Meeting Minutes
Grant County Commissioner
Regular meeting

Commissioners:

Alton Zenker | Al Roy Hochhalter | John Reinhardt

Commissioner Zenker called the December 1, 2021 meeting of the Grant County Commissioners to order 9:01 a.m. Public present were Jackie Steinmetz, Marissa Sprenger, Ron Bartz, Sannon Wangsvick, Jerald Christensen, Kevin Roth, Donna VandenBurg, Myron Miller, Dennis Rivinius, Reva Weekes, and Gregory Bruce. Omitted property hearing present were Daniel Paul, Zane Wick and Joseph Wolf (by phone).

Moved by Commissioner Reinhardt and seconded by Commissioner Hochhalter to approve agenda. All present voting aye; agenda approved.

Moved by Commissioner Hochhalter and seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt to approve minutes. All present voting aye; minutes approved.

Old business: Water and sewage at the Elgin Shop in Carson will be discussed with the Elgin City Council at the December 9 meeting. Ron Bartz, Elgin Mayor asked engineer about tapping into the water line. Commissioner Hochhalter will work with city on possible solution.

New business:

Reinhardt made a motion to approve bills totaling 45,256.00. Seconded by Hochhalter. Roll call vote- Hochhalter– aye, Reinhardt – aye, Zenker – aye. Motion carried.

Advanced Business Methods 652.35
Amanda Dahners 143.42
Auto Value Mandan 275.40
Big O Tires 6,307.08
Brock White Co LLC 104.00
Butler Machinery Inc. 5,548.99
Discover 2,416.04
Everspring Inn 172.80
Farm & Home Supply 269.74
High Plains Tech 619.00
John Deere Financial 960.47
NACo 450.00
ND Association of Ext 4H 100.00
ND County Commissioners Association 1,040.00
NDAAEA Dues 75.00
Otis Elevator Co 2,529.00
PJ's Farm Supply 58.03
PowerPlan 5,438.88
Roehl Transfer Inc 1,409.58
Steins Inc. 557.79
Vanguard Appraisals Inc 3,150.00
VISA 2,893.27
Wallwork Truck Center 590.43

Reinhardt moved to approve application for Red Rock Resort beer and liquor license for 2022. Seconded by Hochhalter. All in favor voting aye. Motion carried.

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The Grant County Weed Board has nominated Denis Tibor and Leonard Gerhardt for a four year term. Moved by Reinhardt and seconded by Hochhalter to appoint Denis Tibor and Leonard Gerhardt to the Weed Board. All in favor voting aye.

Members from townships and cities were present to discuss the 2022 assessment agreement. Ron Bartz asked if rates would change once the reassessment is completed by the independent appraisal company. Auditor Meier stated that the assessment agreement between the county and cities and townships is separate from the contract the county has for the reassessment. The contract amounts are based on the number of properties in each category, and the associated rates. The rates can be reconsidered annually by the Board of County Commissioners and would take into account staffing, programming and equipment needs. Donna VandenBurg asked how can we prevent the need for a reassessment from happening again. Jackie Steinmetz, Director of Tax Equalization said an inventory of property will be done every year, in addition to keeping up with building permits and demolition. Contracts for the 2022 assessment and a draft of the 2023 will be sent to each political subdivision.

Recess regular meeting at 11:29 am.
Chairman Zenker opened hearing on omitted property. Jackie Steinmetz presented list of property to be added to the 2021 assessment and tax list that had been omitted or escaped taxation.
Parcel identification number (PID) 19431000 was vacant and is now being rented to a person that does not qualify for rural residence exemption. PID 41134200 is occupied by a person who does not qualify for rural residence exemption. PID 26344700 is occupied by a person who does not qualify for rural residence exemption. PID 63117700 is a lot that was purchased from the City of Leith, and the document was not recorded to change ownership and taxable status. PID 63125400, 63125410, 63125420, and 63125430 were tracts of land purchased from the City of Leith, and did not have the taxable status changed. Motion made by Reinhardt and seconded by Hochhalter to approve the addition of the omitted property values to the 2021 assessment and tax list. All in favor voting aye. Motion carried. Chairman Zenker stated that any person that does not agree with the value or taxation of property they have interest to can file an abatement. Additional proof will have to accompany the abatement application. Steinmetz stated there are eleven properties to add as taxable rural residences. PID 34203900, 04692400, 20418801, 14572800, 14577100, 09600801, 07625700, 46017000, 29393100, 03731800, and 01700000 have and added value of $50,000 residential structure value. Application for rural residence exemption were sent at the beginning of 2021, and again in August and September. At the November 3 meeting for the Board of County Commissioners the hearing date was set for December 1 and letters were sent to the property owners. Steinmetz stated that people have sent documentation after receiving the hearing letter. Zenker restated that an application for abatement can be filed by property owners that did not send the information in on time. An abatement hearing will then be scheduled. Meier stated that the property owners will receive a tax statement for the omitted property, and having the abatement process done prior to the tax becoming delinquent would work the best. Motion made by Reinhardt to add properties to the 2021 assessment and taxation list. Seconded by Hochhalter. All in favor voting aye. Motion carried. Hearing closed at 10:56 am.
Reconvene regular meeting at 10:56 am.

Selection of members for redistricting board. Reva Weekes, Elgin City Auditor stated that Ron Bartz will be representing Elgin.

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Myron Miller nominated Keith Payne to represent the organized townships in Grant County. Kevin Roth seconded the nomination. Chairman Zenker said he has spoken with Mr. Payne and he is willing to serve. Kevin Roth offered to serve as alternate for the organized townships. Reva Weekes, Leith City Auditor, speaking on behalf of Ryan Schock, Mayor of Leith, nominated Donna VandenBurg to represent the cities of Leith, Carson and New Leipzig. Marissa Sprenger, New Leipzig Council person, state that the City of New Leipzig agreed. Member of the redistricting board include Alton Zenker, County Commission Chair, Grant Walker, County State's Attorney, and Sara Meier, County Auditor. First meeting will be held in late December and is open to the public.

Motion by Hochhalter and seconded by Reinhardt to purchase handy hitch for mower from Butler for $18,200. Roll call vote – Reinhardt – aye, Hochhalter – aye, Zenker – aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Zenker spoke with property owners adjacent to the Otter Creek bridge project. Zenker recommends that the Board approve Alternative 2 for the project, which is a bridge replacement with no bypass.

Sheriff Foss requested the purchase of a Ford Explorer for the sheriff's department be made. He has a quote of $34, 179. Motion made by Hochhalter and seconded by Reinhardt to order vehicle. Roll call vote – Reinhardt – aye, Hochhalter – aye, Zenker – aye. Motion carried.

Being no further business, Zenker adjourned meeting at 12:13 p.m.

FYI: next scheduled meetings will be December 15, 2021 and January 5, 2022.

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Alton Zenker, Chairman | Sara Meier, County Auditor