

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

October 7, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Triplett, Murphy, Knauf, Kvasager and Malm present. Commissioner Knauf participated via telephone from Bismarck

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: employee status changes for Patrick A. Nelson, Steven J. Krznarich, Linda Sidles, Darlene Rooker, Katie Boespflug and Colin Kennedy; bills submitted by the County Auditor, Check#134592-134842 and #134924-134931 in the amount of \$1,089,216.25; overtime; bond for check reissue and County Deed on parcel number 05-4601-00041-001. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve a per diem of \$50.00 per meeting and mileage for the five Soil Committee Members and to approve hiring an intern to draw in the soil modifiers in GIS. The budget impact for 2008 will be covered within the Tax Equalization Director's budget and the 2009 budget will be amended by \$10,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Murphy, to appoint Terry Stromsodt as the member at large to the Soils Committee. Motion carried.

Jim Campbell, Emergency Management Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to reappoint Mr. Joe Simon, as member at large, to serve on the Emergency Management Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2009. Motion carried.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Assistance between Nelson County and Grand Forks County will be redrafted for the meeting on October 21, 2008.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Knauf, to allow Mr. Campbell to apply for a FY2007 Supplemental Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) to purchase a vehicle for Grand Forks Emergency Management at a cost of \$25,251.00. The grant requires a 50% local match which will come from Fund 8027 Hazardous Chemical Preparedness account. If the EMPG is not received the vehicle will still be purchased and the City of Grand Forks has agreed to pay the 50%, but the grant will be pursued first. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to authorize the Chair's signature on the Declaration of Application Spending Plan Consensus for the FY 2008 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). Motion carried.

Attorney Cameron Sillers representing Clifford Haugen, who has filed a complaint with the Grand Forks County Water Board claiming there is an obstruction to the natural flow of water through the south ditch of Grand Forks County Road 11, addressed the board.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, said he does not know what the solution to this problem would be.

Rich Axvig, Grand Forks County Water Board Chairman, said that the Attorney for the Water Board is of the opinion that the Water Board has no jurisdiction in the road right-a-way. Mr. Axvig said the Water Board has been dealing with this issue for three or four years and the State Water Commission determined the ditch was illegal and it has been put back to the way it was prior to construction. Mr. Axvig said he would agree a legal drain would probably be the fairest way to deal with this matter.

Chair Triplett said she will appoint a committee to review the reports and the Attorney General's Opinion with Mr. Welte and come up with a plan of action regarding the obstruction complaint by the next Commission Meeting on October 21, 2008 and Mr. Sillers will be notified of the plan prior to the next meeting.

Brian Overby, Countryside Subdivision resident, addressed the board.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to allow the County Highway Department to continue snow removal of Countryside Subdivision until May 30, 2009, because the residents were not notified that the snow removal would be discontinued. Motion carried.

Craig Jarolimek presented a National Pork Board Industry Update.

Bret Burkholder, Correctional Center Administrator, informed the board that we have been over billed by CBM Food Service because we were billed at a pricing category for 5 employees in the kitchen and there are only 4 employees. We will receive a credit of approximately \$12,000.

Bret Burkholder said the County will receive \$5,047.00 for a State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Award for 2008. SCAAP is a federal program that reimburses the Correctional Center for holding federal illegal aliens that are under County jurisdiction.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Murphy, to approve the purchase of 10 new chairs for the Correctional Center at a cost of \$4,744. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to approve the contract with T&S Snow Removal for snow removal at the Correctional Center at a cost of \$70.00 per hour and approve the Accurate Controls, Inc. Maintenance and Service Agreement at a cost of \$23,339.25. Motion carried.

DJ Kreal, Correctional Risk Services, Inc. addressed the board.

Moved Malm, seconded by Murphy, to approve the Chair's signature on the Application to Gerber Life Insurance for Excess Loss Insurance with a deductible of \$10,000 and the Agreement for Claims Administration Management with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. (CRS) to be effective October 1, 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Kvasager, to approve the appraised value of the real estate acquired by tax deed and to set the minimum sale price at the amount of 5 years taxes due, plus special assessments, penalties, interest and costs, plus an amount equal to the estimated taxes and special assessments for the current assessment year plus \$100 and set the Property Appraisal hearing for October 21, 2008 at 4:30pm. Motion carried.

Barb Zavala, Veterans Service Officer, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the purchase of new office furniture for the Assistance County Veterans Service Officer and the Benefits Counselor/Secretary. The total cost

of the furniture is \$7,519; \$4,000 will be paid out of the 2008 Veterans Service budget and the balance from the 2009 budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Murphy, to approve the agreement with Barb Zavala and Cathy Westensee to perform the duties of the Grand Forks County Public Administrator. Motion carried.

Grand Forks County will pay retirement on the additional fees paid to Barb Zavala and Cathy Westensee for the Public Administrator duties.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knuaf, to approve the reclassifications for Colleen Altepeter, Deana Mayotte and Michelle Olson, effective October 1, 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the following policies:

Pay Program for Juvenile Detention Non-benefited Part-Time Employees: The rate of compensation will be Grade 6, step 1 for all Non-benefited Part-Time employees regardless of tenure. Payment at a higher step will be approved by the Commission with special justification submitted in writing by the department manager. Pay raises will occur and equal the amount the commission approves for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase. This policy will be effective January 1, 2009

Pay Program for Seasonal Highway Department Employees: The base rate of compensation for the general labor will be \$11.00. Upon hiring the seasonal employee the Department Manager may award an increase of \$0.25 per each additional year of employment.

For seasonal equipment operators the base rate of pay will be \$13.00. Upon hiring the seasonal employee the Department Manager may award an increase of \$0.25 per each additional year of employment.

Any increase to the base amount must be approved by the Commission. This policy is effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Moved by Kvasager, seconded by Malm, to approve the Chair's signature on a letter to Mr. Doug Allbright in support of the restructuring of airspace, the creation of new restricted airspace in the vicinity of GFAFB to support UAS traffic, and the expansion of the Camp Grafton restricted area (R-5401) for use of non-eye safe lasers. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to approve the Chair's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of North Dakota acting and through the North Dakota Secretary of State and the County of Grand Forks for the purchase of electronic poll books. Motion carried.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Malm, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm. The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2008.

Constance Triplett, Chair
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor