

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

June 3, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Murphy, Malm and Pic present. Commissioners Knauf and Schmisek were absent. Commissioner Schmisek was away on other County business.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 20, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve the order of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #3080-3263 in the amount of \$886,799.45; employee status changes for Amy Waterman, Ashley MacNaughton, Rebecca A. Martin, Michael Abar, James Keenan, Wiley Hall, Toni Grimsley, and Justin Breitwieser; overtime; beer license for Grand Forks Gun Club; and Grand Forks Township Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Nick West, Highway Engineer, addressed the board.

Move by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve the Chairman's signature on the County Township Road Mileage Certifications. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve accepting bids for a new fuel tank system for the Grand Forks Highway Department. The existing fuel system will be removed and the new system will be installed approximately 180' to the south of the Highway Department Maintenance/Office Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Lou Lombardi, Veterans Service Officer, gave a Veterans Service Office update.

Richard Wakefield and Arnie Johnson presented the Modern Technology proposal for the Grand Forks Office Building sixth floor conference rooms to install loop technology to enhance hearing reception for hard of hearing individuals. A demonstration was given.

Al Walters, Willie Huot and Todd Hilden spoke in favor of the loop technology.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to open the bid for digitizing three components of non-cropland. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Bernardy encouraged the board not to take any action on the bid until after the County Board of Equalization.

John Aamodt said in addition to non-cropland issues, there are also many discrepancies in tillable acres on each parcel that will have to be dealt with in a similar manner.

Amber Gudajtes, Tax Equalization Director, said this will address residential lots, farmsteads, and commercial lots, not just pasture land.

Lane Magnuson, MVP Consulting, addressed the board.

Allan Peterson, Moraine Township, said he does not know how we can move ahead with the 2014 proposed agricultural values when four of the forty-one townships in Grand Forks County were allowed to redo their modifier map and the other thirty-seven townships were not. The 2013 agricultural values should be used.

Amber Gudajtes, Tax Equalization Director, said the Soils Committee approved the four townships because they over used the modifiers and the State Tax Commissioner's Office said modifiers cannot be used that way.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to accept the bid from MVP Consulting for digitizing non-cropland at a rate of \$100/hour not to exceed \$15,800. The work will be completed on or before July 3, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to recess the board and convene as the Board of Equalization. Motion carried unanimously. It was 5:20pm.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to recess the Board of Equalization until July 15, 2014 and reconvene the County Commission Board. Motion carried unanimously. It was 6:02pm.

Debbie Kleven asked if an appeal has been filed with the Board of Equalization, will they receive a written response to their appeal before July 15, 2014. Ms. Gudajtes said yes.

Brian Solsing, Niagara Township, asked how elderly property owners can appeal their property values. Ms. Gudajtes said the tenant could draft a letter for the property owner, the tenant should review it with them and they could sign it. The signed appeal should be returned to the Tax Equalization Office.

Helen Welte said she has been to the Township Board of Equalization and the County Board of Equalization. She is not going to go to State Board of Equalization and she said the County Board of Equalization should be able to resolve the issues with the agricultural values.

John Aamodt said he sent an email seven weeks ago and invited the Commissioners to call, email or speak with them at their convenience. He said no one contacted him.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to accept the low bid from Dacotah Paper Company for 400 cases of paper at a cost of \$25.25 per case. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chairman's signature on the contract with JTC, Inc. to remodel the County Office Building, 4th floor storage room for \$49,400 and the change order for \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm. The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2014.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor