

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

February 3, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Murphy, Knauf, Malm, Schmisek and Pic present. Commissioner Knauf participated via telephone from Bismarck

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve the order of agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: employee status changes for Katie Vigness and Randy Flaten; bills submitted by the County Auditor, Check#137366-137615 in the amount of \$958,810.23; overtime and County Deeds on parcel numbers 46-0001-00252-000 and 44-1350-00001-000. Motion carried.

Janet Dvorak, Red River Regional Council Administrative Assistant, addressed the board regarding two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program acquisition projects from 2004 and 2006. Ms. Dvorak requested signatures on the Contract for Administrative Services and signatures for a checking account for each project.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to approve the Chairman's signature on the Contract for Administrative Services for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and on the signature cards for the two checking accounts required to administer the grants. Motion failed with Murphy, Knauf, Malm, Schmisek and Pic voting nay. Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed his concerns to the board before the vote was taken on the motion.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, said the two properties are located in Townships that do their own zoning and, therefore, the County should not be signing as the flood plain administrator for those two Townships. Ms. Dvorak said FEMA requires the project to be with the County. Mr. Magnuson disagreed. This matter will be turned over to the States Attorney's Office for their review and it will be placed on the agenda after the review has been completed.

Diane Blair, Base Realignment Impact Committee Coordinator, addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the Chairman's signature on the Office of Economic Adjustment Amendment of \$64,560 with a local match of \$6,456 being paid 50% by Grand Forks County and 50% by Grand Forks City. The local match was approved on January 6, 2009. Motion carried.

Amber Vaughn, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve, in part, the 2008 abatement application for Joshua and Elizabeth Johnston on parcel number 08-4801-00003-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$203,400 to \$195,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Malm, to approve the 2008 abatement application for Nicholas Shulstad on parcel number 13-5202-00005-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$135,600 to \$125,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the 2007 abatement application for Alyce Strausbaugh on parcel number 42-2402-00002-002 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$192,000 to \$80,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the abatement applications for Albert and Bonnie Swanson on parcel number 46-0001-00151-000 and reduce the 2007 True and Full Value from \$108,300 to \$99,800 and the 2008 True and Full Value from \$121,500 to \$103,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to approve the 2008 abatement application for Joseph Murphy on parcel number 46-0001-00233-000 and reduce the True and Full Value from \$11,700 to \$8,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to approve the 2008 abatement application for Christopher Pearce on parcel number 46-0001-00390-000 and reduce the True Full Value from \$48,400 to \$44,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve, in part, the abatement applications for Joseph Murphy on parcel number 46-0001-00409-000 and reduce the 2007 True and Full Value from \$20,200 to \$6,300 and the 2008 True and Full Value from \$15,500 to \$6,300. Motion carried.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to accept the bid from United Crane & Excavation, Inc., Grand Forks, ND, for dragline excavation. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to accept the bids from Gabriel Construction, Northwood, ND, for gravel & hauling and Strata Corporation, Grand Forks, ND for class 43 aggregate. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to accept the bid from Johnston Fargo Culvert Inc, Fargo, ND, for riveted copper steal culverts, arched culverts, steel multi plate arch culverts and round multi plate culverts. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Pic, to accept the bid from and from Cretex Concrete Products West, Bismarck, ND, for precast and prestressed concrete bridge beams. Motion carried.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve a 25% increase in the Township Maintenance Agreement effective April 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Lane Magnuson, County Planner, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to approve Sondreal Subdivision in section 34 of Allendale Township, with the following conditions: the applicant shall submit to the Planning Department copies of the maintenance agreements for Sondreal Drive prior to the Planning Department signing off on the plat and the Grand Forks County Planning Department receives from the developer a bond or letter of credit in the amount of \$10,000 dollars as a financial guarantee for road construction prior to the Planning Department signing off on the plat. Motion carried.

Lane Magnuson will be attending a hearing on House Bill 1554 that deals with the extraterritorial zoning power of North Dakota Cities on February 5, 2009 in Bismarck.

Dean Dahl, Information Technology Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Knauf, to approve purchasing five new laptop computers for the Commission at a cost of \$6,000 to be paid out of the Computer budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve purchasing a Microsoft Exchange Server with client licenses for all County users at a cost \$15,341 and amend the Computer budget by this amount. Motion carried.

Dean Dahl reported that the County Office Building phone service software is obsolete, it is difficult to find parts and the whole system has locked up a few times over the past year. In December the voice mail system had some hardware failures. Mr. Dahl is unsure how long the current system will last and how much down time there will be if it does fail. The Board asked Mr. Dahl to gather additional information regarding options for a new phone system and bring it back to a future meeting.

Commissioner Malm reported that he and Richard Onstad went to Bismarck and met with Francis Ziegler, ND Department of Transportation, and Lance Gaebe, Governor Hoeven's Deputy Chief of Staff, regarding funding for the Thompson Bridge project. Commissioner Malm received an email from Francis Ziegler after their meeting stating they all need to work at this funding to get this bridge built. They will do their best to help make this a reality.

Josh Klug, Grand Forks Small Business Development Center Regional Director, requested \$1,500 from Grand Forks County for the Small Business Development Center. This request will be held for consideration for the 2010 budget.

The Commission agreed that Peter Welte, States Attorney, should attend the hearing on House Bill 1398 regarding building authorities for counties and other political subdivisions.

Moved by Malm, seconded by Schmisek, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:29pm. The next meeting will be held on February 17, 2009.

William Murphy, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor