

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

January 20, 2009 – 4:00 P.M

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Murphy, Knauf, Malm, Schmisek and Pic present.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the order of agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check#136955-136974, #137094-137365 in the amount of \$680,010.51; overtime; Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department Transportation Statistics and the Veterans Service Office Report. Motion carried.

Barb Zavala, Veterans Service Officer, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve out-of-state travel for Cathy Westensee and Barb Zavala to attend the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers Annual Conference/Training in San Diego, CA from June 5 – 14, 2009 at an approximate cost of \$3,740. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director reported there will be a 2% increase in the agricultural values for 2009.

Richard Parton, 321 Crescent Drive, Thompson, and John Berthold, 513 Park Drive, Thompson, addressed the board regarding a proposal to return Pacific Avenue in Thompson to the Federal Aid System.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, said this would have to go on the County Federal Aid System and he would be against that because our current Highway Bill ends in the end of November of this year and we do not know what the future of our Federal Aid will be as far as allocation to the State of North Dakota or if the State will change their allocation.

Moved by Pic, to consider the ½ mile north of Highway 15 on Pacific Ave in Thompson and move it into the Federal Aid System. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to reconsider Thompson City's proposal after the time the new Federal Aid bill is signed. Motion carried.

Jeremiah Christenson, Obermiller-Nelson Engineering, Inc, addressed the board.

Brian Purcell, Building and Ground Supervisor, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to accept the low bid of \$383,404 and alternate #2 of \$3,500 from Lunseth Plumbing & Heating, Grand Forks, ND for the boiler replacement in the Grand Forks County Courthouse with a 5% contingency and the design fees for a total cost not to exceed \$440,000. Motion carried.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board regarding Senate Bill 2027 which deals with the extraterritorial zoning authority of cities, four miles out from city limits. Senate Bill 2027

calls for a Joint Zoning Board for the four mile zoning area which would include three County members, three City members and any ties would go to an Administrative Judge.

Staff's recommendation, based on the input from the Townships and the past County Commission resolution, is to oppose Senate Bill 2027 in its current form. Our support would be for the City extraterritorial zoning to take place from zero to two miles and County zoning jurisdiction from two to four miles and with that the County would work with the City to address their concerns regarding their specific issues, such as, corridor overlays in our zoning regulations.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to oppose Senate Bill 2027 in its present form. Motion carried.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, gave the December 2008 financial report.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to approve a credit card for Linda Wagner at the Correctional Center with a credit limit of \$1,500 to be used by the transport team. Motion carried.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board regarding a letter received from Lance D. Gaebe, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor John Hoeven's Office. The letter is about the hearing schedule for Senate Bill 2012 and Senate Bill 2177. The former relates to additional funds for transportation funding and the hearing has already been held and the latter relates to the funding formula to disburse the money to local governments. Commissioner Malm said he will call the North Dakota Association of Counties to see if our presence is necessary at the hearing and if so he will attend the hearing on Thursday, January 22nd. Ed Nierode will contact Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, to see if he would be available to go also.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the 410 In-State Travel Reimbursement Policy and the 411 Out-of-State Travel Policy to the Grand Forks County Employee Policy Manual as amended effective January 1, 2009, see attached. Motion carried.

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Malm, to cancel the taxes on parcel number 44-1350-00001-000 and sell the lot to Grand Forks City for \$20.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to cancel the taxes on parcel number 46-0001-00252-000 and sell the lot to Larimore City for \$20.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to recess for a closed executive session, pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2. It was 5:25pm. Motion carried.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 5:44pm.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:44pm. The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2009.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor