

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

March 21, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Kvasager, Yahna, Triplett Malm and Murphy present.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2006 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Yahna, seconded by Triplett, to approve the order of agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Yahna, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda include employee status changes for Kathy Meagher and Helen G Nelson; bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #113423 thru Check #113837 in the amount of \$2,167,665.26; approval of overtime; approval of Larimore Golf Club Beer License; approval of Bond for check reissue; approval of financial report. Motion carried.

Commissioner Malm asked if we are charging for reissuing checks and if this is something we should do in the future.

Tom Saddler, Veterans Services Officer, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Triplett to approve out of state travel for Cathy Westensee, to attend the 16th Annual National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc. to be held in Reno, Nevada, June 3-10, 2006. Motion carried.

Deb Johnson, Executive Director, and Mary McConnell, Job Developer, from Prairie Harvest Foundation, addressed the board, regarding putting a food cart in the 6th floor break room. They would also like to have limited use of the kitchen, such as the stove and dishwasher. There was a concern about how this would affect other groups that use the kitchen. Tom Saddler brought up the issue of giving them keys to the kitchen and that there would be an accountability issue. Prairie Harvest Foundation, Commissioner Malm and Tom Saddler of Veterans Services Office will review this issue further.

Lane Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Director, addressed the board.

The Public Hearing on the proposed subdivision moratorium was opened, no one appeared and the hearing was closed.

Moved by Yahna, seconded by Murphy, to enact a moratorium on subdivisions of more than two lots within the rural residential area as designated within the 2035 Land Use Plan, with an effective date of March 21, 2006 through June 6th, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm, to accept the 2005 Annual Storm Water Prevention Program Report. Motion carried.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Social Services has 3 vehicles, one valued at \$1,100.00 which they will use as a trade-in, and 2 vehicles valued at less than \$1,000.00. There is a provision in NDCC 11-27-01 that states that the County Commission can authorize the sale of property valued at less than \$1,000.00 at a private sale vs. public sale by resolution by the board. Commissioner Triplett stated that this may cause some problems so she thinks there should be a public sale. All agreed.

Baukol Builders is appealing the Court's Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Order for Judgment, dated February 28, 2006, and Judgment, dated March 8, 2006, to the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Mr. Welte also presented a letter from the Attorney General declining to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of the extraterritorial zoning statute.

Mr. Welte had a meeting with Grand Forks Historical Society concerning the issue of increasing their mills.

Mr. Welte also stated that his office sent out 80 letters to township officers regarding mowing of road sides.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Yahna to instruct the Weed Board to review their fees for mowing and, if necessary, increase the mowing charge to cover the actual costs to the County beginning in 2007. Motion carried.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board on personnel issues.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Yahna, to approve a change with an existing Juvenile Detention temporary part-time employee to a permanent part-time employee position. Motion carried.

Moved by Yahna, seconded by Murphy, to approve the following new positions in the States Attorney Office:

Legal Secretary II position, beginning date to be determined by staff.

An additional Assistant States Attorney to be hired as of October 1, 2006. Mr. Welte stated he has over \$16,000 in the drug forfeiture account to offset the impact of these positions for the year 2006. Motion carried.

Commissioner Triplett asked Peter Welte what he was planning to do to get caught up and to reduce the open case load. Peter Welte stated that there are a couple of things they need to do in the States Attorney's Office, they need to continue to try to screen cases more effectively especially the Juvenile and Bad Check cases and handle those cases either informally or civilly. In addition, take a look at each individual Attorney's portfolio and try to remove 100 cases from each portfolio. Commissioner Triplett

commented on the level of experience in the States Attorney's Office and she wondered if not being able to keep up with the case load is the result of the inexperience and asked if there is training available to them. Peter Welte reported that the North Dakota States Attorney's Association offers training twice a year and he has made it mandatory that all of the new attorneys attend the training. Commissioner Triplett asked if the one additional Assistant States Attorney, over the course of one year, will be able to get the States Attorney's Office back on track in terms of case load. Peter Welte stated he thinks it will on the criminal side and they are still looking for ways to address the civil side.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Triplett, to approve out of state travel for Mr. Nierode to attend the Office of Economic Adjustment conference May 2-5, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia to be paid with Office of Economic Adjustment funds. Motion carried.

Mr. Nierode presented a proposal on a market survey preparation from Dorothy Person of Government Management Group at a cost to the county of \$6,950.00. Commissioner Triplett wanted more information on this process. She requested that there be a conference call between Dorothy Person, the Personnel Committee & Ed Nierode. This issue will be held over awaiting additional information.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm to authorize spending of up to \$4,000.00 from the capital improvement fund for the courthouse plaque. Motion carried with Triplett, Murphy and Malm voting aye and Yahna voting nay.

Commissioner Yahna presented the board with a letter from the Airport Authority. The Airport Authority is applying for a Department of Transportation Small Community Air Service Development Grant for \$300,000-\$350,000 which requires local matching funds. They would like the matching funds to be a minimum of \$75,000 in local cash. They are asking the City for \$30,000, EDC for \$20,000, and would like the County to provide \$10,000. The Airport Authority will provide \$20,000. Commissioner Triplett stated that the EDC is funded through the City and County and does not believe they have the funds to give them \$20,000, therefore she thinks the County should give them \$20,000.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Triplett, to provide the Airport Authority with \$20,000 from the miscellaneous fund. The payment of \$20,000 is contingent upon receipt of the grant by the Airport Authority. Motion carried.

Commissioner Yahna brought up items pertaining to the new Correction Center which were approved by the building committee:

Hose bib for garden hoses	\$ 3,406.00
Shelving systems for prisoners clothes	\$10,500.00

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the purchase of laundry equipment for the Correctional Center totaling \$27,400.00. Motion carried.

The Gateway Improvement was mentioned but does not apply anymore as the City extended the City property lines.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to give the chair permission to sign the TeleManagement Incorporated agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Yahna, seconded by Malm, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:50. The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2006.

Arvin Kvasager, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Deana Mayotte, Assistant Treasurer