

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

March 17, 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 March 4, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the order of the agenda adding Bret Burkholder after item number 8. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: employee status changes for Jenny M. Letexier, Tanya L. Geir, Peggy A. Klockmann, Suzanne Kilichowski and Deb Goodman; bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check# 138208-138238 and Check# 138355-138593 in the amount of \$703,042.03; overtime; financial report and approval of the Forest Stewardship Applications. Motion carried.

Jim Campbell, Emergency Management Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to retroactively approve the Chair's signature on the following Grand Forks County Emergency Declaration. Motion carried.

GRAND FORKS COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Grand Forks County has the potential for damages to roads, bridges, culverts, farmlands, homes, businesses and other public facilities from overland flooding and the flooding of tributaries to the Red River of the North as it reaches or exceeds flood stage;

WHEREAS, the impact of these potential damages may threaten the health, well being and public safety of citizens in Grand Forks County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of cleanup, repair and replacement of such damaged facilities may be in excess of available County resources.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Grand Forks County, a municipal corporation by and through the Board of County Commissioners, Grand Forks County, North Dakota, declares Grand Forks County, its cities, its public and private areas, to be an emergency area and orders the activation and utilization of the Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of the emergency upon the citizens of Grand Forks County.

DATED at Grand Forks, North Dakota, this 12th day of March 2009.

Mr. Campbell reported on what is being done for the protection of the Grand Forks County residents. Currently they have empty sandbags at the Grand Forks City Public Works Building, they also have bags and a truck load of sand at the Thompson Fire Department, they have 10,000 bags and sand at Ag Systems in Manvel, there are 10,000 bags at Sweeney Farms in Turtle River

Township and 10,000 bags at Gowan Construction. Mr. Campbell said they feel like they are in good shape with the sandbags and the sand right now.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to provide one load of sand and sandbags to Grand Forks County residents at no charge and allow the Emergency Management Director to exceed that amount with written documentation from the Grand Forks County Highway Department or the Grand Forks City Fire Chief regarding the perceived threat of flooding. If written documentation is not received a fee will be charged for each additional load of sand. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to allow the Chairman to approve additional funds for the Emergency Response line item in the Emergency Management budget if needed. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the abatement application for Real Presence Radio on parcel number 08-2401-00004-000 and reduce the 2007 True and Full Value from \$45,000 to \$0. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Knauf, to approve the 2007 abatement applications that qualify for an exemption under NDCC § 57-02-08(20b) and reduce the True and Full Values as follows. Motion carried.

- 03-1904-00001-002 Brenda Rakoczy from \$16,000 to \$2,100
- 44-1105-00059-000 Robert Humble from \$58,500 to \$24,100
- 44-1208-00092-003 Thomas Aaker from \$67,700 to \$29,700
- 44-2212-00021-001 Henry Passmore from \$76,300 to \$28,600
- 44-2312-00030-025 Daniel Nichols from \$36,000 to \$15,700
- 44-3310-00015-000 Stanley Johnson from \$44,600 to \$20,600
- 44-2201-00061-000 John & Inga McDonald from \$139,900 to \$84,600
- 44-2204-00061-000 Nicholas & Florence Ruhland from \$122,300 to \$65,800
- 44-3310-00011-000 William Moore from \$138,800 to \$66,800

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to approve overtime for two employees in the Tax Equalization Office to participate in the National Passport Day and to be open on Saturday, March 28 from 10:00am to 3:00pm to issue passports. Motion carried.

Bridgie Hansen, Law Enforcement Fitness Coordinator, presented additional information regarding the Law Enforcement Fitness results. This will be placed on the agenda for April 7, 2009 for discussion.

Bret Burkholder, Correctional Center Administrator, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to afford GF County Correctional Center Federal Transport Officers the opportunity to purchase a Glock G22 sidearm from Grand Forks County via a lease/purchase agreement to be written into Corrections policy in the same manner GFSO deputies may under section G5C of GF County Sheriff's "Firearms - General" policy. Payment for the sidearm to be through payroll deductions over a period of 13 months. Should an employee leave employment with Grand Forks County, any remaining balance owed will be deducted from their final paycheck. Motion carried.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, addressed the board regarding the Betty Benson Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Betty Benson addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to allow the Chair to sign the Hazard Mitigation Grant for Betty Benson (Kersten) based on approval given on September 7, 2004. Motion carried.

Mr. Magnuson said the hearing on Senate Bill 2027 went well.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to allow the Chair to sign the 2008 Annual Report for Grand Forks County Storm Water Prevention Program. Motion carried.

Chairman Murphy appointed Commissioner Schmisek to the Economic Development Corporation Committee.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Knauf, to refund the discount of \$126.71 on parcel number 14-2703-00003-001 to Mr. Thomas Zeidlik. Motion carried.

Debbie Nelson will forward the letter from the North Dakota Department of Transportation regarding the Director's Task Force Transportation Enhancement Projects American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to the County Engineer and the Grand Forks County Water Board.

The Building Committee will work with the States Attorney to draft a policy on alcohol usage on County property.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:21pm. The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2009.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor