

GRAND FORKS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

September 6, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment with Commissioners Malm, Schmisek, Pic, Murphy and Knauf present.

Chairman Malm approved the minutes of the August 16, 2011 meeting as presented.

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

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: bills as submitted by the County Auditor, Check #155868 – 156090 in the amount of \$955,275.86; July Financial Report and bond for check reissue. Motion carried.

Chris Myers, Assistant United States Attorney, recognized Assistant States Attorney Tom Falck and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from US Attorney Tim Purdon for Mr. Falck's outstanding cooperation and leadership in assisting the Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in the investigation and prosecution of Operation Budapest.

Mr. Myers also expressed appreciation to States Attorney, Peter Welte and all of the Grand Forks County Assistant States Attorneys for the ongoing assistance they provide the Organized Crime Drug Task Force.

Steve Sagaser informed the board that with Commissioner Pic's approval, NDSU Extension Service Director Duane Hauck has appointed him as the Grand Forks County Extension Office Chairman. Mr. Sagaser introduced Dr. Lynette Flage, NDSU Extension Northeast District Director.

Dr. Lynette Flage, NDSU Extension NE District Director, addressed the board.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, explained that Grand Forks County currently has a contract with the Grand Forks Council on Aging which will disband December 31, 2011. The Grand Forks County Council on Aging has voted to transfer all duties and responsibilities to the Grand Forks Senior Citizens Center.

Colette Iseminger, Grand Forks Senior Citizens Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Pic, to approve the contract with the Grand Forks Senior Citizens Center, designating them as the agent to supervise and authorize expenditure of mill levy funds generated by the senior mill levy and the state matching dollars. The formula to be used for distribution of funds will be based on the populations, over 60 years old, of the five cities within Grand Forks County which have senior clubs. Motion carried.

Amber Gudatjes, Tax Equalization Director, addressed the board.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the abatement applications of Michael and Debbie Briones and reduce the 2009 True and Full Value from \$106,900 to \$36,200 and the 2010 True and Full Value from \$107,500 to \$36,300. Motion carried.

Ms. Gudatjes reported there will be an additional 5%-8% increase in the agricultural values for 2011 which will be imposed by the State Board of Equalization to bring Grand Forks County agricultural values into compliance. This is in addition to the 2% increase that was reported on January 4, 2011.

Richard Onstad, Highway Superintendent, addressed the board.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Schmisek, to obtain quotes on two (2) rear mounted tractor snow blowers. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to advertise for sealed bids on the sale of Grand Forks County Highway Department used road equipment to be publicly opened and read at 4:20pm on October 4, 2011. Motion carried.

Sheriff Rost addressed the board.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to approve a \$45.00 administrative fee for concealed weapons permits, effective immediately. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Murphy, to hire a support staff position in the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department. The position will not increase the Sheriff's Department budget, but the additional cost will be offset by the fee charged for concealed weapons permits. Motion carried.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Schmisek, to open the bid received for the used Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department used vehicle unit #1. Motion carried.

The bid received:

Rod Huot, Thompson, ND, Unit #1, \$1,001.00

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to accept the bid from Rod Huot for the Sheriff's Department used vehicle, unit #1 for \$1,001.00. Motion carried.

Sheriff Rost was directed to advertise the two remaining vehicles on the Grand Forks County employee website.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Pic, to approve the North Dakota Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Contract, contingent upon review by the States Attorney. Motion carried.

Debbie Nelson, Finance and Tax Director, presented the 2012 Preliminary Budget.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Pic, to approve the 2012 Preliminary Budget and to set the public hearing on the final budget for September 20, 2011 at 6:00pm. Motion carried.

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration, addressed the board.

Peter Welte, States Attorney, said after reviewing the contract submitted by Otis Elevator, it is his opinion that this type of improvement must be bid, according to NDCC § 48-01.2-04

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Knauf, to allow Mr. Nierode to contact ICON Architectural Group to hire an engineer to draft bid specifications to repair the elevators in the County Office Building. Motion carried with Schmisek, Pic, Murphy and Knauf voting aye and Malm voting nay.

The Grand Forks County Commission will meet with the GF County Fair Board on December 6, 2011 at 2:00pm.

Chairman Malm cancelled the October 18, 2011 Commission Meeting.

Moved by Pic, seconded by Knauf, to hire Jeffrey Donohoe Associates LLC, to evaluate the feasibility of pursuing the creation of a distributed ground station (DGS) at Grand Forks Air Force Base, at a cost of \$16,000. This will be paid from the BRIC Coordinator's Salary line item in the County Commissioner's 2011 budget. A request will be made to Grand Forks City and GF Region Economic Development Corporation to share in this expense equally. Motion carried.

Moved by Schmisek, seconded by Murphy, to approve paying \$2,813 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant expenses approved on September 7, 2004, the County will be reimbursed 85% or \$2,391.05 by the ND Department of Emergency Services. Motion carried.

The Grand Forks County Commissioner's selected the afternoon of October 24th or October 25th as possible dates for an Institute of Local Government course to be held at the Grand Forks County Office Building.

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Pic, to sponsor the Grand Forks County 4-H Award Program at a cost of \$30.00. Motion carried

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Schmisek, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:32pm. The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2011 at 6:00pm.

Gary Malm, Chairman
Grand Forks County Commission

Debbie Nelson, County Auditor