

County Commission Meeting December 5, 2006

The County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. County Commissioners present were Eldon Ehrman, Howard Erdmann, and Shirley J. Jorgensen.

Chairman Ehrman called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

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

County Recorder, Fees, \$1,349.00  
Clerk of District Court, Fees, \$724.00  
Sheriff, Fees, \$343.80

The total miscellaneous receipts were collected for the following funds and were approved for the month of November, 2006:

General – 3,196.92	Social Services - \$1,059.65
Secondary Road - \$1,203.60	County Road - \$5,688.30
Highway Dist. - \$13,258.64	County Park - \$22.50
S.S. & OASIS - \$317.76	County Agent - \$20.69
Weed Control - \$ 1,005.52	Civil Defense - \$129.40
911 - \$868.30	Wireless 911 - \$1,087.53

An itemized listing of miscellaneous receipts are on file at the County Treasurer's Office.

The November payroll warrants #30475-30511 were approved from the following funds:

General - \$19,197.18	Service Officer - \$241.66
County Agent - \$760.57	Civil Defense - \$400.00
911 - \$387.50	Highway Dist. - \$9,613.32
County Park - \$20.00	Weed Control - \$707.50
Social Services - \$4,698.15	

The following bills #30528-30584 were approved and ordered paid subject due to delinquent or any other indebtedness owing the County:

Ameripride Linen & Apparel Srv,41.55;Bentz Supply Store,69.62;Walter M. Lipp,84.37; Howard Erdmann,68.78;West River Telecommunications,659.51;WRT,455.56;Co-Op Elevator, 2,028.25;N.D. Association Of Counties, 435.01; Official Payments Corp,165.00; Quality Printing Service, Inc, 219.90;Uniform Center & Embroidery,17.98; Gall's Inc.,729.95; Eldon Ehrman,54.72;Burnie's,154.30;Janice D. Erdmann,104.88;Fireside Office Plus,855.19;Office Depot,656.47;Cenex Credit Card,34.54;Birch Telecom,88.22; BHG Inc.,930.96;Information Technology Dept.,375.00;Shirley J Jorgensen,123.12; McClusky Postmaster, 204.00;Centre Inc, 480.00;D&J Oil, Inc.,4,689.89;McClean-Sheridan Rur Water,102.74;NAPA Auto Parts,59.76;

Drummond American Corp,166.48;Power Plan,2,084.90; Farmers Union Oil Co,328.03; Alltel,195.17;Crystal Schuanaman,225.26;Diane Fyilling,25.00;NDSU,40.00; NCCRC,110.00, United Printing,117.50;ES&S, 2,641.80; Myron Dieterle,177.84;James Haux, 235.98; Jerone Sauter, 227.24;Gordon O Felchle,223.44;Donald Hausauer,108.30;Chemsearch,125.00;NDTC, 17.97; SRT Communications, Inc,12.88;Holen Construction,3,531.80; Dallas Pfenning,511.50; Ida Neff,68.40;Aggregate Construction,108.00; Boiler Inspection Program,40.00; BW Fargo Doublewood Inn, 55.00;Jackie Buchley,75.00

Herb Bargman, Wold Engineering, met with the board to present new calendars for the new year. Chairman Ehrman inquired to Bargman about measuring the new gravel pits to cross check with the contractor. After further consideration that a lot of gravel has been hauled out of the pits already and gravel royalty has been paid out already, the County Commission decided there wouldn't be anything gained by measuring the gravel pits now.

Virgil Laib, Robert Jorgensen, and Charles Netzloff, landowners met with the board to disagree on weed mowing bills that they were sent. Farm to Market roads the County mows and no charge is billed out. Laib stated there are holes and culverts along the road to make the weed mowing hard to do. Laib suggested the neighboring landowner should be mowed and billed also if he has to pay. Jorgensen requested some sloping be done with the motorgrader on the shoulder of the roads. Dennis Bertsch inquired about a 1<sup>st</sup> cut weed mowing bill on State Land that he leases. The Commission stated this year was not enforced and that it was a suggested cut so the bill he received was past due from 2005. Netzloff inquired about his weed mowing bill and that his neighbor should also receive a bill being it was not cut. The board will discuss weed mowing issues with the road foreman on neighboring weed mowing issues that should still be done by the County if it hasn't already been done so. The County Auditor will then send a bill to those landowners after the Road Foreman reports back to her.

Lynn Helm, co-landowner and renter, met with the board of a past due weed mowing bill on some State Land that they lease. The area in question was reviewed and a neighbor may be responsible for the bill. Further investigation will be done by Helm with the State Land Dept.

Crystal Schuanaman, County Agent, met with the board to present a report on activities and events within the extension office that she has been involved in for the last six months. Events included finishing and dedicating the new 4-H building in June & July, help conduct & organize 4-H Achievement Days July 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>, help judge at the ND State Fair, served at the 4-H livestock camp in Washburn, did a presentation on 4-H for 4-H week to 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> graders in McClusky and Goodrich, helped organize the 4-H Awards Banquet in October, helped organize a 4-H leaders training and 4-H fun day at the McClusky School in October. Drought issues and concerns from the farmers this past season was the main topic. The weed, Goosefoot, was the main question from producers this last summer. Schuanaman introduced a new program to the board called Annie's Project. This is being offered through NDSU Extension Service. The program is a six week program for farm business women to be better business partners with their spouse. It teaches farm financial management, business plans, crop and livestock marketing and insurance and many other management issues. SCIPY held their annual canoe trip at Hoffer's Lake in August and a 2-Day haunted house at the 4-H building before Halloween. Schuanaman is still the Secretary for the Sheridan County Economic Development Corp and they are in the

process of revising their by-laws. The Sheridan Association is also still active in selling seed and will be organizing a Spring Ag Forum on February 20, 2007. The hog furrowing business interests were discussed again also.

The County Commission meeting recessed for the Natural Area Land Acquisition hearing.

The time being 1:00 the hearing with the ND Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Committee Members for the proposal of Ducks Unlimited to acquire the Prairie Project Tracts in Sheridan County was held at this time. Jeff Weispfenning, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, called the hearing to order with 7 of the 8 members present and reviewed the agenda and statutes governing the committee. Committee members present were: Jeff Weispfenning, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner; Roger Rostvet, Deputy Director of ND Game & Fish Dept.; Glenda Fauske, State Forest Service; Tom Schmid, ND Stockmen's Assoc.; Gordon Bishoff, ND Farm Bureau; Eldon Ehrman, Chairman, Sheridan County Commission; Dick Messerly, ND Parks & Recreation Absent: Robert Carlson, ND Farmers Union

Bruce Reinerts, Duck Unlimited representative, provided a background of the Ducks Unlimited (DU) organization and its purpose. Reinerts stated that Sheridan County is considered by waterfowl experts to be the best waterfowl and grassland nesting habitat on the continent, and that is why DU is interested in purchasing the Jim Meckle and Steven Roberts tracts that consist of a total of 2,320 acres. Both landowners are willing to sell. Reinerts stated the acquisition would provide a good partnership between agriculture, hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts. The land is generally leased to surrounding landowners for management or even leased back to former owners. DU pays full taxes and controls the weeds on land they acquire.

Questions from the Natural Area Acquisition Committee members were: Lease agreement policy – (Answer: if currently under lease DU will honor that lease), if there is a written guarantee to open the land to farming or to the public – (Answer: Not a guarantee, however in the past a long waiting list to lease land out), stocking rate (number of animal units allowed) for grazing the land and how long their grazing season is - (Answer: Depends on the range and ranch managers and the grazing season is from early spring to November), the County will expect DU to mow weeds along roads.

Questions from the Public were: Grassland easements were questioned of having an effect on land use and what is the value lost. – (Answer: a grassland easement cannot be put into cropland, but it can be grazed and hayed). Would this hinder economic development for mining, oil exploration, pipeline, or wind turbines on these tracts? – (Answer: the mineral rights remain with the private owner, other than if US Fish & Wildlife would have an easement on certain tracts not sure what their policy is) Is the sale of these properties going to increase other County lands? – (Answer: Reinerts suggested addressing this with the tax assessor who was not present at the time) Is the leases put out on bids? – (Answer: No, usually neighbors contact Du and work out a lease agreement.) How is the rental rate determined? – (Answer: Leases are lower than the County average because of the number of animal units.)

Public Comments: No one spoke in favor of the acquisition. A letter from Arlo Blumhagen, landowner, was entered into the record in opposition to the acquisition being he could not attend the hearing.

County Commissioner Ehrman, stated there is a lot of land in gov./public ownership in Sheridan County, and they didn't see the need for more land for ducks. The land acquisition might bring more people into the County, but it doesn't improve the economy of Sheridan County. The hunters ruin the roads; USFWS won't allow the county any gravel, so road damage becomes a hardship to the County. Tax money is received from the land, but it isn't enough.

The public hearing was closed. The NAAAC will meet at 2:00 p.m. via conference call with the County Commissioners at which time they will hear the County Commissioner's recommendation.

Rostvet moved to adjourn, seconded by Ehrman. Motion carried. Hearing adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The County Commission Meeting reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Tom Turnbull, landowner, met with the board to disagree with the weed mowing bill he received. The board stated the road crew cut it being it was poorly cut so the County spent time and fuel mowing the weeds. The bill stands as is.

Steve Reiser, Social Service Director, met with the board to update on the approval from the State has not taken place yet. Reiser suggested thinking of two people to appoint to serve on the new board that will start in January. A special meeting of the County Commissioners on the 15<sup>th</sup> will be held and Reiser requests to be on the agenda for the special meeting to report on an update from the State at that time.

Trent Naser, Sheriff, met with the board to present the City/County Police agreement with McClusky City. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the City/County Police agreement with McClusky City in the amount \$12,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried. Naser and Walter Lipp inquired about election issues. Reports will be forwarded to complaints'. Naser presented a Joint Powers agreement with NCCRC. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the agreement with NCCRC for keeping prisoners in Rugby, ND, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes. All voting “yes” the motion carried. Naser reported that the weather stripping is bad in the back seat of the Crown Victoria. An estimate from Doug's auto repair was \$150.00. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve repairing the weather stripping in the Crown Victoria, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve the Beer and Liquor License to the Union Grill & Bar, McClusky for 2007, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes, Jorgensen – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to appoint Clifton Dockter to the Sheridan Rural Water Board effective January 1, 2007, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve signing the County Deeds from private sale for the following properties and their new owners:

Dacotah Frontier Valley, LLC, Wahpeton,ND – Lot 9, Blk 2, Original, Goodrich City,\$600.00  
Dacotah Frontier Valley, LLC, Wahpeton,ND – Lot 10,Blk 2,Original, Goodrich City,\$600.00  
Dacotah Frontier Valley, LLC, Wahpeton,ND – Lot 14,Blk 3,Original,Goodrich City,\$1,500.00  
Dacotah Frontier Valley, LLC, Wahpeton,ND – Lots 1 & 2, Blk.5,Orig,Goodrich City, \$2,000.00  
Joseph Zilfi, Flagstaff, AZ – Lots 1-2-3, Blk. 1, West, Goodrich City, \$600.00  
Joseph Zilfi, Flagstaff, AZ – Lots 10-11-12, Blk. 1, West, Goodrich City, \$600.00

Seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Edmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Alvin Gross, Road Foreman, met with the board to discuss weed mowing bills and repairs on County vehicles.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve a Joint Powers Agreement for Electronic Land Records Management to become a full member to the ND Information Network that will provide for the operation of a central repository for electronic land records from member counties and to provide access to those records by electronic means over the internet, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried. Electronic access fees are charged and are remitted back to the originating County of records that are requested.

The fuel bid letting was scheduled for January 2, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Estimates for fabric vertical blinds to be placed in the Courtroom and Judges Chambers from Fargo Glass, Minot, and Magi-Touch, Bismarck was considered at this time. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the estimates from Fargo Glass for (10) fabric vertical blinds and from Fireside Office for (3) acoustical wall panels in the total amount of \$3,729.00, and to authorize the Auditor to apply for a Court Facilities Improvement Grant funded by the ND Supreme Court for up to 75% of the cost with the County share being \$932.25, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried. Grants will be awarded in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve the Auditors Rath & Mehrer,P.C. to conduct the bi-annual audit for the County, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Minutes from the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Rural Water Resource Board meeting was reviewed and filed.

The NDACo was contacted by speakerphone to inquire about the New Holland tractor rental bid that was supplied to the NDDOT at no cost for mowing ditches. Terry Traynor, NDACo rep, stated that Sheridan County can be added to the list to receive a New Holland Tractor to rent at no cost. The only requirement is to provide regular maintenance on the tractor. The Board requested to have a New Holland TSA series 95 hp to 135 hp tractor w-/loader set aside for Sheridan County. The rental period is from May 15<sup>th</sup> thru Nov 15<sup>th</sup> usually with a maximum of 250 hours.

There being no further business the meeting recessed until December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

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Auditor

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Chairman

## County Commission Meeting December 15, 2006

The Board of County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. as per recess stated. County Commissioners present were Eldon Ehrman, Howard Erdmann, and Shirley J. Jorgensen.

Chairman Ehrman called the meeting to order. Discussion amongst the County Commission on the land acquisition to Ducks Unlimited was held at this time.

The time being 2:00 p.m. the conference call with the NAAAC on the land acquisition with Ducks Unlimited was held at this time. The minutes were read from the December 5<sup>th</sup> hearing and corrected to change spelling on a few names and approved as corrected. 7 out of the 8 committee members were present today. Absent: Robert Carlson, ND Farmers Union

Under serious consideration, the County Commissioners recommended to the Governor to reject the land acquisition to Ducks Unlimited due to this will hamper economic development such as wind towers, pipeline, etc. that could add tax base in Sheridan County and that there is enough land currently devoted to wildlife in the county already and the McClusky sportsman's club is not in favor of the proposal either.

Bruce Reinerts, DU representative, commented that DU at that point if development issues would come up they would be considered. DU would not stand in the way of pipeline development. Ehrman stated that it would be the paperwork hassle that would deter development companies to develop. Other grazing and wetland issues were discussed further also.

It was moved by Rostvet, Game & Fish representative, to approve the land acquisition, seconded by Prchal, ND Parks & Recreation Rep, Upon Roll Call - Motion failed 4 – Nay 3 – yes, Wade Moser, ND Stockmens's Assoc Rep, made a motion to support the County Commissions recommendation to deny the acquisition, seconded by Brian Kramer, ND Farm Bureau Rep. Upon roll call - 4- yes 3 – nay Motion passed to support County Commission to reject land acquisition.

The committee hearing adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Steve Reiser, Social Service Director, met with the board to update on the new Social Service District that the ND Dept of Human Services is considering. Two issues were of concern from the State yet. Reiser stated 95% of Child protection worker may be paid for by the State if needed for Sheridan County. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to dissolve the Sheridan County Social Service Board effective December 31, 2006, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann –yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman - yes Two members from Sheridan County will represent the new multi Social Service Board, either two members that are both County Commissioners or one County Commissioner and a member at large could serve. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to appoint Eldon Ehrman and Howard Erdmann as members of the new multi-Social Service District, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried. Reiser will look at the minutes to see how long other board members have

served to do some sort of an appreciation plaque. The new multi-social service board meetings will meet at the different Counties that are in the district for each quarter board meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Auditor

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Chairman