

County Commissioner Meeting December 7, 2010

The Board of Sheridan County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. County Commissioners present were Michael Axt, Eldon Ehrman, and Howard Erdmann.

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

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

County Recorder, Fees, \$1,480.00  
Clerk of District Court, Fees, \$110.00  
Sheriff, Fees, \$90.00

The total miscellaneous receipts were collected from the following funds and were approved for the month of November, 2010:

General - \$4,276.27	Highway Dist - \$15,584.13
County Park - \$60.00	SS & OASIS - \$203.50
County Ext. - \$177.99	Weed Control - \$1,169.63
911- \$1,567.50	

A itemized listing of miscellaneous receipts are on file at the County Treasurer's Office:

The November payroll warrants #37341-37369 were approved from the following funds:

General - \$22,903.18	Social Welfare - \$2,520.39
Highway Dist. - \$11,825.58	Veteran Service Officer - \$299.17
County Agent - \$874.57	Civil Defense - \$450.00
911 - \$437.50	Policing - \$400.00
BCI - \$3,000.00	

The following bills #37393-37460 were approved and ordered paid subject due to delinquent or any other indebtedness owing the County:

Ameripride Linen & Apparel Srv.,37.05;Bentz Supply Store,180.56;Walter M. Lipp,54.71;N.D. Newspaper Assoc.,163.68; Howard Erdmann, 53.50; WRT, 644.93; City Of McClusky,50.00; Sylvia Schell, 8.75; Waste Management Of ND,180.96; Secretary Of State, 36.00; N.D. State Radio Communication, 1,792.08; Eldon Ehrman,42.00;Janice D. Erdmann, 106.50; Herb Neuharth Plumbing,55.21; Fireside Office Solutions,851.80; Office Depot, 1,102.33;Birch Communications, Inc., 122.67; BHG, Inc.,851.67;Information Technology Dept., 433.60; MEC Services Inc.,153.40;Mclean County Sheriff's Office, 220.00; Centre Inc.,480.00; C-Store,62.30; D&J Oil, Inc.,9,000.31; Ri-Tec Industrial Products,99.80;Newman Traffic Signs, 1,678.00; Kenschak Oil Inc.,3,738.30;Mclean-Sheridan Rur Water,191.12;Power Plan,1,314.09; Farmers Union Oil Co., 206.70; Alltel,224.35;Diane Fyelling,24.99; Marshall Feland,150.00; National 4-H Council,93.35; Post Board,45.00;The Herald Press,99.23;Atco International,112.00;Mechanics Plus,314.74; Sybil Peterson, 90.00;Richland County Auditor,38.50; NRG, 579.21;Electronic Communications, Inc.,165.00;James Paulus,162.69;Universal Services, 60.00; McClusky Merchants, 25.00; NDTC, 36.40; SRT Communications, Inc., 25.76; Contractors Leasing, 399.00;Michael Axt, 57.50; Stein's Inc.,61.01; Boiler Inspection Program, 60.00; Verendrye Electric Coop., 138.00; Visa,523.56; McClusky City,31.00; Holen's Super Valu, 65.27; Emily Kline,348.00; Washburn Family Clinic, 660.00;Ward Williams, 25.00; David Jorgenson, 250.00;Ray O'herron Co. Inc., 94.31; Susag Sand & Gravel, Inc.,504.00; RV Enterprises, 26,811.20; Charles Netzloff,18.00; Alissah Iron Boulder,175.00

The following transfer of funds was approved:

\$8,721.00 from Unorganized Rd. Districts to Secondary Road for crushing gravel  
\$10,000.00 from General Fund to County Agent fund for operating expenses.

The Auditor presented the comparison of REC's taxes from 2009 to 2010 was decreased by 54% due to the Legislature passed a bill that restructured the coop taxes for property relief.

The Auditor contacted NDACo on how to recoup the taxes back for Sheridan County. The Auditor was instructed to contact Dist. #7 & #14 legislators and set up a special meeting on this issue.

Jerod Tufte, newly elected States Attorney, and Robin Shipley, Tufte's secretary met with the board to introduce his secretary. Tufte will get a schedule set up when he will be in Sheridan County and talk to the Sheriff's office of having space and a filing cabinet in their office for him, being he will be working with them mostly. Tufte will contact BEK telephone to set up a forwarding number to ring in the Sheridan County Courthouse from his office in Steele.

