

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

The final November meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Cottingham. Present were Commissioners Cottingham, Steve Lee, and Barry Suydam. Also present was Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, Auditor Beth A. Knutson, and Deputy Auditor Nancy Leidholm.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Highway Superintendent Jim Grey was present with an update on department operations. He reported with weather holding out crews will continue to blade until they can't as well as do some tree work and sign replacing.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to approve two utilities permit requests from West River Telecommunications of Hazen to bore under County Road 33 to install and maintain BF0-4 fiber cable telecommunications facilities to serve McLean /Sheridan Rural Water's new pump house. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Grey requested to purchase a 2012 half-ton pickup with less than 50,000 miles on it from ND Surplus Property for \$7,000.00. The pickup is a four-wheel drive, four-door extended cab. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Suydam, to authorize the purchase of a 2012 Chevy pickup from ND Surplus Property in the amount of \$7,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Grey reported that 63,680 tons of gravel were crushed at the Johnson Pit. Discussion followed regarding payment of Sundre Sand and Gravel. Knutson is okay with zeroing out the gravel budget for 2020 to pay off the majority of the crushing bill and paying the remaining balance out of the 2021 budget. Discussion followed.

Knutson clarified that the hearing for the Blue Flint Ethanol property tax exemption request scheduled for the December 1, 2020, commission meeting will actually be held at the December 8, 2020, commission meeting due to the previous rescheduling of the December meetings.

Knutson informed the commission of the legislative redistricting to be done in 2021 due to the 2020 Census. She plans to visit with other county auditors that have done this in the past on how to go about it. Meetings will be held the end of January.

Knutson discussed a request from the Washburn Rural Fire Department to purchase a truck at the state bid price and then sell the truck to the department saving them \$8,000.00. Knutson was instructed to visit with other auditors, NDACo, and State's Attorney Ladd Erickson to determine the legality of it. Lee feels it would be a benefit to tax payers.

Knutson requested the commission approve any remaining properties from today's tax sale be offered at a cost of one dollar plus recording fees to each of the cities in which the properties are located.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to offer any unsold properties from today's tax sale at a cost of one dollar plus recording fees to each of the cities in which the properties are located. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Suydam presented a Bill of Sale for the rescue boat and trailer to the Garrison Fire Department for signing.

Knutson presented Certificates of Election for signing for the following positions: Steve Cottingham as County Commissioner District One and Barry Suydam as County Commissioner District Three.

Knutson notified the board that Deputy Auditor Nancy Leidholm will be retiring effective December 1, 2020 and her last day of work will be on November 30, 2020.

A distinguished service certificate was signed by the board recognizing retiring employee, Nancy Leidholm, for 17 years of service to McLean County.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to authorize advertising for a Deputy Auditor for the Auditor's office. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried. Knutson hopes to advertise and fill the position by January 1, 2021.

Brief discussion was held regarding road improvements on a portion of 50th Avenue NW.

NDSU West District Director Jim Gray and County Agent Courtney Hoikkala joined the meeting to inform the commission that the North Dakota 4-H Foundation is raising money to build an outdoor dining patio at the North Dakota 4-H Camp in honor of former County Extension Agents ElRoy Haadem and Pat Carpentier. The goal is to raise \$25,000.00 hoping to begin construction the summer of 2021. Hoikkala stated that Great River Energy has donated the concrete for the project. Discussion followed.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve a \$1,000.00 donation for the memorial. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Knutson explained the process of the election recount for the South McLean Soil Conservation District happening tomorrow in the commission chambers.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to nominate and elect Barry Suydam to Commission Chairperson effective December 1, 2020. Nominations ceased and those present cast a unanimous ballot for Suydam. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Cottingham, to nominate and elect Steve Lee to Commission Vice-Chairperson effective December 1, 2020. Nominations ceased and those present cast a unanimous ballot for Lee. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

State’s Attorney Ladd Erickson and First District Health Nurse Pam Fischer joined the meeting.

The commission discussed the township meetings scheduled for January of 2021 with Lee being inclined to doing them virtually instead of in person. Discussion followed.

State’s Attorney Ladd Erickson was present to update the commission on Coal Creek Station stating that Lieutenant Governor Brent Sanford is optimistic that answers will come in the next weeks. Policy makers are in favor of keeping coal operational. Erickson stated that the potential buyer has plans to come in and over time expand the operation into an energy park with coal as the core, providing power to two grids, with supplemental side businesses. A formal offer was made to Great River Energy last week, noting that though it’s still not a done deal, he doesn’t see anything that’s not solvable. Erickson stated that Senator Hoeven, along with the Sanford have been doing a lot of the ground work and are very optimistic that a deal will get put together and be announced. He informed the commission that the outcome of the election will not affect this deal. Erickson feels the new owner will look at things differently out there, but it’s a base business they can build upon and wants the county to be open and flexible.

Next, Erickson continued the discussion as to how to best utilize available office space. He presented two options.

- 1. Remodeling part of the existing Social Services office to create a new Extension office, presenting several options for construction to make the area suitable.
- 2. Rent office space downtown to house the Extension office with the landlord willing to remodel the space to fit their needs.

Discussion followed. Gray explained that Extension is built on a partnership with the county. We don’t dictate where we are put but have attributes of space needed adding that it’s not just the square footage, but the type of space:

- Safe and secure
- Adequate storage
- Privacy
- Video conferencing
- Social distancing
- Meeting space
- Easy public access
- Prep space
- Reliable high-speed network

Cottingham stated that these requirements are not a unique list and other departments need to be balanced as well. The commissioners, Erickson, and Gray will visit the two sites after today’s meeting.

Courthouse closure due to COVID-19 numbers was briefly discussed with the commission deciding to keep the doors open for business, maintaining the mask mandate and social distancing, and recommending that an ad be placed in the county newspaper so that the public is aware of the requirements.

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Chairperson Cottingham reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Moved by Suydam, seconded by Lee, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

CHECK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
D484	NANCY S LEIDHOLM	TRAVEL	71.74
D485	CURT MALO	NOVEMBER CELL PHONE	30.00
D486	CURT MALO	GAS TO PICK UP ELECTION EQUIPMENT	30.08
D487	LESLIE M HULTBERG	REIMBURSE HEALTH INSURANCE	6,074.67
D488	ANNA SIX	REIMBURSE HAND SANITIZER, CLEAR KITCHEN CONTAINERS, DIABETIC TEST STRIPS	56.92
D489	RYAN OBERG	NOVEMBER CELL PHONE	30.00
A303725	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	PARTS, OIL	1,322.68
A303726	WILTON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	TANK LEASE	2.00
A303727	GARRISON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	GREASE MOLYPLEX	88.32
A303728	GARRISON CITY	GARBAGE/WATER	51.70
A303729	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	HOSE FITTINGS, BULK HOSE	83.72

A303730	ERIC JOHNSON	GRAVEL ROYALTY	63,688.00
A303731	MAX FARM SERVICES	FUEL	2,990.24
A303732	MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT LLC	PARTS	1,510.97
A303733	MDU	WASHBURN, TURTLE LAKE, MAX & GARRISON SHOPS	354.43
A303734	NAPA AUTO PARTS GARRISON	PARTS	12.10
A303735	ND SURPLUS PROPERTY OMB	TOOLBOX	150.00
A303736	WAGON WHEEL LUMBER INC	PARTS	60.58
A303737	ARMOR INTERACTIVE	SHERIFF DATTA NAS – DECEMBER; SERVER BACKUP DEVICES – DECEMBER; 45 NODES - DECEMBER	1,700.00
A303738	CHASE DRUG STORE	INMATE MEDICAL – SHERIFF	189.34
A303739	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	GARBAGE BAGS, TOILET PAPER	143.75
A303740	DOCS SHOP	ROTATE TIRES, WIPERS, BRAKES, OIL CHANGES – SHERIFF	1,963.13
A303741	DS SOLUTIONS	PRE-MARKED TEST DECK	200.00
A303742	CALANDRIA JARBOE EDWARDS	NOVEMBER CELL PHONE	30.00
A303743	ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE	CODING SERVICES LAYOUT; CODING – AUDIO EXPRESS VOTE; CODING - STICKS	3,995.42
A303744	WILTON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	GASOLINE – SHERIFF	203.67
A303745	GARRISON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	TIRE REPAIR – SHERIFF	22.00
A303746	FRONTIER FLORAL	FLOWERS FOR FLOWER CLASS – COUNTY AGENT	136.00
A303747	GOOD SOURCE SOLUTIONS	INMATE MEALS	454.00
A303748	GRIMSLEYS EXHAUST AND FUELS	GASOLINE – SHERIFF	24.00
A303749	COURTNEY HOIKKALA	NOVEMBER CELL PHONE, NDEAFCS STATE AND NATIONAL DUES	145.00
A303750	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	T-1 LINE ACCESS, ACTIVE DIRECTORY USER FEES, VPN, EXCHANGE EMAIL ACCOUNTS, AZURE AD PLAN 2, VESTA 911 INSTALL, NET MOTION LERM USER FEES	27,760.90
A303751	KENS BODY SHOP	IMPOUNDS – SHERIFF	1,125.00
A303752	TERRY KOLDEN	PUMP COUNTY VAULTS, FISH CLEANING STATIONS	800.00
A303753	KRAUSES MARKET	INMATE MEALS – SHERIFF	100.15
A303754	LEXIPOL LLC	ANNUAL POLICY MANUAL – SHERIFF	3,742.00
A303755	LIGHT AND SIREN	PARTITIONS – SHERIFF	4,360.90
A303756	L-TRON CORPORATION	THERMAL PAPER ROLLS – SHERIFF	172.00
A303757	MIDAMERICAN RESEARCH CHEM	DISINFECTANT	133.66
A303758	MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT LLC	BELTS FOR AIR HANDLER	19.66
A303759	MCLEAN COUNTY AUDITOR	OCTOBER POSTAGE – COUNTY AGENT	31.35
A303760	MDU	COURTHOUSE, LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	253.98
A303761	MHA DRUG ENFORCEMENT	K-9 EQUIPMENT	7,889.85
A303762	MIDCONTINENT CABLE CO	CABLE TV – LEC	110.16
A303763	NAPA AUTO PARTS GARRISON	ANTIFREEZE – PARK	61.20
A303764	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	NDAAO CONFERENCE FEES	250.00
A303765	NORTH DAKOTA 4H FOUNDATION	DONATION – CARPENTIER/ELROY	1,000.00
A303766	ND SECRETARY OF STATE	NOTARY NAME CHANGE – SMITH	10.00
A303767	NORTHERN PLAINS EQUIPMENT CO	MOWER BLADES – PARK	65.22
A303768	PHARMCHEM INC	SWEAT PATCH ANALYSIS – SHERIFF	199.65
A303769	PRESORT PLUS	POSTAGE – ELECTIONS	204.45
A303770	SRT COMMUNICATIONS INC	LINE RECORD/TRANSPORT-MILE	694.08
A303771	TURTLE LAKE MAIN ST MARKET	INMATE MEALS – SHERIFF	4,651.83
A303772	TURTLE LAKE DENTAL	INMATE DENTAL – SHERIFF	636.00
A303773	UNIFORM CENTER	DEPUTY UNIFORM – SHERIFF	471.00
A303774	UNICOM	UNITS S-15/S-21 REMOVE & INSTALL EQUIPMENT	3,832.35
A 303775	WATER PURITY INC	WATER DELIVERED – LEC	77.00
A 303776	WEISZ SONS INC	APPLICATION #4 – PAINTED WOODS OVERFLOW – WATER BOARD	191,566.30
A 303777	WEST RIVER TELECOMM	911 TRUNKING RECURRING	494.36

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee, and Cottingham. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Chairperson, Steve Cottingham

Deputy Auditor, Nancy Leidholm