

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING  
September 2, 2014 – 4:00 P.M.

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

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014 County Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Malm, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #4630-4801 in the amount of \$1,566,109.00; employee status changes for Rick Czapiewski, Wilfred Kooser, Raquel Lindseth, Julie Heuchert and Shelly Scholand; and overtime. Motion carried unanimously.

Heath Erickson and Emmanuel Conduah from the State Auditor's Office presented the 2013 Audited Financial Statements.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to approve the 2013 Audited Financial Statements. Motion carried unanimously.

Todd Blixit, ICON Architectural Group, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to accept ICON Architectural Group's proposal to conduct a space utilization study to determine the best efficiencies for housing current County and State departments within the Courthouse and the County Office Building. The County will be billed at an hourly rate not to exceed \$72,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Nick West, Highway County Engineer, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to lower the speed limit on the south 1.5 miles of county road 18 from 50 to 35 mph, unless negative comments received exceed positive comments by September 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Bridgie Hansen, Juvenile Detention Administrator, addressed the board.

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the proposal by the Department of Counseling Psychology & Community Services at UND to provide counseling and mental health services to the Grand Forks County Juvenile Detention Center at no cost to Grand Forks County, effective August 15, 2014 to May 15, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Brad Sherwood and Dean Opp gave an update on the Summer Performing Arts program.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, presented the 2015 Preliminary Budget. The September 16, 2014 Grand Forks County Commission Meeting will be held at 5:00pm.

Dawn Keely, Red River Regional Council Executive Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve the 2015 Preliminary Budget and to set the public hearing on the final budget for September 16, 2014 at 6:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to pay one half of \$16,583.80 to Grand Forks City for snow hauling as long as Grand Forks City contributes half. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murphy requested a RFP be drafted by Peter Welte and Debbie Nelson for parking ramp maintenance for the 2014/2015 season for review at the September 16, 2014 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Malm will ask Brian Purcell, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, regarding power washing the parking ramp.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to appoint Commissioner Knauf to purchase a door prize for the North Dakota Association of Counties Convention, not to exceed \$100. Motion carried unanimously.

There will be a Special Commission meeting on September 9, 2014 at 1:00pm to consider the Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Committee (NAAAC) proposal submitted by Ducks Unlimited (DU) to the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner requesting to purchase a piece of land in Grand Forks County.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Knauf, to approve the following resolution:

**2013-02. Conservation Ballot Measure**

North Dakota has a long history of dedicating resources for conservation, recreation, and wildlife preservation. In 2013 the Legislature dedicated oil and gas tax revenues up to \$15 million per year for this purpose. Some wildlife groups, however, are now seeking a state constitutional amendment to create a trust with an additional 5% of this revenue with no upper limit. Already more than half of all oil and gas tax revenue is dedicated for various purposes, greatly limiting the Legislature's ability to use this revenue to address the state and local infrastructure needs throughout North Dakota and particularly in those areas impacted by oil and gas production. Grand Forks County Commission, therefore, opposes this proposed constitutional amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

The letters of support for a Grand Forks County Emergency Response Center approved August 19, 2014 are on hold until further notice.

Moved by Knauf, seconded by Schmisek, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:14pm. The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2014 at 5:00pm.

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William Murphy, Chairman  
Grand Forks County Commission

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Debbie Nelson, County Auditor