

County Commission Meeting June 6, 2006

The Board of Sheridan 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 for May, 2006:

County Recorder, Fees, \$1,188.25  
Clerk of District Court, Fees, \$655.00  
Sheriff, Fees, \$177.60

The total Miscellaneous Receipts were collected for the following funds and were approved for the month of May, 2006:

General Fund – \$3,977.31	Social Welfare - \$1,323.00
County Road - \$5,038.00	Highway Dist. - \$13,563.09
County Park - \$285.00	SS & OASIS - \$170.00
County Ext. - \$101.00	Weed Control - \$77.43
911 - \$874.95	Wireless 911- \$1,063.96

An itemized listing of Miscellaneous receipts is on file at the County Treasurer's Office for review.

The May payroll warrants #29550-29584 were approved from the following funds:

General Fund - \$19,583.93	Service Officer - \$241.66
County Agent - \$1,334.33	Civil Defense - \$400.00
911 - \$387.50	Highway Dist. - \$11,322.49
County Park - \$590.00	Weed Control - \$858.88
Social Welfare - \$7,660.48	

The following bills #29605-29675 were approved and ordered paid subject due to delinquent or any other indebtedness owing the County:

Ameripride Linen & Apparel Srv., 41.55; Dakota Communications, 13.60; Bentz Supply Store, 214.31; Auto Wizard Inc., 158.42; Walter M. Lipp, 85.57; Shirley A. Murray, 49.40; N.D. Newspaper Association, 75.52; Howard Erdmann, 115.90; West River Telecommunications, 954.09; Co-Op Elevator, 6,167.33; Joyce H. Dockter, 1.50; N.D. Association Of Counties, 518.95; City Of McClusky, 42.50; Official Payments Corp, 165.00; Sylvia Schell, 15.00; Waste Management Of ND, 39.64; Tracy Laib, 3.18; US Postal Service, 500.00; Eldon Ehrman, 125.02; Dakota Fire Extinguishers, 210.00; Fireside Office Plus, 11.25; Office Depot, 237.71; Cenex Credit Card, 319.30; Birch Telecom, 90.70; BHG, Inc., 306.62; Sam's Service, 96.98; Information Technology Dept., 375.00; Shirley J Jorgensen, 41.42; Chief Supply, 14.99; Jack's Uniforms, 346.61; Centre Inc, 480.00; C-Store, 173.68; Bismarck Tire Center, 75.71; D&J Oil, Inc., 4,842.89; Newman Traffic Signs, 168.31; Konschak Oil Inc., 4,924.88; Mclean-Sheridan Rur Water, 95.23; NAPA Auto Parts, 176.92; Harvey Tire Center, Inc, 849.85; Schaeffer's Service, 11.20; Power Plan, 7.42; Nodak Agency Inc, 2,459.00; Alltel, 216.60; Crystal Schaunaman, 245.48; Great Plains Rehab Services, 170.00; National 4-H Council, 19.65; Ted Mertz, 44.83; ND Telephone Co, 17.96; Bradco Restoration, Inc, 1,860.00; Lexis Nexis Matthew Bender, 132.33; Comfort Inn, 100.00; Great Plains Directory, 322.00; The Union Grill And Bar, 134.50; D & D Roofing, 9,647.00; Prairie Plants, 182.16; The Harvester, 25.40; Schuh Construction, 1,350.00; Harvey Ready Mix, Inc., 871.00; Post Board, 110.00; Delbert Hoffmann, 250.00; Central Dakota Family Phy., 168.00; Lynn Peavey Co, 36.40; General Trading Co, 48.72; Bismarck Lumber, 438.21; SRT Communications, Inc, 12.88; Menards, 225.83; First District Health Unit, 11,331.50

Sheldon Oster, Rosenfield Twp. Official, met with the board upon the board's request. Road issues in Rosenfield twp were discussed.

The time being 10:00 a.m. the hearing on the application of abatement for 2004 and 2005 taxes for Heather Mayer (Martinovich) on a residential structure located on a tract in the E2 11-150-77 was held. Darlene Frueh, Martin Twp. Assessor and Cynthia D. Wahl, Director of Tax Equalization met with the board to discuss the abatement. Glen Mayer, representative for Heather, called on the speakerphone to state their grievances that they lived in the structure the majority of the time in 2004 and 2005 and Heather has been farming jointly with Mr. Mayer since 2003. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the 2004 and 2005 abatement for Heather Mayer (Martinovich) that the residential structure is exempt being she met the criteria for farm home exemption according to the exemption form she completed, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The time being 10:30 a.m. the hearing on the application of abatement for 2005 taxes for Lester Buenning on a residential structure located on Outlot 1 of NE4NW4 7-149-74 was held. Cynthia Wahl, Director of Tax Equalization, met with the board to report that Mr. Buenning met the criteria to receive 100% or a maximum of \$3,038 in taxable valuation of Homestead Credit on the above mentioned structure. Beverly Buenning was present for any questions. Being there were none, it was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the 2005 abatement of 100% Homestead Credit or the maximum of \$3,038 in taxable valuation, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Crystal Schuanaman, County Agent, met with the board and presented the monthly extension office report. The District Communication Arts contest was held in Goodrich with 15 exhibitors. The 4-H Livestock building sidewalls were completed by Schuh Construction with the remaining building to be completed by volunteers on June 3<sup>rd</sup> weather providing. Several inquires were requested from the public this last month from planting issues, problem insects, weed issues, and farm financing options. SCIPY coordinated a School resource officer, Perry Lauer, to talk about drug and alcohol abuse to both Goodrich and McClusky juniors and seniors. SCIPY also did a seatbelt surveillance check at both the McClusky and Goodrich Schools and did a McClusky community wide flower planting in conjunction with the Grace Lutheran Bible School.

The May monthly narrative from the Nutrition Education Agent, Julie Hudson-Schenfisch was reviewed. Ice cream was made with the McClusky kindergarten class to show the importance of dairy products in their diet. A wellness luncheon was conducted at the Courthouse with a food safety lesson that followed. Counseling with a few referred clients on nutrition and finances was conducted last month also.

It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to remove Elmer Knodel from the County Water Resource Board due to he missed more than two consecutive Rural Water Resource Board meetings which according to the County Policy effective in January 2003 makes him ineligible to serve on the board, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to advertise in the McClusky Gazette and the Herald Press for a replacement on the Water Resource Board and that a replacement will be considered at the July Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The July County Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> rather than Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Independence Day holiday.

The time being 2:00 p.m. the County Equalization meeting was held. The County Commission meeting reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Wayne Helm and Clifford Bentz, McClusky Rural Fire Protection District representatives, met with the board to request support for a grant and a loan to purchase a new fire truck through the USDA Rural Development in an estimate of \$131,000.00. 55% has been appropriated to the McClusky Rural Fire Protection District from the USDA Rural Development. The rest of the amount will be paid by the local fire dept. and financed through a loan with the USDA Rural Development. The current McClusky Rural Fire Protection District truck is 41

years old. A letter of support of this being a worthwhile project from the County Commission was requested at this time. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to adopt the following resolution seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the resolution was adopted.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The McClusky Rural Fire Protection District has filed an application for a grant with Rural Development a division of USDA for the purpose of purchasing a fire truck;

WHEREAS, The Sheridan County Commissioners believe that to acquire a new fire truck by the McClusky Rural Fire Protection District a necessity for the District and a benefit for the residents of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows;

1. The McClusky Rural Fire Protection District’s project of purchasing a new fire truck is not inconsistent with any of Sheridan County’s projects.
2. The McClusky Rural Fire Protection District’s project of purchasing a new fire truck is not a duplication of any services provided by Sheridan County;
3. The Sheridan County Commissioners supports in all manner the McClusky Rural Fire Protection District in its effort to acquire a new fire truck for its service area.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Eldon Ehrman, Chairman of the Board

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Shirley A. Murray, County Auditor

Herb Bargmann, Wold Engineering, met with the board to review any upcoming road projects.

Arlington Helm inquired about selling the old riding lawn mower from the County Park on the Consignment Auction sale Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. The board agreed to consign the lawn mower.

The auditor reported that the following building permits were issued to in the last month:

Alvin Gross, McClusky, Lot 4 Section 1-146-77  
Forrest Strobel & Sandra L. Criddle, Lots 13-22, Blk. 9, Denhoff, aka, Parcel 1  
Sec 9-146-75

It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve the above listed building permits, 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 re-appoint Arthur Waltz to the Housing Authority for a 5 year term, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The County Equipment Insurance policy was reviewed. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve the County Equipment Insurance Policy with Nodak Agency for 2006, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman - yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

James O. Haux, Weed Control Board Member, met with the board to discuss weed control officer issues. Job descriptions for the weed officers will be investigated further.

Larry Gessner, Sheriff, met with the board to report that Delbert Hoffman has been fully re-instated as Deputy Sheriff for Sheridan County according to the Peace Officers Assoc. Gessner reported that the Impala needs repairs on the gas tank and fuel pump in the amount of

\$587.00. The repairs on the Impala were agreed to be taken care of. A radar unit was purchased reasonably at Surplus Property for a spare, however; the cable wires are more costly and will need to be purchased later on when unit is needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to appoint Jean Rust as Inspector for Precinct #1 in Martin City for the Primary Election due to the previous Inspector, Arlene Bender, had other conflicts and would not be present for the Primary Election, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Alvin Gross, Road Foreman, contacted the board by speakerphone to discuss road issues to work on.

The meeting recessed until June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

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Auditor

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Chairman

## COUNTY EQUALIZATION MEETING JUNE 6TH, 2006

The Sheridan County Board of Equalization met at 2:00 p.m. Members present were Shirley J. Jorgensen, Eldon Ehrman, and Howard Erdmann. Also present was assessor James Haux, Landowners Allan and Brian Tinker, and the Director of Tax Equalization, Cynthia D. Wahl.

Chairperson Ehrman called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was the equalization of residential property. The assessments as returned by the assessors and local boards were reported by the County Auditor for a total taxable valuation of 409,337. This is an increase of 3.67% from last year. The Auditor reported that an adjustment of \$18,894 from an abatement in Martin Twp. that was approved from the County Commission meeting this morning needs to be subtracted from the total residential property values. Cynthia Wahl reported the residential tolerance factor is at 99.8% and is within the 5% tolerance allowed by the State. James Haux, District Assessor, inquired about removing a residential structure value in Holmes twp. due to the landowner is eligible for farm exemption on the structure. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to instruct the Auditor to remove the residential structure value in Holmes twp being landowner is eligible for farm exemption and to subtract the abatement adjustment also, seconded by Commissioner Ehrman. Upon Roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The second order of business was the equalization of commercial property. The assessments as returned by the assessors and local boards was reported by the County Auditor for a total taxable valuation of 255,385. This is an increase of 2.27% from last year. All present were given the opportunity to be heard. Wahl reported the total Commercial Value factor was at 99.1% and was within the 5% tolerance allowed by State also. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann that no changes be made to the commercial property, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The third order of business was the equalization of agriculture property. The Auditor reported that an increase of 4% Countywide was applied to the ag property in January according to the State Tax Commissioners Office in order to comply with the average values per County. The assessments as returned by the assessors and local boards were reported by the County Auditor for a total taxable valuation of 5,566,065 that includes 562,562.36 taxable acres. The State average per acre for Sheridan County according to the State Tax Dept. was set at \$210.84 per acre. With the 4% increase, the average per acre came up to only \$197.84 or 6.57% less than the State average. The Auditor reported either an increase County wide of an additional 2% will need to be applied now or when the State Board of Equalization meets in August they will instruct a 4% increase at that time being the State Board of Equalization only allow 3% tolerance at the time of their State Board of Equalization Meeting. All present were given the opportunity to be heard. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to increase the agricultural property by an additional 2% for a total of 6% for this 2006 year and that the County Equalization board recess until June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. to review the ag values again to see if the County is within the 5% tolerance at that time and to update on the new residential values after adjustments are subtracted, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote Erdman-yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The Senior Citizens Homestead tax credit and disabled tax credit applications were reviewed. The County Auditor reported there were 14 Homestead tax credit applications filed. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann that the applications be approved as returned by the assessors and City and Twp. Boards, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call – Erdmann- yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The County Auditor presented the ND State Land Abstract covering 1,351.80 acres for a total True & Full Value of 248,389 subject to assessment in lieu of ad valorem tax and ND Game & Fish Abstract covering 26,389.41 acres for a total True & Full Value of 5,157,595 subject to assessment in lieu of ad valorem tax. Also the Nonprofit organizations for conservation purposes Abstract covering 7,003.43 acres for a total true & full Value of 643,968 that is owned by Nature Conservancy. It was moved by Commissioner Ehrman to approve that a 2% increase also be applied to the ND State Land, ND Game & Fish land, and Nonprofit organizations for conservation purposes abstracts of valuations on file in the Auditor’s Office and that the total

values be reviewed again on June 16<sup>th</sup> after the increases are applied, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Ehrman – yes, Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Cynthia Wahl, Tax Director, updated on the detailed soil survey process and she is the only one working on the parcels and is at the point of entering the small tracts in the computer program. A soils committee will need to be organized this winter to allow for shelterbelts, rock piles, drainage areas, etc. at a decreased percentage value that will be applied against the soil value.

The County Equalization Meeting was recessed until June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

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County Auditor

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Chairperson

County Commissioners Meeting June 16, 2006

The Board of County Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. as per recess stated. Commissioners present were Eldon Ehrman, Shirley J. Jorgensen, and Howard Erdmann.

Chairman Ehrman called the meeting to order by starting with the County Equalization meeting as per recess stated.

The Auditor reported that after the 2% increase was applied County wide on all the agriculture land value for a total of \$5,677,603 that the average per acre value was at \$201.80 or 4.29% within the State average per acre value so the agriculture value is now within the 5% tolerance. The residential structure and land values after adjusting the abated structures totaled \$408,234. The total County taxable valuation was set at \$6,333,419 without utility valuations. The estimated County mill value with utilities included is \$6,585 that will be a \$359 per mill increase from last year. The new Game & Fish abstract total true & full values after increasing 2% was at \$5,256,780 and the State Land in Lieu of payments abstract total true & full values after increasing 2% was at \$253,458. Everyone was given the opportunity to be heard. There being no one present. It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the total valuations as is in order to be in compliance with the State Board of Equalization, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The County Equalization meeting adjourned and the County Commission meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Weed mowing issues were discussed.

Lynn Odberg, McLean-Sheridan Rural Water Board Manager, met with the board at this time to review the timeline of the implementation of the reorganization of the McLean-Sheridan Water District and their current financial statement. A user meeting with the ballot vote on reorganizing to a water district will be held June 28, 2006 at the Turtle Lake McLean/Sheridan Rural Water building. A letter of support from the Sheridan County Commission in favor of the new Water District was suggested by Odberg that is if the Water District change is voted in by the users and when the petition is sent in to the State Water Board Commission for their approval.

The Election cost bills for the Primary Election were authorized to be paid after the County Canvassing has been finalized.

It was moved by Commissioner Jorgensen to approve the County Liability and Vehicle Insurance policies for 2006 through the ND Insurance Reserve, seconded by Commissioner Erdmann. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen – yes, Erdmann – yes Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

The Auditor reported the Courthouse computer server needs a different tape drive for backup. It was moved by Commissioner Erdmann to approve purchasing a tape drive, seconded by Commissioner Jorgensen. Upon roll call vote – Erdmann – yes, Jorgensen – yes, Ehrman – yes All voting “yes” the motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Auditor

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Chairman

County Park Commission Meeting June 6, 2006

The Board of County Park Commissioner's met at 11:00 a.m. Park Commissioners present were Arlington Helm, Marlin Engen, Eldon Ehrman, Shirley J. Jorgensen, and Howard Erdmann. Also present was Crystal Schaunaman, County Agent

Chairman Helm called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved.

Schaunaman reported the 4-H livestock arena building is getting close to being completed. The canvass needs to be installed yet when it is not so windy. The canvass is warranted for 15 years with a decreasing percentage of warranty each year. The canvass is tied together in strips.

Renting the 4-H livestock arena building out for winter storage items was discussed. This will be further investigated.

Helm reported that Herb Neuharth will be installing a new sink faucet in the kitchen of the 4-H building. The new picnic tables have been assembled and have been placed in the County park campground.

Cindy Miller met with the board to discuss putting on a non-denominational Christian youth rally on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Hoffer's Lake involving 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on up that will consist of a barbeque, skits, and music. Miller requested to waive the \$50.00 4-H building rental fee but will still provide the \$200.00 security deposit so the building will be cleaned up. Miller reported there will be no charge to the students to attend. It was moved by Park Commissioner Ehrman to waive the \$50.00 4-H building rental fee for the Christian youth rally, seconded by Park Commissioner Helm. Upon roll call vote – Jorgensen –yes, Ehrman –yes, Erdmann – yes, Engen – yes, Helm – yes. All voting “yes” the motion carried.

Helm will be picking up door closers for the 4-H building and Livestock building and also exhaust fans for the 4-H building. Helm reported that the new riding lawn mower has been very helpful in getting the lawn mowed faster in the campground.

The following bills were approved and paid:

McLean-Sheridan Rural Water, \$41.00; Martin City, \$1,500.00; Bentz Supply Store, \$62.84; CO-OP Elevator, \$33.25; C-Store, \$94.93; Ted Mertz, \$44.83; Schuh Construction, \$1,350.00; Harvey Ready Mix, \$871.00; Bismarck Lumber, \$438.21; Menard's, \$151.83

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Auditor

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Chairman