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## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

### Special Meeting

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July 29, 2025

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in Special Session in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Chairperson Otto called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll call: Pat Hardy, Scot Becker, Blaine Papenfuss. Darin Otto. Absent: Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

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

Auditor Gapp handed out spreadsheets outlining the proposed preliminary budget. She stated the first sheet was for the general fund and included a step increase for all employees with little to no change to all other line items from the previous year. All non-general levy funds discussed. The water resource funds are not subject to the new CAPS law. Auditor Gapp explained we did not levy for capital projects last year so per the new law, if you did not levy last year, that fund is not subject to the caps. Auditor Gapp recommended lowering the road and bridge levy and levying for the capital projects to cover the road and bridge and since it is not subject to the caps, would cover all requested funding with some small adjustments. Auditor Gapp explained with the new CAPS law, the dollar amount for the general fund could only go up approximately \$92,000.00. She stated nothing was levied for elections in 2025. The election expense in 2024 to the county was approximately \$45,000.00 so of that \$92,000.00 allowed, elections in the 2026 budget would take almost half of that allowance. Auditor Gapp stated the auditor's office, truck regulatory and sheriff's department all lowered their budgets from last year.

Tax Director Keney explained that over the years, there have been missing parcels in the valuation and having Vanguard go through, they are finding everything that has been missed over the years and this will help add to the taxable value which will help equalize everything across the county and provide for new growth. This new growth is calculated into the new CAPS law of HB1176.

Terry Meidinger, Sheriff, addressed the commission asking for pay differential of \$2.00 more per hour for the night shift for corrections. The surrounding counties all have differential pay. That would amount to approximately \$17,520.00 annually. Discussion on removing the \$16,500.00 for the self-help grants which would almost completely cover the cost of the pay differential.

Discussion on the amount given to the Red River Regional Council. Discussion of JDA levy which is a separate levy allowed by the state. The weed fund was discussed. A minimum of 3 mills must be levied to receive the state matching funds for the weed fund.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to remove the self-help and abandoned cemetery funding from the general fund, lower the police contract from \$25,000.00 to \$12,500.00, lower the mental health funding from \$5,000.00 to \$1,000.00 and lower the Red River Regional Council from \$36,000.00 to \$18,000.00 and add in the differential pay for the Corrections Department. Roll call: Pat Hardy, yes; Scot Becker, yes; Blaine Papenfuss, yes; Darin Otto, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Pat Hardy and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to levy 10 mills for capital projects. Roll call: Pat Hardy, yes; Scot Becker, yes; Blaine Papenfuss, yes; Darin Otto, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to prepare the preliminary budget with the reworked numbers. The preliminary budget will be reviewed at the August 5, 2025 meeting for approval. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:41 AM.