McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

The first regular June 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 Curtis Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke; Director of Disaster Emergency Services Noelle Kroll; Hayden Kautt; Robyn Klabunde; Rita and Tom Hoff; Rick Walker; and Sandi Erber.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 20, 2025, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll presented a proposal for Heartland Consulting Group, LLC in the amount of $7,950.00 to conduct a Full-Scale Active Shooter Exercise in Wilton. She stated that payment for this exercise will be made with grant funds previously received. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the presented proposal pending state approval of the exercise. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kroll gave an update on current and upcoming activities of the Disaster Emergency Services Department. Discussion followed.

Grey provided a department update stating that blade work has been a challenge with all of the rain but graveling has started and will continue for quite some time.

Grey discussed a request received for a sign on County Road (CR) 8. The taxpayer asked that a 25-mph sign be installed prior to going around the curve. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that he has been looking at purchasing a 15-foot John Deere mower. He stated that they are built heavier and the parts are easily available in the United States. Discussion followed.

Grey presented a quote from RDO Equipment Co in the amount of $22,000 for a 2023 V Plow attachment. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve purchasing the V Plow as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey informed the board of a 2006 plow truck up for online bid at the state auction. The Commissioners previously approved this purchase. Discussion followed.

Grey presented a boring permit request for RTC Networks to bore 1.25-inch HDPE plastic conduit to 14th St NW between 50th and 51st Ave NW. Discussion followed.

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

Representatives of Blackwater Township opened up discussion regarding the roads in Blackwater Township and who is responsible for road maintenance. Grey and Verke agreed that nothing has been documented in writing and going forward all decisions need to be addressed in Commission minutes. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to authorize the county to maintain all roads currently maintained in the Blackwater Township for the remainder of 2025 with the township taking over in 2026. Grey stated that the Highway Department will coordinate the transition with Blackwater Township. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner, Assistant Director of Tax Equalization Elizabeth Patterson, and Property Assessor Ryan Oberg joined the meeting.

Chairperson Lee recessed the regular McLean County Commission meeting at 9:04 for the McLean County Tax Equalization Meeting.

Schreiner discussed the most recent property assessment showing 90-100% of the real estate market must be assessed. He explained that with new construction throughout the county and an increase of 5% for residential structure values and 3% for commercial structure values the department was in compliance with the sales ratio study done for 2025. Schreiner also stated that agriculture real estate values decreased ½ to 1% as presented by the state and NDSU Extension. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the recommendation for a residential real estate sales ratio of 96.9%. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the recommendation for a commercial real estate sales ratio of 96.7%. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the recommendation for agriculture real estate values as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Hoff, Erber and Walker were present to express their concerns with the increases to their assessed value. Discussion followed.

Schreiner commended Oberg and Patterson for their work in identifying and correcting discrepancies in 2025 property values. Discussion followed.

Lee adjourned the McLean County Tax Equalization Meeting and reconvened the regular McLean County Commission Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the three-year agreement with Vanguard as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Lee recessed the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Chairperson Lee reconvened the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Knutson presented a proposal for installation of flooring, including demolition, in the Dispatch area of the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) in the amount of $14,528.00. Building Maintenance has funds budgeted for this project.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the bid to replace the flooring in the Dispatch area in the amount of $14,528.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the following police contracts for signatures: City of Washburn 2026; amended City of Wilton 2025 and 2026; and City of Butte 2025. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending May 31, 2025. The total public deposits were $23,466,500.64 and the total pledged securities were $28,192,178.53 with an overage of $4,725,677.89.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Dakota Central Human Service Zone (DCHSZ) Transfer of Funds resolutions and the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds resolution. Roll Call: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

DCHSZ Transfer of Funds and McLean County Sweep Account Transfer of Funds resolutions are on file in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to appoint Sarah Chase to the McLean-Mercer Regional Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder for the month of May in the amount of $9,834.90.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff for the month of May in the amount of $2,093.00.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than $4,000.00 showing 52 taxpayers owing $527,263.37 in back taxes.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, 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: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson reminded the board that the McLean County Sheriff's Auction is set for June 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the Garrison County Shop. She also stated that the review of budgets will begin at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at https://www.mcleancountynd.gov.

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Steve Lee, Chairperson Lynda Snyder, Administrative Assistant