

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

January 20, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Knauf, Malm, Schmisek, Pic and Falck present. Commissioner Pic attended the meeting at 4:01pm.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Malm, to approve the order of the agenda, adding Allen Madson, Highway Department, after item 9. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #6808-7102 in the amount of \$1,005,614.28 and purchasing card transactions in the amount of \$22,434.01; employee status changes for Delicia Glaze, Sally Grosgebauer and Nessa Schrank; approve the following securities as pledged: Alerus Financial, \$288,521,525.00; Bremer Bank, \$2,941,841.50; Choice Financial Group, \$2,300,000; First State Bank, \$1,000,000 and Wells Fargo Bank, \$31,925,135.45; and out-of-state travel for Social Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Arneson, Northwood Public School Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chair's signature on a letter of support for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant for Northwood Public School. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Schill, Grand Forks Library Board President, and Pete Haga, GF Community/Gov't Relations Officer, addressed the board regarding an ordinance that is before the Grand Forks City Council to change the size of the Grand Forks Library Board to include a Grand Forks County Commissioner.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to support the change in the Grand Forks Library Board and appreciate Grand Forks City Council consideration of this ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

Amber Gudajtes, Tax Equalization Director, recommended no change in the agricultural land values for 2015.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board regarding a GIS Permit Fee complaint.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to receive and file the GIS Permit Fee complaint. Motion carried unanimously.

Nick West, County Engineer, addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to request ND Department of Transportation to provide additional safety features to the railroad crossing east of Larimore and Grand Forks County will cover 5% of the total cost of the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Allen Madson, Highway Department, asked if there were any updates about the grievances that were filed on December 18, 2014. Peter Welte, States Attorney, said the appeal hearing has not

been closed. The Commission is waiting for additional information, after the information is received, the appeal hearing will be continued.

Mr. Madson said they should have received a written response from the Commission regarding their grievances, according to Policy 105-26, Step Three. Chair Knauf said no decision has been made at this point, because the appeal hearing is on hold.

Sheriff Rost addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Falck, to approve the Chair's, Auditor's and Sheriff's signatures on the City of Grand Forks/County of Grand Forks Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve out-of-state travel for Sheriff Rost to attend the FBI National Academy Annual Training Conference in Seattle, Washington, July 11-14, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to receive and file the 2014 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Debbie Nelson presented the current organizational chart.

Debbie Nelson explained the IRS Publication 15(b) noncash fringe benefit requirements.

Tom Ford, BRIC/EUL Coordinator, informed the board that there will be a commemorating ceremony on February 18, 2015 at the Grand Forks Air Force Base for the signing of the Enhanced Use Lease Site Development Lease.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to send notice, to all individuals that are currently renting a parking spot in the Grand Forks County parking ramp, regarding the dripping problem that is uncorrectable in the parking ramp. The individuals will be notified of an alternative free parking lot located to the west of the River's Edge building. If individuals, currently renting a parking spot, choose not to continue to use the ramp they will be refunded any prepaid parking fee. If individuals continue to park in the parking ramp it will be at their own risk. Motion carried with Malm, Schmisek, Pic and Falck voting aye, Knauf voted nay.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, presented a State of the States Attorney's Office report.

The interviews for the States Attorney position will begin at 8:45am, instead of 8:30am on Friday, January 23, 2015. Each of the four interviews will be scheduled for 45 minutes each.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board.

Mr. Nierode will schedule a teleconference meeting with Fox, Lawson & Associates as soon as possible.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to pay 50% of the cost for a reception for the signing of the 331 Initiative Charter on February 17, 2015 at the Gorecki Alumni Center, up to \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Falck, to cost share with Fargo, Minot and Grand Forks for the ND National Guard Reception in Washington, DC. Grand Forks County will contribute 50% of the Grand Forks share. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nierode said Tom Ford has done a marvelous job on the February 17th and 18th ceremonies.

The duties of the Director of Administration position will be on the agenda February 3, 2015.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:14pm. The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2015.

Diane Knauf, Chair
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor