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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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March 21, 2023

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Vice-Chairperson Cull called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll call: Laverne Doyle, Blaine W. Papenfuss, Darin Otto, and Andrew Cull. Absent: Jim Benjaminson. A quorum was declared.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda with the following changes/additions: Devin Johnson and Jeff Daley - bids and discussion on Prairie Dog Funding and a budget amendment request for the State's Attorney office. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor Schlittenhard informed the Commission that the motion made at the March 7, 2023 meeting regarding the ½ mill "Self-Help" funding grants for the Priority 2 projects will need to be corrected as follows: Bathgate City - \$1,000.00, Cavalier City - \$1,000.00, Crystal City - \$1,000.00, Mountain City - \$1,000.00, Pembina City - \$1,000.00, St Thomas City - \$1,000.00, Walhalla City - \$1,000.00. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to approve the changes to the March 7, 2023 meeting minutes. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes with the above stated corrections. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the Request for a Duplicate Warrant received from Terry Meidinger. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the Request for a Duplicate Warrant received from Tami Briese. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission discussed Senate Bill 2239, related to employer and employee contribution rates for the existing NDPERS Defined Benefit Main Plan, and House Bill 1040, related

to the closure of the existing NDPERS Defined Benefit Main Plan. Commissioner Otto stated there are pros and cons to both bills. Auditor presented a resolution supporting SB 2239 and opposing HB 1040. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Laverne Doyle to not sign a resolution in favor/opposition of either bill. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor informed the Commission of the change made by the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund to the Inland Marine (Property/Equipment) policy. Instead of only covering Scheduled items, all property will be in a Blanket, for no additional cost. This will allow more flexibility in what is covered on the IM policy. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to accept the blanket policy. All voting in favor; motion carried. Auditor will contact Ryan Bachman, Mostad Insurance Agent, to schedule a meeting with NDIRF and Mr. Bachman.

Auditor discussed the Northern Valley Human Service Zone indirect expenses with the Commission. Auditor informed the Commission that Jill Denault, Northern Valley Human Service Zone Director, would like to meet with them on April 4th regarding office space.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resources, met to update the Commission on the interviews held for the full-time Human Resource position. The interview committee held five interviews. The consensus of the committee is to offer the position to Konor Parker. The beginning salary will be a Step 8 of the pay plan. Mr. Parker would be available to start on April 3, 2023. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to offer the Human Resource position to Konor Parker with a starting salary set at Step 8 of the pay plan. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried. Ms. Wieler stated she is willing to work directly with Mr. Parker during the transitional period.

Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance, updated the Commission on security changes discussed at the recent Court Security meeting held Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Kelly has already completed several of the requested changes. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to have Kelly request quotes from Triad Security Solutions for bullet resistant door guards and firm quotes for bullet resistant shaded glass, if allowed by the Historic Registry. Second by Laverne Doyle. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Discussion followed on the installation of security cameras on the front side of the Courthouse. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to accept the bid from Minn-Kota Communications, Inc for the installation of 2 security cameras on the front and side of the Courthouse. All voting in favor; motion carried. Samantha Diemert stated she will request grant funding through Homeland Security to assist with the cost.

Rachelle Puppe, Public Health RN, met to request permission to continue as an on-call nurse at the hospital on her scheduled days off. Motion made by Darin Otto and

seconded by Laverne Doyle to grant Ms. Puppe permission to continue employment with the hospital on her scheduled time off. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Garret Fontaine presented a request to amend the Assistant State’s Attorney line item of his budget. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to amend the budget line item by \$25,000.00. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Jeff Manley, Cavalier School Superintendent, and Mike Hanson, North Valley Career and Tech Center, updated the Commission on the CTE Capital Grant project. Mr. Manley presented a letter and a handout with a schematic of the satellite site showing what the classrooms will look like when construction is completed. Mr. Hanson discussed the legislative side of the project. Mr. Hanson is requesting a letter of support from the Commission to have the Governor’s budget for the CTE project reinstated, which includes the \$40M inflationary cost. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Laverne Doyle to send a letter of support to the legislators. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Loren Estad discussed his concerns with the county submitting a letter of opposition to Senate Bill 2279. Larry Dubois, Fleming, Dubois & Fleming, also in attendance. Mr. Estad is asking if, how and when the Commission approved the letter of opposition. Mr. Dubois brought up discussion held at previous meetings on the subject. Commissioner Otto requested to present a point of personal privilege statement related to the testimony presented by Ms. Willits at the hearing on March 16, 2023. Commissioner Otto feels the entire Commission should have discussed this prior to testimony being presented. Mr. Estad is requesting a letter be drafted and sent immediately to the House Ag Committee Chair regarding the testimony. Mr. Estad is also requesting a letter of apology on his behalf, for his name being used during the testimony. Motion made by Darin Otto to send a letter to the Chairman of the House Ag Committee stating proper protocol was not followed. Second by Laverne Doyle. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – no. Motion carried. Dave Moquist and Loren Estad requested the testimony be stricken from the record. Discussion followed. No further action taken.

Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent, requested approval to use the Prairie Dog Funds to replace a minor structure in Beaulieu Township, on 132nd Ave NE, with a box culvert. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to have Devin obtain a quote for the project. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Devin presented quotes for a MiniMac Tier 4 paver with accessories and a 7000 gallon oil storage tank. Motion made by Laverne Doyle to accept the bid for the MiniMac equipment and oil storage tank. Second by Darin Otto. Roll call vote: Laverne Doyle – yes; Blaine Papenfuss – yes; Darin Otto – yes; Andrew Cull – yes. Motion carried.

Jeff Daley, Kadramas, Lee, & Jackson, updated the Commission on the 17 structure rehabilitation projects, County Road 4 structure #126-10.1, and County Road 11 structure #130.32. Alternative replacement options were discussed for the County Road 4 structures.

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

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Darin Otto to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.