

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

May 20, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

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

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the order of agenda deleting item 12b Sheriff's Department Storage Building Estimate. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: employee status change for Kyle Welsh; bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #131856 -131864, 131866 – 132144 in the amount of \$759,252.41; overtime; County Deeds on parcel numbers 42-1604-00031-000 and 42-1604-00032-000; Grand Forks Veterans Service Office Report and Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department Transportation Statistics. Motion carried.

Allen Butler owner of the Beehive in Reynolds, ND, addressed the board.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Knauf, to close the street for one block on County Road 25 in front of the Beehive on July 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-2:00am for a street dance. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the 2006 and 2007 abatement applications for Sheri Trif on parcel number 11-1001-00003-001 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$59,000 to \$45,000 for 2006 and reduce the 2007 True and Full Value from \$63,500 to \$46,500. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the 2007 abatement application for McDonald Properties, LLC on parcel number 42-0001-00087-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$43,000 to \$18,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the 2007 abatement application for Jennifer Lessard on parcel number 44-1234-00044-022 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$100,600 to \$25,600. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the 2007 abatement application for Luis & Maria Brito on parcel number 44-1324-00006-014 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$159,200 to \$63,200. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the 2007 abatement application for David & Jessica Wilkinson on parcel number 44-2301-00052-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$88,100 to \$48,800. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the 2007 abatement application for Sarah Dahl on parcel number 44-2620-00031-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$130,200 to \$55,200. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the 2007 abatement applications related to the Northwood tornado damage and reduce the True and Full Values as follows. Motion carried.

- 49-0001-00082-000 Benjamin & Melissa Larson from \$63,900 to \$56,200
- 49-1201-00012-002 Larry Higdem from \$67,800 to \$54,400
- 49-1801-00009-001 Ben & Melissa Larson from \$44,700 to \$37,700
- 49-1801-00064-001 Eugene Hannestad from \$20,500 to \$19,700
- 49-1801-00064-003 Eugene Hannestad from \$76,000 to \$73,600
- 49-2902-00013-000 Vernita D. Bjoralt from \$57,000 to \$53,700
- 49-2902-00018-000 Donna M. Johnson (CFD) from \$42,200 to \$31,700
- 49-3131-00093-008 Chadwick Jason Lemay \$50,000 to \$43,300

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, reported that the Soils Committee requested that she ask Chairperson Triplett to step down from the Soils Committee because Ms. Vaughn does not anticipate the Soils Committee's work will be completed until 2010 which would be two years after Chairperson Triplett's term has expired on the County Commission. So for consistency she asked for a new Commission member to be appointed. Ms. Vaughn also informed the board that the Soils Committee did not feel it was appropriate for the Commission member on the Committee to be a voting member of the Soils Committee because the Committee will refer everything to the Commission to vote on. Chairperson Triplett said she had discussed this with Ms. Vaughn and she does feel it would be a good idea. Chairperson Triplett said she would attend the next couple of meetings of the Soils Committee with the new Commission member to assist with the transition. Commissioner Malm volunteered to be the liaison for the Soils Committee.

Michael Coachman, Larimore City Council member, stated that all property in Larimore City has recently been reassessed and they were wondering what they could do to bring their taxes down. He said he had been asked what benefits the City of Larimore receives from the various levies that Grand Forks County is currently levying, such as, the Senior Citizens levy and County Fair Association levy.

Chairperson Triplett said when a budget is prepared each year the County Commission makes decisions based on an overview of the needs for the entire County. And the fact that an individual person does not take advantage of a particular service does not mean that it should not be funded. Chairperson Triplett said we can not pick and choose a small city or township to exclude. If the County Commission decides it is an appropriate service to provide, it would be spread evenly over all of the property according to law in North Dakota. The opportunity for input on the services provided by the County can be heard at the annual budget meetings starting in August each year or at the Public Budget Hearing in September. And, if it was decided to reduce any service it would have to be reduced across the board.

Michael Coachman asked how the parking ramp affects Larimore City. Chairperson Triplett said many County services are provided from the County Office Building and with the number of people working here there would not have been enough parking if a parking ramp was not built. The Social Service Office, Juvenile Court, the Property and Records Office and the Finance and Tax Office are all located in the County Office Building. A resident from the City of Larimore may not park here in a given month but it was our perception that building the parking ramp was integral to providing service to everyone in the County.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to approve the resolution to award bid in the amount of \$1,043,059.99 to Morris Sealcoat & Trucking for Projects SC-1800(008) and CP-1800(008) and authorized the Chair and County Auditor to sign. Motion carried.

Diane Blair, Base Realignment Impact Committee Coordinator, introduced Cindy Gray, SRF Consulting Group, Inc. Ms. Gray presented the Regional Development Land Study.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Knauf, to approve the plat of Lone Tree Estates located in section 21, Walle. Motion carried.

Bret Burkholder, Correctional Center Administrator, recommended that the Agreement for Jail Service with Cass County not be signed because we currently don't have a need for their services.

Bret Burkholder said as of Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> he has one employee who has only passed one of the fitness tests. Subject to Grand Forks County Employee Policy 302.1-6 which states failure to complete these requirement will result in termination. He said this has not happened before and he just wanted to verify that if someone does not pass within the one year time frame they are to be terminated. Chairperson Triplett said yes that is the policy.

Bret Burkholder said he was asked to get a quote for a 12 person van at the last meeting. He was unable to find a 12 person van but Rydell's was able to find a 15 person van they he did receive a quote on. He said we can not order a van at this time because they quit ordering the 2008's in April and 2009's will not be on the State bid until later in the year.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to accept the quote from Rydell's for \$23,569 for a 15 person van plus an additional amount of approximately \$3,000 to equip the van for inmate transport, subject to approval by the States Attorney. Motion carried.

Bret asked the Commission for permission to continue to move forward getting the staff in position to provide transportation service for Federal inmates. Chairperson Triplett asked that this be discussed at the next Correctional Center Management Committee meeting.

The Commission agreed to waive the \$200 owed to Grand Forks County by Emerado City for housing inmates. A contract was signed by Emerado City on February 5, 2008 which was for a reduced rate for housing inmates for Emerado City. Emerado City paid Grand Forks County the reduced rate prior to that date, so \$200 was the balance due.

Major Mike Fonder, Sheriff's Department, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to approve the Chair's signature on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Boat Safety Grant Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to accept the Building Committee's recommendation to remove the Grand Forks County Correctional Center site as an option for a building site for the Public Service Answering Point. Motion carried.

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:28pm. The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2008.

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Constance Triplett, Chair  
Grand Forks County Commission

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Debbie Nelson, County Auditor