

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

June 5, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.

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

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Murphy, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included employee status changes for Derick Roller, Jason Johnston, Antonio Teruel, Jeff Fabian, Max Meyers and Kim Johnson, bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #124328 thru Check #124779 in the amount of \$881,261.76, approval of overtime, approve of the Chairman's signature on the Grand Forks County Maintenance Agreements, Veterans Service Office Report and approval of applications for game of chance permits for Grand Forks County 4-H. Motion carried.

Willie Huot, NDSU Extension Office, addressed the board regarding Annie's Project, which is a program for farm wives who want to be more active in the family farm operation.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Triplett, to allow Finance and Tax Office to manage the grant funds for Annie's Project. Motion carried.

Tom Saddler, Veterans Service Officer, and Deb Johnson, Prairie Harvest Human Services Foundation, addressed the board.

Moved Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to continue the Memorandum of Agreement between Prairie Harvest Human Services Foundation, Grand Forks County and Northeast Human Service Center until July 1, 2008. Motion carried.

Martin M. Fox, A'viands Food & Service Management, addressed the board.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Knauf, to approve the recommended septic system permit fee at \$250. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Triplett, to approve the Chairman's signature on a grant application for an asbestos assessment on the former Johnson Store Warehouse building in Larimore, ND. Motion carried.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, gave the April financial report and reported on the legislation passed by the 60th North Dakota State Legislature that reduces the amount

of time for payment of local property taxes. Currently property owners are allowed 57 months from the time the tax is levied to make the final payment on taxes. This time period will be reduced to 33 months effective with the 2007 property taxes. The reduction in time period allowed for property tax payments may create a hardship for citizens of Grand Forks County that have delinquent property taxes. The law provided the authority for the Board of County Commissioners to establish a policy to waive all or part of penalties and interest on those delinquent taxes.

Debbie Nelson was directed to notify all of the taxing entities in Grand Forks County regarding the change in the delinquency period and inform them that the County Commission will consider whether or not to waive all or part of penalties and interest at the July 10th Commission Meeting.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Triplett, to approve a 10 year bond issue on the old Correctional Center remodeling project if approved by the voters on July 11th. The bond debt service would require a 1.24 mill increase based on the current value of a mill. Motion carried.

The Grand Forks County Commission board recessed and convened as the Grand Forks County Board of Equalization.

The Grand Forks County Commission board reconvened.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to formally accept the Full, Final and Absolute Settlement of the Gardner employment appeal/civil litigation, and to proceed with the hiring process for a new Director of the Grand Forks County Regional Correctional Center. Motion carried with Knauf, Murphy, Triplett and Malm voting aye and Kvasager voting nay.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the Chairman's signature on the Base Realignment and Closure Community Coordinator Consultant Agreement. Motion carried.

Ed Nierode presented the Air Force Base buffer map for restricted airspace for siting landfills.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the merit pay policy. It will be included in the Grand Forks County Personnel Manual. Motion carried.

Moved by Triplett, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the Chairman's signature on a letter to AFLAC extending the run off period for the February 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007 flexible spending account year to July 1, 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Triplett, to advise the Correctional Center staff that they will be allowed a four month period to reduce the costs of the Correctional Center kitchen and then a two month lag to determine if an outside agency is needed. Motion carried with Kvasager, Knauf and Triplett voting aye and Malm and Murphy voting nay.

Veterans Service Officer Tom Saddler's retirement party will be June 13, 2007 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, Grand Forks County Office Building, 151 South 4th Street, 6th floor.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Kvasager, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:14pm. The next meeting will be held on June 19, 2007.

Gary Malm, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor