

Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

February 19, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chair Weppler at 9:04 a.m. with Commissioners Fjeldahl, Rostad, Walter and Pietsch present. Also present were department heads Amanda Schooling, Dana Larsen, Derrill Fick, Devra Smestad, Ellen Bjelland, Jason Blowers, John Crosby, Leona Lochthowe, Melissa Bliss, Roza Larson, Robin Finneseth, Ryan Kamrowski and Robert Roed.

Moved by Comm Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Walter to approve the agenda with additions. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by. Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Walter to approve the Minutes from the Regular Commission Meeting on February 5, 2019. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the Regular bills totaling \$7,493,457.98 and Social Service bills totaling \$3,434.89. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Walter to contact Adolfson and Peterson Construction JLG Architects to set up a final meeting date regarding the completion of jail expansion. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to table the request from Brad Darr-NDDOT regarding the registration from Dixon Brothers for a 129,000 pound Route Permit as no one was present and no information was given to the commission. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

City of Minot Finance Director, David Lakefield appeared regarding the City of Minot request to acquire foreclosed property at 1004 3rd Ave NW. There was a brief discussion regarding the value of the property, taxes owed and the condition the property currently is in. Auditor Devra Smestad cited State Statute 57-28-17 which allows the County Commission to sell the property to the City of Minot for an agreed upon price.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the City of Minot request to acquire property at a cost of the school district and park district taxes owed plus \$25.00 (\$750.00). Roll call; all voted yes, except Comm. Fjeldahl voted no. Motion carried.

Paul Olthoff- Detention Center appeared requesting approval for Contract for Medical treatment-Trinity Health and Contracts for Housing Prisoners-ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Burke County, McHenry County, City of Minot, City of Burlington, City of Surrey and City of Berthold.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve Contract for Medical Treatment-Trinity Health. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Pietsch, to approve Contract for Housing Prisoners- ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, increasing for \$65.57 to \$75.00 per day. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Walter to approve Contract for Housing Prisoner-Burke County, McHenry County, City of Minot, City of Burlington, City of Surrey and City of Berthold at \$60.00 per day. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve the bid for County Road 9A Grade Raise of five feet to Fardon Construction for \$251,594.55. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Emergency Management Director, Amanda Schooling appeared regarding the Community Rating System update for the City of Burlington. Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve Ward County Emergency Management to continue to work with the City of Burlington regarding their CRS. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Rostad to Receive and File, City of Burlington letter regarding public hearing for plat petition for John Keck. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

County Auditor/Treasurer Devra Smestad appeared.

Moved by Comm. Walter, Comm. Pietsch to Receive and File the following correspondence; Garrison Diversion- Recreation Grant Program, Corey Harvey- Offer to Purchase. Ryan Kamrowski- Response to Offer to Purchase; Leadership Training Brochure Comm. Fjeldahl received in the mail. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

The Commission discussed the email received from Curtis Olafson regarding opioid litigation opportunities. State's Attorney Roza Larson recommended the county not sign on to the opioid litigation, as Attorney General is handling this state wide.

Moved by Comm. Walter, seconded by Comm. Rostad to Receive and File the email received from Curtis Olafson regarding Opioid Litigation opportunities. Roll call, all voted yes, motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Walter to Receive and File the following monthly reports including financials: Recorder's Office, Sheriff's Department and Veteran's Services. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approved Gaming Site Authorization Amendment for American Foundation for Wild Life, who will be adding electronic pull tab machines. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Walter to Receive and File Vision West Membership information. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rostad, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the following payroll amendment: M.Cole-Sheriff's Department (level 18); S Richard-Sheriff's Department-Juvenile Detention (level 18); T. Allers-Sheriff's Department-Juvenile Detention (level 18); E Lee-State's Attorney (level 29); J.Mutchler-Tax Equalization (level 23). Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Walter to approve a 5% payroll increase for K. Dillon-State's Attorney's Office. Motion died due to lack of second.

Human Resource Director Robin Finneseth informed the Commission that the requested payroll amendment for K. Dillon is necessary due to change in her job duties and to retain her employment. Roza Larsen further stated the State's Attorney's Office is understaffed by four attorneys and will need to contract out. K. Dillion will be in charge of training and supervising these contracted attorneys.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the Payroll Amendment for K. Dillon. Roll call; all voted yes, except Comm. Walter who voted no; motion carried.

At 10:23 a.m. with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.