

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

## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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November 1, 2022

8:30 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Chairperson Rutherford called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Roll call: Jim Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford, and Dave Moquist. Absent: Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Dave Moquist to approve the agenda with the following additions/changes: County Repurchaser deed, liquor license, letter from Walsh County Commissioners, bid for repairs on the Law Enforcement Center, Tax Director's office update. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to approve the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director, received a request to have Speech Services offered in Cavalier. Hannah Laxdal, Speech Pathologist with Altru Health Systems, would be willing to come to Cavalier one day per week to offer speech services if there was a location to meet with individuals. Ms. Ramsay asked if it would be a possibility to utilize an office in the Social Service building for Ms. Laxdal. Jill Denault, Northern Valley Human Service Zone Director, was contacted to see if office space would be available. Ms. Ramsay reached out to Tina Safranski, Outreach Coordinator with Altru Health Systems, to see if she would like to check out the office space to ensure it would be suitable for Ms. Laxdal. Ms. Safranski has not been able to view the office space to date. Discussion followed on other options.

Commission reviewed the Delta Dental contract renewal for January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. There will be a decrease in the employee and employee plus spouse plans and a slight increase in the employee plus children and family plans for 2023. Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Utility permit received from Nodal Electric Cooperative to bore under County Road 1 for power in Section 6/7 of North Joliette Township. Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairperson to sign the utility permit as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to authorize the Chairman to sign the repurchaser deed, for foreclosed property that was redeemed prior to the County Sale date, as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Vince Austfjord and Tamara M. LeTexier, River Junction C-Store, LLC, contacted the Auditor to request a prorated off sale only beer and liquor license. Akra Township has granted consent for the beer and liquor license. The beer license would be pro-rated to \$33.34 and the liquor license would be pro-rated to \$125.00 for November and December 2022. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the pro-rated beer and liquor license fees. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Commission received a letter from the Walsh County Commission concerning the construction of a new correctional facility. The Walsh County Commission voted to move forward with the construction and would like to know if Pembina County would be interested in furthering a conversation with them on the matter. Auditor will forward a letter to the Walsh County Commission letting them know Pembina County is definitely interested in discussing the matter with them.

Auditor presented a contract, in the amount of \$21,388.23, from Innovative Basement Authority for repairs on the Law Enforcement Center. Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Dave Moquist to accept the bid from Innovative Basement Authority as presented. Discussion followed. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Kelly updated the Commission on additional contractors contacted regarding repairs on the heating system for the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center.

Revel Sapa, Human Resource Assistant, discussed Employee Policy 405 – Dress Code. Dianne Smith also in attendance. Revel discussed requests she has received from employees to wear jeans on a daily basis. Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Laverne Doyle to have Revel meet with the department heads to receive their opinions on Policy 405 and present the updates to the Commission for final approval. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor updated the Commission on individuals that have requested consideration to be appointed to the following Boards:

Water Board: Don Kemp, Jeff Stevenson, Norman Becker

Soils Committee: Nick Heuchert, Robert W. Vivatson, Joel Smith

Board appointments will be made at a late date.

Dan Aubol, Colonial Life representative, presented a handout showing plans offered through Colonial Life. Dan discussed possible savings to employees for several different plans. Dan will be meeting with employees throughout the day.

Appraisal hearing on foreclosed property was held at 10:30 AM. No attendance by city or township individuals. The sale of County property will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, in the Farmer's Room of the Courthouse beginning at 11:00 AM.

Mikka Willits, Tax Director, Lisa Wieler, Deputy Tax Director/GIS, and Lisa Keney, County Assessor, presented a handout showing the different soil types used by NRCS to determine values. Ms. Willits explained that her office feels the Soils Committee has completed their review of the agricultural parcels and the office appreciates all of the work completed by the Committee to date. Discussion followed on modifiers that are being considered by the Soils Committee. At this time the department feels documentation must be provided and a certified assessor must review the documentation to determine if a modifier should be allowed. A meeting with the Soils Committee will be set for a later date.

Commission reviewed the October payroll and claims. Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Laverne Doyle to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Dave Moquist and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to adjourn the meeting so the Commission can complete the mandatory DPM and Drug Free Workplace training. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.