

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

April 21, 2009 – 4:00 P.M

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

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the order of the agenda adding FEMA after item number 7. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: employee status change for Julie Lee; bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check# 138970-139247 in the amount of \$896,969.82; overtime; bond for check reissue; Grand Forks County Veterans Service Office Report and Game of Chance Permits for Forks Rifle Club and Kem Shrine. Motion carried.

Diane Blair, Base Realignment Impact Committee Coordinator, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the Chair's signature on the Agreement for Professional Consulting Services with Praxis Strategy Group. Motion carried.

Barb Zavala, Veterans Service Officer, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to circulate the proposed County Alcohol Policy to all groups that use the County Office Building and this item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Motion carried.

Jim Campbell, Emergency Management Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the Chair's signature on the Joint Powers Agreement for 2009 Emergency Flood Fight with Grand Forks City effective March 25, 2009. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chair's signature on the Mutual Aid Agreement with the University of North Dakota effective March 25, 2009. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to authorize Jim Campbell to coordinate with applicable State Officials to draft a grant proposal to be submitted to FEMA that would allow the County to hire a coordinator to assist Grand Forks County residents with their mitigation efforts. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell said a Public Hearing to receive input from residents of Grand Forks County on the 5 year Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan will be held Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 6:00pm in the basement of the Grand Forks City Police Department.

Mr. Campbell said currently there are no funds available for hazard mitigation grants. As this disaster proceeds the State will brief political subdivisions and private citizens on the application requirements and eligible mitigation projects.

Mr. Campbell has made a request to the US Army Corp of Engineers for the Corp to come in and remove sandbags from public and private property. We have not had a response back from them

yet. If the Corp does not agree to remove the sandbags it would be an eligible item for FEMA under debris removal. If the County does it under debris removal the sandbags have to be moved to a public street.

Vernon Andrews, FEMA Political Relations, said they currently have a team in Grand Forks County trying to find people who have had damages from the flood. As of yesterday they have had 42 individuals registered with FEMA for individual assistance.

Frank Matejcek, 4150 North Columbia Road, addressed the board regarding flooding in Falconer Township and reimbursement for those that used clay instead of sand for flood protection.

Terry Longtin, 4496 North Columbia Road, addressed the board regarding three areas that he would like the board to consider: the County should have an emergency plan, so they know at certain water levels when roads will close and when Sandbag Central will open; reimbursement of clay for flood protection and he likes the idea of a coordinator. He said we need to come up with a long term flood plan.

Jim Campbell addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to allow Jim Campbell to research how many clay dikes were built, how many Hesco barriers were used or any other means for flood protection and bring back the costs to the next meeting for consideration for reimbursement. Motion carried.

Commissioner Schmisek said individuals should not remove their sandbags until they have received word to do so because they could jeopardize their reimbursement from FEMA.

Kevin Pierce, 6473 East Lake Estates Association, thanked the Commission for their efforts to work with FEMA on mitigation projects.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to extend the junk abatement plan on the SW1/4 of section 33, Brenna Township from 12 months to 16 months. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the plat of Cain's Acres in the SW1/4 of section 33, Brenna Township with the following condition: the existing access locations be shown on the plat prior to the County Planning Department signing off on the plat. Motion carried.

Josie Olson, Minnkota Power, gave a power point presentation on the proposed transmission line project. Terry Fasteen, Kadrmass Lee & Jackson, talked about permitting and public involvement in the project.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, presented the County's purchasing/leasing policy that was approved March 4, 2003.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to give the Building Committee the authority to approve purchases up to \$5,000 on the Courthouse Boiler Project without prior County Board approval. Motion carried.

The Chair appointed Commissioner Schmisek, along with Peter Welte and Debbie Nelson, to study the issue of contracting court-appointed counsel for sexual dangerous commitment hearings for Grand Forks County and bring it back to the May 19, 2009 meeting.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chair's signature on the 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application after review by the States Attorney. Motion carried.

The Chair appointed Ed Nierode, Jim Campbell and Peter Welte to draft a notice to remind people not to remove their sandbags so quickly that they jeopardize their reimbursement from FEMA and any questions should be directed to the Emergency Management Office.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2009.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor