

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

November 21, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

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

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

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

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda include employee status changes for Kenneth Freeman and Brent Allan DeCent, bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #119226 thru Check #119260, Check #119426 thru Check 119436 and Check # 119540 thru Check #120084 in the amount of \$904,145.78, overtime and Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department Transport Statistics. Motion carried.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner addressed the board.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the application from Brent Halverson for KT Subdivision, located in part of section 35, Walle Township, with the following conditions:

1. The Planning Department shall receive a township form recommending approval of the request prior to the Planning Department signing off on the plat.
2. The access permit for the proposed service road shall not be issued until the existing access on County Road 7 is removed.
3. The Grand Forks County Planning Department receives from the developer a bond or letter of credit in the amount of \$14,000, as financial guarantee for road construction prior to the Planning Department signing off on the plat.
4. The applicant shall submit to the Planning Department copies of the maintenance agreements for the roads facilities prior to the Planning Department signing off on the plat. The maintenance agreements shall state that the County is not responsible for the construction or future maintenance of the private internal road. Motion carried.

George Newton addressed the board regarding the Merrifield Bridge.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Amber Sieber, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Triplett, to approve the abatement application of Howard Carpenter on parcel number 07-2502-00006-000 and reduce the 2006 True and Full Value from \$174,100 to \$165,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve, in part, the abatement application of Thomas Volk on parcel number 08-1701-00001-002 and reduce the 2006 True and Full Value from \$34,300 to \$17,726. Motion carried.

Moved Murphy, seconded by Triplett, to approve the abatement applications of Lee & Pauline Finstad on parcel number 44-1331-00064-012 and reduce the 2004 True and Full Value from \$178,400 to \$98,400 and the 2005 True and Full Value from \$190,600 to \$110,600. Motion carried.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm, to approve the abatement application of Joseph Miller on parcel number 44-2101-00032-000 and reduce the 2005 True and Full Value from \$84,100 to \$57,300. Motion carried.

Bridgie Hansen, Juvenile Detention Director, gave a report on the Law Enforcement Fitness testing. Captain Robert Rost and Captain Linda Wagner also commented on what a benefit they feel the Law Enforcement Fitness Program has been.

Commissioner Triplett volunteered to write a Fitness Policy and bring it back in a month for Commission approval.

Ed Schulz addressed the board. Chairman Kvasager informed Mr. Schulz that a meeting has been scheduled to go over his water drainage issues. The meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 1:30pm in the County Commission room. Mr. Onstad, Peter Welte, the Chair of the Water Board and the Chair of the County Commission will be there. Mr. Schultz was told that he is welcome to attend.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Triplett, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending legal issues. Motion carried. The time was 4:52pm.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Triplett, to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the regular meeting. Motion carried. The time was 5:07pm.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm, subject to final approval from Counsel, that Grand Forks County will waive any defense of failure to exhaust administrative remedies in Mr. Gardner's anticipated wrongful termination lawsuit so that we could accept Mr. Morley's offer that he would withdraw his appeal and proceed directly to litigation. Motion carried.

Ray Korynta addressed the board regarding a variance to a Planning and Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Korynta was directed to start with the Planning and Zoning Board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the Elected Officials pay for 2007, \$10,000 increase for the Sheriff and a 2.5% step increase and a 2.7% COLA for the States Attorney, effective January 1, 2007. Motion was withdrawn.

The next Correctional Center Management Committee Meeting will be November 28, 2006 at 1:00pm at the Correctional Center.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve overtime for each of the Correctional Center Teams for a mandatory meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to allow Lacey Crisp, WDAZ Reporter, to spend one night in the Grand Forks County Correctional Center, upon signing a waiver releasing the County from any liability. Motion carried.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Murphy, to change the date of the first meeting in December to December 7, 2006. Motion carried.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Malm, to temporarily increase Linda Wagner's pay, while she is the acting Administrator of the Correctional Center, to the amount it was increased to during the suspension of the Administrator, \$800.00 more per month. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Triplett, to approve the Employee Status Change for Linda Hammen. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the hiring of a Social Worker II position, grade 10, for Social Services to be filled in 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Murphy, to appoint Commissioner Malm as the Chairman for 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to appoint Commissioner Triplett as the Vice Chair for 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:55pm. The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2006.

Arvin Kvasager, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, Auditor