The time being 10:30 a.m. the application for abatement of 2009 taxes filed by Ted Heitzmann on the SE4SE4 31-149-75 and NE4 of Lot 6, NE4SW4, NW4SW4SE4, E2SW4SE4 6-149-75 was held. Ted Heitzmann was present and reported that 29.68 acres of his property was under water in 2009. It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to approve the 2009 application for abatement of taxes by lowering the True & Full value from 23,440 down to 18,515 due to inundated acres, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes, Axt – yes Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve selling the County forfeited property to the following new owners and cancel any back taxes remaining:

Lots 15-16-17, Blk 4, Original, Denhoff Village, \$150.00, Lance Erdmann  
Lots 22-23, Blk. 9, Original, Denhoff Village, \$150.00, Lance Erdmann  
Lots 2-3, Blk. 5, Original, Martin City, \$500.00, Jim Rummel  
Lots 6-7-8, Blk. 2, Original, Goodrich City, \$1,000.00, Robert Welch & Cherie Lewis  
Lot 17, Blk. 3, Original, Goodrich City, \$400.00, Brian Fitz  
N 10' of Lot 9, All of Lot 10, Blk. 18, Mauch's Addition, Goodrich City, \$200.00,  
Bonnie Hachhalter

Seconded by Commissioner Ehrman. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes, Axt – yes. Motion carried. Contacts will be made to First District Health on condemning some properties.

Emily Kline, County Agent, met with the board to report on activities in the County Extension office from July thru October, 2010. The 4-H Achievement days in July had a good turnout and many other 4-H activities that were conducted. SCIPY is cancelling the after school program for one year and will start up another mentoring program to train high school students to mentor to younger students. Kline has had many producer calls from weed, bug & plant identification to SPCC & EPA rules and regulations. NDSU planted a crop plot in Sheridan County with different varieties of wheat, durum, barley, soybeans and flax. A crop tour at the crop plot was followed up by the McClusky Co-op Elevator in July. Kline has attended quite a few training and in-services classes that range from Livestock Coaching to Pesticide Training.

The Auditor was instructed to advertise for bids on fuel for the County for the discount rack price of the day. Bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to re-appoint JoEllen Ehrman to the County School Reorganizing Committee, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes, Axt – yes Motion carried.

Tom Hrdilicka and Kirby Anderson, OTESCO wind project representatives, met with the board to present developments that have been accomplished in the last year with receiving a permit to cross the McClusky Canal and habitat conservation plans. No application has been applied with the PSC yet. Industry trends were reviewed with interconnection of transmission lines. The production tax credit expires the end of 2012. The production tax credit may be reinstated later. Turbine manufacturing prices have come down in cost. OTESCO has been working with marketing the energy to different companies to purchase power agreements like Xcel, Minnesota Power, or Minnkota. Utilities are moving more toward ownership. The wind data has been compiled for two years in Sheridan County – 2009 was more windy than 2010 so far. The wind farms in Sheridan County are still a go, stated Hrdilicka and Anderson; it is just a waiting game to sign a purchase power agreement with a utility company that will purchase the wind energy that will be generated.

Alvin Gross, Road Foreman, met with the board to report Darrell Grade's Motorgrader and Mike Hoffman's Motorgrader are both broke down. Technicians from the dealers will be out to run tests on the blades. Bales are still on the right of way. Gross was instructed to burn them like the County policy reads. Some equipment is standing along the road right of way that may cause snow problems along the roads. Contacts will be made to land owners to remove equipment if they want there roads cleaned from snow cover. Gross presented estimates on tires for motorgraders. The Road Foreman was instructed to purchase the best deal on Motorgrader tires at Northwest Tire and truck tires at OK Tire.

Vonnie Erdmann and Sherry Korus, the Union Grill and Bar co-owners, met with the board to present the beer and liquor license applications for 2011. Erdman and Korus requested the license rate chart be reduced. It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to reduce the beer and liquor license rate chart by 25% across the chart for 2012 and that the 2011 beer license fees were decreased to \$250.00 and the liquor license fees were decreased to \$600.00 for a total of \$850.00, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes, Axt – yes Motion carried.

Sheriff, Trent Naser, met with the board to discuss hiring another deputy Sheriff. Further investigation will be done on this issue.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Auditor

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Chairman

Special County Commission Meeting  
December 20, 2010

The Board of Sheridan County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. in special session. Commissioners present were Eldon Ehrman and Howard Erdmann. Absent: Michael Axt Others present were: Allan Tinker, McClusky Gazette Editor; Jon Nelson, Dist.#7 State Representative; Dick Anderson, Dist. #7 State Representative; Bruce Carlson, VEC Manager; Jerry Klein, Dist. #14 State Senator; Robin Weisz, Dist. #14 State Representative; Lars Nygren, Capital Electric Manager; Dennis Hill, ND Assoc. of REC's Director; Harlan Fuglesten, ND Assoc. of REC's Assistant Director; Duane Lasher, property owner; and on the speakerphone was Terry Traynor, NDACo assistant director; and Ryan Taylor, Dist. #7 State Senator.

Howard Erdmann, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to County Commissioner Eldon Ehrman. Ehrman stated the REC taxes were reduced from last legislative session of over \$50,000 for Sheridan County and over 2.7 million statewide. REC Association director, Dennis Hill, reported on the history of how the REC Coops were taxed and why the REC co-op tax needed restructuring. The new distribution method passed at the last legislative session was based on 50% line-mile and 50% based on number of customers. Hill stated when he was working on the bill for legislative action he estimated a 20% reduction in REC taxes and that the REC taxes would shift to other counties depending upon the customer load.

The Auditor reported there was a 27.7% reduction not a 20% reduction and that there was no shift to any counties, it was a loss of 2.7 million statewide. According to the printout from the State Tax Office, Ward County lost the most revenue of over \$1.2 million. Currently Sheridan County is struggling with the County Road fund being \$50,000.00 over the 2010 budget with the increase of fuel prices and repairs. The Auditor requested where are the Counties to receive any extra funds to make up for this loss of REC tax revenue and still provide services to the taxpayers.

Dist. #7 Rep. Jon Nelson, reported that the State Highway Dist funds will be increased for Counties according to the Governors budget and will most likely make up the difference in revenue loss.

Bruce Carlson, VEC Representative, reported the gross receipts (IOU's) is the blame of the need of REC tax restructuring. They have gotten out of hand. The Garrison Diversion's

proposed water treatment plant in Sheridan County may increase the power usage therefore have more REC tax revenue come into Sheridan County.

The County Commissioners also requested to the legislators to support the Counties for financial assistance needed by declaring a snow disaster and/or flood disaster in the upcoming legislative session according to the way the weather has been overburdening the Counties with snow removal expenses and possible road flooding and damage expenses in the Spring.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve that the Sheriff's office purchase two new Compaq 8100 computers (Sheriff's office will use former computer monitors) and one HP Color Laser Jet Printer w/extra 3 yr warranty in the amount of \$1,784.95 from NRG Technology Services, seconded by Commissioner Ehrman. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes Motion carried.

The following bill was approved and paid:

ES&S, coding General Election ballots - \$2,694.91

It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to amend 2010 County Budget to the following amounts due to unexpected costs, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes Motion carried

County Road - \$163,500.00 to \$218,000.00  
County Health Ins. - \$56,000.00 to \$62,000.00  
Veteran Service Officer - \$6,900.00 to \$7,500.00  
Social Security & OASIS - \$140,690.00 to \$155,000.00  
Health District - \$22,330.00 to \$22,600.00  
County Corrections - \$46,120.00 to \$51,400.00

At this time County Commissioner Axt attended the County Commission meeting.

Greg O'Shea, Butler Machinery representative, met with the board to report that the repairs on Grade's Cat Motorgrader resulted in the transmission going out. The Cat Motorgrader will be repaired and delivered after Christmas. Also present was Darrell Grade, Motorgrader operator, and Alvin Gross, Road Foreman. Being the Cat motorgrader lease will be done in the fall of 2011, another lease purchase on a Cat Motorgrader was reviewed. A 2011 Caterpillar 140M AWD Motor Grader –M Series with lift group and extensions was priced at \$255,275.00 with 3.25% interest for 5 annual payments in the amount of \$30,858.73 was considered. The AWD 2011 Cat motorgrader could be delivered in February. The 2011 Caterpillar motorgrader is manufactured with joystick controls for steering rather than a steering wheel. Grade was unsure of operating the motorgrader with the new control system, however; he will give it a try. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to lease purchase the 2011 Caterpillar 140 M AWD Motor Grader as stated above for 5 years, seconded by Commissioner Ehrman. Upon roll call vote - Erdman – yes, Ehrman – yes, Axt – yes Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Auditor

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Chairman

County Park Commissioners Meeting October 5, 2010

The Sheridan County Park Board met at 11:00 a.m. County Park Commissioners present were Howard Erdmann, Michael Axt, and Eldon Ehrman. Absent was: Arlington Helm and Marlin P. Engen

Vice-Chairman Erdmann called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved.

The following bills were approved and paid:

Waste Management, \$133.35; McLean-Sheridan Rural Water, \$46.00; VEC, \$220.00; Bentz Supply Store, \$8.98; David Berquist Septic Service, \$300.00; Menards, \$25.60; Holen's Super Valu, \$34.96;

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Secretary

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Vice-Chairman