

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

March 4, 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 Schmisek, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve the order of the agenda adding Thomas Zeidlik and Lane Magnuson after item number 9. Motion carried.

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Pic, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check# 138025-138205 in the amount of \$402,246.16. Motion carried.

George Newton, Grand Forks City resident informed the board about water problems caused by the weir in Brenna Township that was built by Grand Forks City. The weir has an elevation that is too high and it was designed and built with aluminum planks that could be removed to allow water to pass through the weir at a more rapid pace. The City has refused to remove the planks. The Grand Forks Water Board does agree the planks should be removed and they are willing to go with Mr. Newton to a Grand Forks City meeting to express their concerns and Mr. Newton was asked to notify the Grand Forks County Commission when the meeting will take place.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chairman's signature on a letter to the North Dakota Department of Transportation accepting the proposed cost sharing on the Thompson Bridge Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve using \$300,000 for the Red River Bridge project, \$150,000 for the County Road 25 project and the \$850,000 for seal coat project for a total of \$1,300,000 to be used for the Thompson Bridge Project from the 2009 Farm to Market budget. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the abatement application for Luke Blair on parcel number 43-0001-00089-000 and reduce the 2008 True and Full Value from \$72,000 to \$62,400. Motion carried.

Ms. Vaughn reported that the Sidwell Company offered a 3% discount on their software if paid in full. Ms. Vaughn's recommendation would be to pay over a three year period because she does not have the full amount in her budget and we would be paying prior to receiving their services. The Commission agreed.

Bret Burkholder, Correctional Center Administrator, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to increase the Grand Forks County Correctional Center Public Health Nursing Contract from 60 to 72 hours up to a cost of \$15,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to purchase equipment for the Federal Transport Officers at a cost of \$9,605 from the Correctional Center budget. Motion carried.

Aaron Sweeney, 2286 McCanna Street NE, McCanna, addressed the board asking them to not apply the 2009 specials to the lots in McCanna Village. Mr. Sweeney was asked to do a title search on the properties first and then come back with a proposal to be reviewed by the Finance and Tax Director and the States Attorney prior to consideration by the full board.

Thomas Zeidlik, 2542 17th St NE, Manvel, addressed the board regarding his property tax bill. The Finance and Tax Department will study this issue and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting on March 17th for Commission action. Mr. Zeidlik will be notified of the recommendation prior to the next meeting.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, gave an update on House Bill 1554 and Senate Bill 2027 regarding extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of cities. Mr. Magnuson will draft a proposed amendment to these bills that the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction would be under the county's zoning regulations rather than the city's or township's. He will also be attending the hearings on these bills on Thursday, March 12th.

Lane Magnuson said at the last meeting he reported that the Commission had taken no action on either of the two Hazard Mitigation Grant applications for Betty Benson or Scott Osowski but it has come to his attention that on August 15, 2006 the Hazard Mitigation Grant application was approved for Scott Osowski.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, reported that after it was discovered that a motion had been approved on August 15, 2006 for the Scott Osowski Hazard Mitigation Grant he advised the Chair to sign the Hazard Mitigation Grant application for Scott Osowski.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the Hazard Mitigation Grant for Scott Osowski that was presented at the February 17, 2009 Commission Meeting based on the fact that the Grand Forks County Commission had previously approved that action and Red River Regional Council and the vendors had detrimentally relied on that motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the Chairman's signature on the Obermiller Nelson Engineering Contract for the Courthouse boiler replacement. Motion carried.

Mr. Welte reported that Grand Forks County has been awarded a Court Facilities Improvement Grant of \$219,480 for the replacement of the boilers.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to adjourn the regular meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2009.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor