then reviewed the plan program. Motion by Patrick Hardy and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss that the plan is current and accurate. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kaitlin Atkinson of Vision Zero met with the commission. Vision Zero's goal is to end roadway fatalities. She brought some county specific data to give to the commission for review. In 2023 there were 106 fatalities in the state as a whole. In 2024 there were 89 in the state as a whole. That is the lowest number in over 24 years. They work with local police departments and sheriff departments on this project. She also goes into schools and businesses. She reviewed the statistics from 2019 through 2023. Pembina County had six fatal crashes in that time frame. She also provided handouts showing what programs and trainings they can offer to communities, schools, and other organizations. She stated all presentations are free of charge.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to change the agenda schedule. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin Johnson presented a permit request from Nodak Electric in Walhalla Township, Sections 2 and 11 to bore under the highway. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the permit. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin presented a drainage permit on County 4, Township 159, Section 35 for Randy Emanuelson which was approved last year but needs to be renewed because they work wasn't completed in the year. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the permit. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin presented two quotes for striping for all the highways that need to be done. The commission reviewed both quotes. The first was from 3D Specialties for \$67,861.55 and the second was from Dallman Services Co. for \$91,812.60. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the 3D Specialties quote. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin presented hydraulic memorandums to replace minor structures with culverts. The first one is at Leyden (132nd Ave NE). Motion by Patrick Hardy and seconded by Scot Becker to approve this replacement and the four structures to be replaced with regular galvanized culverts instead of poly. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin presented the next structure replacement at 105th St NE. Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the replacement. All voting in favor, motion carried.

The next structure is in Lamoure Township (102nd Ave NE). There would be a double run for a total of 112 LF of 72" pipe. Motion by Patrick Hardy and seconded by Scot Becker for a 60-foot galvanized structure. All voting in favor, motion carried.

The last structure is at County 4 and intersection 98th St NE for 124LF of 60-inch pipe. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the replacement. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Mark Stremick addressed the commission and stated he farms in Lamoure Township and stated there is an irrigation pivot that is blocking the road and he is not able to access his field for spraying his crops. He stated he contacted the governor's office and they stated to contact the commissioners and advise the sheriff's department to tell them it needs to be open at all times. He stated it is a township road and the township supervisor said they did warn the people they should not be placing it there. He stated it is also blocking the road for emergency services.

Kathy Stremick addressed the commission because it is her irrigation equipment. She stated they have been irrigating that area since 2006. She stated Mark farmed there last year and it wasn't a problem. He stated it didn't go across the road last year. She stated she met with Mitch Lee of emergency services and stated they were told they could go through her field if needed. She stated she was out of town when Officer Ramsay was called to the area. She said Officer Ramsay met with a member of the township board and the family that lives out there and they are fine with it. She stated all Mark would have to do is call and they would move the equipment. Mr. Stremick says he pays taxes and he wants the road open. Kathy stated it is only on the road when it is running. Mark stated it takes two days for it to get completely off the road. It was verified by Andrew Cull that it is an official township road. Mark stated Mike Gapp had a discussion with them about not crossing the road because they had an issue with the last family there. Mr. Cull stated because it is a legal township road it has to be open. There was more discussion and the commission will have the states' attorney review it and get a ruling on it and take care of it at the next meeting.

Samantha Weeks and Samantha Diemert addressed the commission on the sirens and paging system not working due to a lightning strike on July 1st. A lot of county equipment was taken out. They gave a list to the commissioners of the things that have already had to be replaced or repaired and stated more things are still pending. The tornado siren systems are down. The county cannot activate the sirens; the cities have to. They are aware that that have to be activated manually. She explained the cities are responsible for any maintaining of the sirens. They are asking for advice on how much effort the county needs to be involved in the repairs of the local city sirens. They are the cities' towers, not the county's. Stones will work on trying to figure out a way to get the sirens work of the National Weather Alert System. There will be a cost to that. St. Thomas is already running their own. Mountain does not have one. It blew down during a tornado and they never replaced it. They have a new one but never put it up. Bathgate also runs their own siren. Neche also has their own. Insurance on our equipment was discussed. Availability of a new system and how it would work was discussed. The commission instructed them to start on getting the sirens up and running as soon as possible.

They then addressed the emergency paging system. The system is not working so fire departments, ambulances, etc. cannot be called out. Because of our situation, State Radio has instated a system to where they page out and call immediately to make sure responders know there is a call. Stones thinks they found the problem and a part was ordered and he will be coming back Wednesday or Thursday and try and get it up and running. All of the departments are aware and are being updated as to what is going on. Commissioner Otto said he received a couple requests asking if they could be texted as well as emailed because sometimes, they miss their emails. She stated she messages all the fire chiefs and ambulance leads. She will update Commissioner Otto and Becker on the situation as it progresses.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to schedule a budget meeting for July 29th at 9:00am. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Commission reviewed the June financial report and claims. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Patrick Hardy 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 11:17 AM.