

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

April 7, 2015 – 2:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Knauf, Schmisek, Pic and Falck present. Commissioner Pic attended at 2:11pm. Commissioner Malm was absent.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Falck, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Falck, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #8017-8223 in the amount of \$755,441.57; employee status changes for Jessica Bruns, Naomi Eggl, Daryl Lund, Meredith Larson and Katrina Johnson Strasner; overtime, Beer License for Grand Forks Gun Club, County Deeds on parcels 05-4601-00041-000, 48-0001-00033-000, 45-0001-00062-000, 45-2301-00009-000 and 45-1201-00013-000; game of chance permit for UND Wildlife Society; County Agreement for Construction of Federal Aid Project and bond for check reissue. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Rost addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Falck, to approve the following Fire Emergency and Burn Ban:

FIRE EMERGENCY AND BURN BAN
FOR
GRAND FORKS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

April 7th, 2015

WHEREAS, Grand Forks County North Dakota is under abnormally dry conditions; and

WHEREAS, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being and safety of citizens in Grand Forks County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of response and the inordinate equipment wear may be far in excess of available county resources; and

WHEREAS, this burn ban does not include the City of Grand Forks

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Grand Forks County Commissioners declares a fire emergency and the institution of a Burn Ban for Grand Forks County, North Dakota until further notice. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WILLFULLY VIOLATES THIS BURN BAN IS GUILTY OF A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR, WHICH CARRIES A PENALTY OF UP TO THIRTY (30) DAYS IN JAIL AND A \$1,000.00 FINE PER INCIDENT, AS WELL AS THE COST FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION.

DATED at Grand Forks County, North Dakota this 7th day of April, 2015, and signed by all Grand Forks County Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Rost asked how the County would like to proceed with an abandoned tower on a one acre parcel in Moraine Township. Stone's Mobile Radio will knock the tower down. David Jones and Debbie Nelson were asked to research the law to see if the County would be allowed to offer the property to the adjoining property owner or if we must go through the bidding process. They were asked to bring the information back to a future meeting.

Commissioner Pic joined the meeting.

Mark Schill, Praxis Strategy Group and Bret Weber, UND Professor of Social Work, Grand Forks City Council Member and Blue Ribbon Commission Co-Chair gave an update on the Blue Ribbon Commission on social infrastructure.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to continue to have a County Commissioner participate as a representative on the Blue Ribbon Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Ross and Carol Weiler, 701 N 3rd St, Grand Forks, addressed the board, regarding the scope of work on a cleanup on their rural Grand Forks County property in December 2010.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Commission Falck recused himself because he was an Assistant States Attorney at the time this occurred.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to direct David Jones and Lane Magnuson to answer Ross and Carol Weiler's questions, if Mr. and Mrs. Weiler are not satisfied with the response they are welcome to come back to the Commission. Motion carried with Knauf, Schmisek and Pic voting aye.

Nick West, County Engineer, addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the low bid of \$467,572 from ICS for a Highway Department 76' x 150' storage building, approve the Chair's signature on the contract after review by the States Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Falck, seconded by Schmisek, to allow the Highway Department to seek bids for two pickups, with one trade-in. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to amend the Grand Sky Administrative Fees line item in the BRIC/EUL Department budget by \$77,000 and pay the Kutak Rock, LLP the following invoices: December 2014 for \$17,339.10, January 2015 for \$40,536.80 and February 2015 for \$18,612.13. Motion carried unanimously.

David Jones, States Attorney, addressed the board.

Debbie Nelson will schedule a meeting to discuss the results of the Gallagher Benefit Services study, a Human Resources Department and the Director of Administration job description.

Deb Davis, Northeast Human Service Center Alcohol & Drug Services Director, said Northeast Human Service Center believes a joint social detox meeting would be a good idea.

Bret Weber, Grand Forks City Council Member, would support the idea of City Council Members being involved in a joint social detox meeting.

The County will schedule a joint social detox meeting with County Commissioners, City Council Members, Northeast Human Services Center, UND and Altru.

Commissioner Falck asked Council Member Bret Weber to find out before the joint meeting, if a ½ cent sales tax on alcohol could be used to fund the detox center. Council Member Weber said he believes that is not allowed by state law.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the amended Contract for Defense Service with Schuman Law Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Falck, seconded by Pic, to accept the Court Facilities Improvement Grant award for new carpeting and counters in the District Court offices in the Courthouse. The project will cost \$44,490, 75% will be reimbursed by the Court Facilities Improvement Grant and the 25% local share will be paid from Capital Improvement line item in the General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

The Service Dogs for America presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Falck, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2015 at 4:00pm.

Diane Knauf, Chair
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor