

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The second regular February meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Curt Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Computer Operations Director Lori Foss; and Director of Disaster Emergency Services Noelle Kroll.

Foss presented two quotes for laptops. The first one was from NRG Technology Services to purchase a replacement laptop for Sportsmens Centennial Park including software for \$2,007.21. The second one was from Group Mobile Int'l to purchase seven Toughbook laptops for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$17,785.46. Foss stated that both quotes are below the budgeted amount.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to authorize purchase of the laptop and software in the amount of \$2,007.21 from NRG Technology Services. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to authorize purchase of seven ToughBook laptops from Group Mobile Int'l in the amount of \$17,785.46. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll presented materials for an Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop (IPPW). Kroll requested permission to identify five to seven threats, hazards, and risks for McLean County. Discussion followed. Kroll identified seven items included armed assault, epidemic (human and livestock related), dam failure, hazardous materials release, utility disruption, cybersecurity, and train derailment. Commission was in agreeance with the selection.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the IPPW request as presented with addition of cybersecurity. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll invited the commissioners to the Fire Chief's meeting scheduled on the evening of March 12, 2025 at the courthouse. Discussion followed.

Grey presented an update of department operations reporting that the good weather has allowed them to start blading and not just focus on washboard areas. Discussion followed.

Grey asked that an expansion of the Washburn shop area be considered. He stated they are running out of room and when the temps are low the equipment should be stored inside. Knutson stated that the CD interest fund is a possible way to fund the expansion. Discussion followed.

Knutson stated that one taxpayer has paid taxes under protest however was not able to be present at this meeting. She provided information on the two parcels being disputed to the commissioners. Discussion will be held at a later meeting when the taxpayer and Tax Equalization Director Todd Schreiner can be present.

Knutson presented the 2026 budget calendar. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the 2026 budget calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Lee recessed the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Chairman Lee reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

State's Attorney Ladd Erickson, Susan Kilian, Darlene Bitz, Sheila Bernhardt, Claudia Volk, Pat Bernhardt, Dennis Ness, Gary Blatchford, Tim Martin, Mary Anseth, and Jody Gullickson joined the meeting.

Erickson stated that he was present to discuss the concerns of the Senior Citizens Clubs in the county. He also stated that he attended the past quarterly meeting of the Commission on Aging in Hazen and that the next meeting is April 16, 2025 at the Senior Center in Underwood.

Erickson asked those in attendance to discuss their concern with the lack of access to transportation using the West River Transportation bus that is funded with money levied on the county taxpayers. All Senior Citizen Clubs agree that they do not want to lose the transportation service but would like a better system in place with more accountability and recordkeeping by West River Transportation. Discussion followed.

Erickson stated he would like to have a policy added by the Board of the Commission on Aging that requires financials to be sent to each board member no later than 10 days prior to each meeting. He stated that the board members need this information to make informed decisions when reviewing applications for funds from each of the Senior Citizens Clubs. He also stated that the groups are not aware of the funds available to them and this would allow the board members to share this information with their respective club. Erickson also stated that an audit should be performed so that all financials are correct moving forward. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to require that the board members of the Commission on Aging receive quarterly financials no less than ten days prior to each meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Erickson stated that their final concern to address was lack of access to their Senior Centers. The clubs own these buildings and should be able to access them at any time. Erickson also stated that communication regarding Meals on Wheels food preparation needs to be better. Discussion followed

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Lynda Snyder, Administrative Assistant