

County Commission Meeting November 3, 2015

The Sheridan County Commission met at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners present were Howard Erdmann, Steve Eisenbeisz, and Michael Axt. Others present: Sandy Blanes, McClusky Gazette reporter

Chairman Erdmann called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meetings were sent in mail and approved as sent.

The following Statement of fees were approved and submitted to their appropriate funds:

County Recorder, fees, \$1,100.00
Sheriff, fees, \$297.00

The miscellaneous receipts were collected for the following funds and were approved for the month of October, 2015:

General - \$79,892.68	Unorganized Rd - \$24,461.58
Secondary Road - \$680.00	County Road - \$475.17
Highway Dist. - \$19,667.03	County Park - \$635.00
County Ext. - \$190.00	911 - \$1,887.65

The October payroll warrants #65223-65251 were approved from the following funds:

General - \$26,337.87	Highway Dist. - \$23,114.48
County Park - \$322.50	Veteran Service Officer - \$428.75
County Agent - \$817.29	Weed Control - \$3,034.08
Civil Defense - \$591.58	911 - \$575.69
County Corrections - \$2,887.50	BCI - \$3,120.00

The following bills 65264-65321 were approved and ordered paid subject due to delinquent or any other indebtedness owing the County:

Ameripride Services Inc.,53.42;Bentz Supply Store,311.30; Shirley A. Murray,75.40; Howard Erdmann,167.62;WRT,1,186.79; N.D. Assoc. Of Counties, 25.00;Waste Management Of ND,484.32;Secretary Of State,2,077.05; Fireside Office Products, Inc.,76.04; Office Depot, 522.76;Birch Communications, Inc.,134.20; BHG, Inc.,547.49; McLean County Sheriff's Office, 1,980.00; US Postal Service,1,190.00; C-Store,10.91;Lawson Products,344.98;Marco, Inc., 140.00;Konschak Oil Inc.,2,366.95; McLean-Sheridan Rur. Water,51.07; Redwood Toxicology Lab,56.03;Post Board, 90.00; Best Western Plus Ramkota,480.60;Mechanics Plus,184.96;Bill Barth Ford,268.93;Dakota Central Social Services,17,380.75;Productivity Plus Acct.,1,878.19; Steve Eisenbeisz,121.80; Alvin Gross,15.00; David Berquist Septic Tank Ser.,360.00;Electronic Communications, Inc.,119.50;James Paulus,522.45;McClusky Merchants,100.00;NDTC, 29.24; Michael Axt,70.18; H.A. Thompson & Sons,8,512.50;Wex Bank, 251.15; Menards,9.98; HACTC, 65.00;Crop Production Service,1,536.50;Third Watch Comm,5,360.65; Grafix Shoppe, 415.59;Visa,419.52; McClusky City,32.00; Holen's Super Valu,245.13;Matthew Bender & Co. Inc.,503.71; Verizon Wireless,324.35;Orrin Holen,808.00;Ladd Erickson, 40.60;McLean Family Resource Center,475.00; Pharm Chem, Inc.,200.00;Deere Credit, Inc.,1,575.00; FFA,150.00; Ecolab Pest, 87.50;Tom & Mark Abrahamson,87.00;Medicine Hill Twp., 3,992.50

The following transfers were approved:

\$12,240.00, from Unorganized Rd. Dists. to Secondary Road for crushing gravel

Sheriff, Trent Naser, met with the board to discuss the emergency burn ban process and the issues trying to enforce it. Naser recommended continuing with the statewide rangeland burn ban that can be enforced. No grants were found for the radio repeater. It was moved by Commissioner Axt to approve purchasing a repeater for \$2,100.00, seconded by Commissioner Eisenbeisz. Upon roll call vote – Axt – yes, Eisenbeisz – yes, Erdmann – yes. Motion carried. Naser was inquiring about new computers in the Sheriff's vehicle being they are 6-7 years old and are at the end of their use. Naser requested purchasing a Panasonic Toughbook 53 (laptop) that is more reasonable price that McLean County deputies also have in the amount of \$2,285.00. It was moved by Commissioner Eisenbeisz to approve purchase of the Panasonic Toughbook, seconded by Commissioner Axt. Upon roll call vote – Eisenbeisz- yes, Axt – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

Dan and Jeanie Sobieck, landowners, met with the board to review the agenda and get info to better prepare for the upcoming public forum on road improvement funding and issues with the District #7 legislators on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the Courthouse community room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The time being 10:00 a.m. the bid letting for selecting grading, milling, widening, blended base, bituminous surfacing and chip sealing the 5 miles north of McClusky was conducted in the Courthouse Community Room. Wold Engineering representatives Herb Bargmann and John Martin were also present. The lowest to the highest bids were received from the following contractors:

Knife River Materials, Bemidji, MN -	\$2,945,298.79
Park Const., Minneapolis, MN -	\$2,963,461.14
Gratech Co., Berthold, ND -	\$3,073,901.60
Mayo Const. Co., Cavalier, ND -	\$3,073,956.97
Border States Paving, Inc., Fargo, ND -	\$3,198,985.75
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN -	\$3,222,854.51
Strata Corp, Grand Forks, ND -	\$3,291,272.97
Central Specialties, Inc., Alexandria, MN -	\$3,329,125.50

Herb Bargman and John Martin, Wold Engineering, met with the board to report that the bids were re-calculated and were correct on final totals submitted. The lowest bid was received from Knife River Materials, MN. It was moved by Commissioner Axt to approve the lowest bid of \$2,945,298.79 from Knife River materials, MN, seconded by Commissioner Eisenbeisz. Upon roll call vote- Axt – yes, Eisenbeisz – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Axt to authorize the Chairman to sign the DOT federal aid road form with no projects scheduled for federal aid in the next year, seconded by Commissioner Eisenbeisz. Upon roll call vote – Axt – yes, Eisenbeisz – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

The Auditor reported the Metlife Life Insurance and Disability premiums that the County provides as a benefit for County employees will see no increase for next year.

It was moved by Commissioner Eisenbeisz to retain the 2011 unspent disaster monies that will be documented to spend on hazard mitigation items by October 20th, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Axt. Upon roll call vote – Eisenbeisz – yes, Axt – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

Wayne Houston, Emergency Manger, met with the board to report the batteries in both the McClusky and Denhoff sirens are dead and need to be replaced. Houston recommended to replace batteries at \$126.95 each with each siren needing two batteries plus the installation cost. Costs will be taken out of the HPCR fund. Houston also reported he attended the table top emergency exercise workshop last week in Fargo.

The time being 1:30 p.m. the hearing on the appraisal of land forfeited to the County was held. There being no entities present the minimum sale prices were left as set. The forfeited land sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. November 17th, 2015.

The Auditor was instructed to apply a special assessment of \$62.50 for mowing weeds in 2014 along road right of way in the NE4 11-148-78.

The Auditor presented the new 2nd cut road mowing bills that will be sent out to the landowners this month.

The Auditor reported an ad for hiring the County Treasurer was sent to the McClusky Gazette with the closing date of accepting applications as of Friday, November 13th. The board will have a special meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 1:00 p.m. to interview County Treasurer applications.

Alvin Gross, Road Foreman, met with the board to discuss ordering the new 6 ton load restrictions signs in 18”x 24”size and going with 12’ telespar metal poles for installing the signs on instead of the wood poles. The board agreed with recommendations. Other road issues were discussed also.

There being no further business the meeting recessed until 1:00 p.m. November 17th.

Auditor

Chairman

Special County Commission Meeting November 17th, 2015

The Sheridan County Commission met at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners present were Howard Erdmann and Steven Eisenbeisz. Absent: Michael Axt.

Chairman Erdmann stated the purpose of the meeting was to appoint a County Treasurer and authorize the Chairman to sign County Deeds from the tax sale to the new owners.

The time being 1:15 p.m. the 1st applicant, Ruth Lindeken, was interviewed for the County Treasurer position.

The time being 1:30 p.m. the 2nd applicant, Lynnette Fox, was interviewed for the County Treasurer position.

The time being 2:00 p.m. the 3rd applicant, Wayne Houston, was interviewed for the County Treasurer position.

It was moved by Commissioner Eisenbeisz to appoint Lynnette Fox as the County Treasurer effective November 23rd 2015, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote- Eisenbeisz – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Eisenbeisz to authorize the Chairman and the County Auditor to sign off on the County Deeds to the highest bidders from the tax sale as follows:

Lots 5-6, Block 1, Original, Martin City, \$1,500.00, Gerald Hoglund

Lots 13-14-15, Block 1, Grethen's Addition, \$1,500.00, Dennis D. & Karen K. Kenschak

Lot 2, Block 1, West, Goodrich City, \$200.00, Kenneth J. Paulson

Lot 5, Block 18, Mauch's, Goodrich City, \$400.00, Kenneth J. Paulson

Seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Eisenbeisz – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Auditor

Chairman

Public Forum Meeting November 19, 2015

The time being 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Community room a public forum on rural road funding was conducted by moderators Daniel and Jeannie Sobieck, rural landowners in Sheridan County. County Commissioners Howard Erdmann and Steven Eisenbeisz were present. Absent: Michael Axt Others present were: Legislative #14 District representative, Jerry Klein, Jon Nelson, and Robin Wiesz; Pierce County Commissioners, Duane Johnston and Michael Christianson; Road Foreman, Alvin Gross; Blade operators, Michael Hoffman and Byron Belile; property owners, Norman & Lynnette Boehm, Elmer Laib, Jerone Sauter, Wayne Helm, James Haux, Jeff Martwick, Janice Erdmann, and McClusky Gazette Reporter, Sandy Blanes.

Daniel Sobieck introduced themselves that their background between the two of them consisted of 50 years of working with the public for the USDA offices. Mr. Sobieck presented the agenda and shared slides of photos of the road conditions from the spring in Sheridan County. The blade men spoke up that the sites have been repaired since then. Mr. Sobieck stated they do not want anyone to be offended they only want answers on how to receive more road funding so roads don't get like they were in the spring.

Mr. Sobieck asked the group if there were emergency responses that have not been met in Sheridan County due to poor road conditions. The response was - so far the fire trucks and ambulances have been lucky according to Jeff Martwick. The farm to market roads is the main concern to keep them maintained as they are the main arteries in the County stated Chairman Erdmann.

Mr. Sobieck asked the group if the roads were better 10 years ago and why. Chairman Erdmann responded that grain trucks were smaller and now it is semi-trucks on all twp. roads that are not built to handle heavy equipment as there is now. Pierce County Commissioners stated it is the same way in their county. Some of their roads they have closed to detour a couple miles around instead of the straight mile across, due to not enough funding to repair roads and common sense of the cost verses another mile or two detour until water recedes, etc. Senator Jerry Klein stated Sheridan County is not by itself in the State in the road funding issue. Wells County also has road closures and road issues too. Since 1993 when the rains started the water table has been rising every year since then, however; Devils Lake is finally down 4ft now stated Rep. Nelson. Legislator Weisz stated the shift from producing wheat to more corn also makes more weight on the roads now than it did 10 years ago also.

Funding from the oil surge bills that were approved in the last legislative sessions was discussed and what was approved for Sheridan County. The Sheridan County Commissioners stated that the 5 miles going north from McClusky is getting upgraded and repaved next year with the oil surge bills.

Mr. Sobieck asked the legislators what the Legacy fund can be used for in 2017. Senator Klein stated only the interest from the Legacy fund will be available which is at 3 billion currently that can be used for emergency needs or a shortfall in budget needs. If oil goes back up to where it was last year then more state monies can be distributed out to continue upgrading infrastructure throughout the state.

Daniel and Jeannie Sobieck presented a draft 5 yr. road funding plan of 4.85 million each year for Sheridan County in order to meet current road needs. Rep. Nelson stated that the state will not be able to meet near the draft plan amount. Rep. Weisz also stated the urban counties don't care about rural county roads. Senator Klein stated they just don't know what the future will bring with the oil production down now.

Mr. Sobieck asked the legislators where Sheridan County goes from here to find funding for meeting current road needs. Rep. Nelson stated three ideas would be to pass an increase on fuel tax in turn that would come back to the Counties and townships, offer low interest loans from Legacy fund, and urge Congress to pass a reliable federal transportation bill asap. An individual asked if game and fish funding can be tapped into with hunters driving around wrecking the roads esp. when wet. The legislators replied that they had tried many

sessions ago and game and fish dept. cannot be touched due to they operate on their own fees and no tax money.

Rep. Nelson invited the public to attend the legislative budget meeting every quarter with the next one coming up on December 16th at the capitol to review what is trending with the oil revenues.

Daniel and Jeannie Sobieck thanked everyone for coming to the public forum.

Auditor

Chairman