

**BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 2, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. with Commissioners Kessel and Kasian in attendance.

Others were present during portions of the meeting: Sheriff Pat Rummel, Major Dean Wyckoff, Fire Chief Kyle Shockley, Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson, Tax & Zoning Deputy Julianna Hammerstrom, Ambulance Directors Mitch Gilseth & Kyle Michels, Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Connie Hartman, Shae Peplinski, Danielle O'Brien from Billings County Schools, and Andrew Krebs from KLJ

Kessel moved to approve the minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular meeting. Kasian seconded. All voted aye.

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson and Deputy Juliana Hammerstrom were present for the Board of Equalization hearing for 2020. Director Swanson presented the board with handouts and went over the appraisal process regarding residential, commercial, and agricultural values.

Residential – The median sales ratio for residential property was 90.4% and is within tolerance of the state level. No overall change was made to rural land values. Medora residential land values were increased by \$0.50 to \$4.00/sf. Total increase in residential value was \$2,451,800. Approximately 21% of the increase was for new construction, 43% was for exempt to taxable property, and the remaining 36% was for overall market adjustments to properties. Director Swanson also informed the board of the 2019 legislative changes to the Farm Residence Exemption. Some FHE applications are still pending in the county due to the COVID-19 extensions for tax filing. The tax department will conduct further investigation in the summer of 2020 and some may need to be added as omitted property in October.

Commercial – The sales ratio for commercial property was 99.1%. Due to a lack of commercial sales data, no overall change was made to commercial land values. Land values in the city of Medora were increased by \$0.50 to \$4.00/sf. The board went over individual industrial properties that are assessed by TY Pickett. Most of the increase to commercial values was for new construction in Districts 2 & 3.

Agricultural – NDSU cropland value per acre is \$494.95. NDSU non-cropland value per acre is \$142.20. The NDSU average per acre is \$247.48. Cropland soils were increased 5%. Non-cropland soils were increased 3%. Overall, the county change was +4.7%. The county average is 6% below the NDSU average and within tolerance of the state level.

Properties that increased \$3000 and 10% in valuation received Notices of Increase. No one was present from the public to discuss Notices of Increase.

The total county True and Full Value was increased \$10,965,470 or a 4.1% increase. Total projected net taxable value for 2020 is \$13,691,777. The county has one homestead credit and two veteran's credits for a total of \$14,726 in taxable valuation.

Kessel moved to approve the assessments for 2020 as presented. Kasian seconded. All voted aye.

Danielle O'Brien, teacher in Fairfield, and Shae Peplinski, Principle of Billings County Schools, discussed with commission that the library will be opening to the public and they will be following state regulations regarding COVID-19 and making sure social distancing is still in effect. They are asking the board if they would like to have the say on how the library is run since they help fund the library or if it could be up to the schools to make the decisions as long as protocol is followed. The commission agreed that the school could make the decisions and if something comes up, they can always come back.

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson presented 3 ARW Applications that were approved with conditions by the Road Superintendent.

- Medora Grazing Association – Sections 23-144-101 for an agricultural water pipeline along Magpie Rd.
- Travis Dukart – Sections 1-137-100 for a construction permit 2020-2 along 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW
- McKenzie Electric Coop – Sections 5-144-102 for a utility permit along Beaver Creek Road.

Stacey Swanson also presented the 2-year contract that needs to be signed by commission for State Radio. The contract will increase \$.50 this year and \$.02 next year.

Connie Hartman asked the commission if they would agree with opening the museum following guidelines for COVID-19. The museum has been closed since the courthouse closed to the public and they would like to reopen. There were some concerns about the workers being exposed to COVID-19 so Pat Rummel suggested Southwest District Health officer Kevin Pavlish come do a walk through and inspection to make sure the museum will be ok to open. The board is leaving it up to Kevin's findings on if it will open or not.

Cost of Living adjustment will be tabled until the next meeting.

KLJ's Andrew Krebs gave his monthly report on projects that are on going and future projects.

Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson gave his monthly report. He stated that they need to fix a few culverts around the county that have rusted out. Will be replacing the pipe. The county will be chip sealing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> starting in

Fryburg to East River Road to the city of Medora. Marcia is working with Jeff to get letters out to land owners for changes that will be made on some of the roads. Will be giving Billings County resident excess dirt from section 15 on 10<sup>th</sup> St to fill in some corrosion on his road and that will clean up the ditch as well. Dixies pit is reclaimed. Will need the river to go down a little bit more to clean up the river crossings.

Ambulance Directors Mitch Gilseth and Kyle Michels gave their monthly report. Summer is approaching which means more call outs. The numbers are slowing going up. The Ford Chassy's will be here July 20<sup>th</sup>. And looking at September for the new ambulance since the company just started up production again. The Ambulance and Sheriff's office received their Ozone machines.

Sheriff Pat Rummel gave his monthly report. Pat gave the commission a heads up that some of the community members will be calling stating their concerns about the riots taking place around the country and that a few are close to home. The Sheriff's office will be helping out Stark County and Dickinson Police with the peaceful protest that will be taking place that afternoon. Frank Lukowski is checking social media to make sure that the riots do not get close to Medora. The community has also been very good about calling in controlled burns.

Fire Chief Kyle Shockley came to the commission with some ideas to run across them. The fire department has \$184,000 to put towards a new fire truck in Fairfield. Kyle is asking the commission if they would be willing to fund all new electric equipment for the new truck since all the old equipment is outdated. It is about \$65,000 to update the airbags and tools. He is asking that we also update the equipment in Medora as well since that too is outdated. He is asking the commission to fund the \$130,000 for the new equipment. Kyle also brought up the idea of possibly giving his volunteers a retirement plan. Would be \$1,000 a year towards retirement as long as they follow the point system guidelines. The board will table both questions until they have a full quorum.

Commissioner Mike Kasian will be appointed on the Canvassing Board for the up-coming election June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Canvasing will take place June 15, 2020 at 10:00am. Kessel moved to appoint Kasian on the canvassing board.

The following claims were approved for payment:

<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
N.D. P.E.R.S.	018202	\$ 72,121.97
Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.D.	018203	\$ 3,962.30
3D Specialties	018204	\$ 4,417.34
ABC Fencing, LLC	018205	\$ 3,052.00
AmeriPride Linen Service	018206	\$ 169.55
Belfield Automotive Supply, Inc.	018207	\$ 1,354.20
Billings County Rural Fire District	018208	\$ 368.38
Billings County School District	018209	\$ 4,104.03
Boss Office Products	018210	\$ 2,289.97
Bound Tree Medical, LLC	018211	\$ 2,063.30
Brooks & Associates, C. E.	018212	\$ 181.20
Brosz Engineering, Inc.	018213	\$ 500.00
Butler Machinery Co.	018214	\$ 413.41
Code 4 Services, Inc.	018215	\$ 2,215.54
Creative Energy	018216	\$ 906.57
Crowell & Moring, LLP	018217	\$ 14,661.52
D & D Sprinkler Systems	018218	\$ 219.10
Dakota Dirt Works	018219	\$ 12,100.00
Dakota Insurance	018220	\$ 746.00
Dakota Sports	018221	\$ 314.62
Deans Distributing	018222	\$ 4,491.25
Deere Credit, Inc.	018223	\$ 12,667.50
Dryland Enterprises	018224	\$ 15,875.00
DTE, Inc.	018225	\$ 2,024.00
Election Systems & Software	018226	\$ 557.15
Electro Watchman, Inc.	018227	\$ 1,078.80
ESRI, Inc.	018228	\$ 2,200.00
ERE Trucking, LLC	018229	\$ 15,375.00
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	018230	\$ 134.62
First Initial Respond Systems	018231	\$ 546.06
Forsgren Associates, Inc.	018232	\$ 5,710.17
Four Corners Café	018233	\$ 172.50
George's Tire, Ltd.	018234	\$ 5,727.00
Gooseneck Implement	018235	\$ 734.08
Heiser, Mike	018236	\$ 156.40
Helena Chemical Company	018237	\$ 94.44
Hidden Springs Java	018238	\$ 720.00
Hlebechuk Construction	018239	\$ 38,997.50
J and J Operating, LLC	018240	\$ 3,004.32
JB'S Window Cleaning Service	018241	\$ 395.00
Jeff's Towing	018242	\$ 155.13
Kasian, Michael E.	018243	\$ 117.30
Kessel, Joseph L.	018244	\$ 166.18
Kevin's Auto & Truck Repair	018245	\$ 171.50
KLJ Engineering, LLC	018246	\$ 40,289.76
Kohler Communications, Inc.	018247	\$ 245.00
Kutzler, Marilyn	018248	\$ 144.90
Logo Magic	018249	\$ 2,775.00
Mac's, Inc.	018250	\$ 128.75
Malkowski Trucking	018251	\$ 17,940.00
Medora, City of...	018252	\$ 33.71
Menards	018253	\$ 680.53

Metro-Billing Services	018254	\$	110.00
MGM Rural Sanitation, LLC	018255	\$	309.00
Midstate Telephone Company	018256	\$	1,284.84
Midwest Welding, LLC	018257	\$	2,849.44
Montana Fluid Solutions, LLC	018258	\$	14,700.00
Murtha, Janilyn K.	018259	\$	2,416.67
N.D. Association of Counties	018260	\$	115.80
N.D. Association of Counties	018261	\$	1,291.35
N.D. Attorney General's Office	018262	\$	315.00
N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame	018263	\$	200.00
N.D. Department of Transportation	018264	\$	11.50
N.D. Department of Transportation	018265	\$	11.50
N.D. Department of Transportation	018266	\$	10.00
N.D. Department of Transportation	018267	\$	11.50
N.D. Department of Transportation	018268	\$	11.50
N.D. State Radio Communications	018269	\$	759.52
N.D. State Treasurer	018270	\$	629.06
N.D. State's Attorney Association	018271	\$	300.00
NDACO Resources Group	018272	\$	8,457.04
N.D. Assoc. of County Superintendents	018273	\$	50.00
Nelson International	018274	\$	1,011.88
North Dakota Safety Council	018275	\$	320.00
Nutrien Ag Solutions	018276	\$	2,313.10
Penguin Management, Inc.	018277	\$	2,916.00
Postmaster	018278	\$	392.00
Premier Woodcraft	018279	\$	206.98
Proserve Electrical	018280	\$	106.00
Pump Systems, Inc.	018281	\$	2,009.59
RDO Equipment Company	018282	\$	369.07
RDO Equipment Company	018283	\$	437,874.00
Red Rock Ford	018284	\$	34.92
RELX, Inc.	018285	\$	233.40
Romanyshyn Trucking	018286	\$	17,030.00
RPM Auto Repair	018287	\$	2,283.00
Rudy's Lock & Key	018288	\$	40.00
Rummel, Patrick	018289	\$	35.00
Runnings Supply, Inc.	018290	\$	409.06
Sanford Inpatient Pharmacy	018291	\$	812.00
Sax Customs, LLC	018292	\$	880.00
Southwest Business Machines	018293	\$	616.50
Southwest Water Authority	018294	\$	4,453.39
Southwest Water Authority	018295	\$	73.36
Southwestern District Health Unit	018296	\$	287.61
Stein's, Inc.	018297	\$	673.84
Swanston Equipment Corp.	018298	\$	858.09
Temp Right Service, Inc.	018299	\$	523.50
Total Safety US, Inc.	018300	\$	21.00
U P S Store	018301	\$	12.46
Val's Sanitation	018302	\$	617.00
Verizon Network Fleet, Inc.	018303	\$	65.80
Verizon Wireless	018304	\$	2,053.95
Vogel Law Firm	018305	\$	6,129.30
Wal-Mart	018306	\$	268.07
Warne Chemical & Equipment Co.	018307	\$	74.60
West Dakota Oil, Inc.	018308	\$	15,808.37
Westlie Crossroad Truck Center	018309	\$	282,923.00
Westlie Crossroad Truck Center	018310	\$	10,516.87
Zoll Medical Corp.	018311	\$	1,530.00
Abrahamson, Mary	018317	\$	27.40
Century Link	018318	\$	897.82
DirecTV	018319	\$	118.52
Discovery Benefits, Inc.	018320	\$	78.75
Enders, Travis	018321	\$	91.15
Ewoniuk, Shelly	018322	\$	73.15
Information Technology Dept.	018323	\$	961.79
Malkowski, Kathleen	018324	\$	177.50
Medora, City of...	018325	\$	540.17
Reservation Telephone Cooperative	018326	\$	41.74
Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc.	018327	\$	4,499.07
Thompson, Philip M.	018328	\$	27.40
Verizon Wireless	018329	\$	50.10
Visa	018330	\$	503.57
Visa	018331	\$	451.90
N.D. P.E.R.S.	018332	\$	<u>42,283.95</u>

The board approved the revenue vouchers for the month of May: Recorder \$1,520.00; Zoning \$6,168.61; Court \$140.00; Sheriff \$33.00, EMS \$1,397.47.

Revenues for materials and/or services rendered in May: Mike Klatt \$416.25 scoria & hauling; Froehlich Farms \$75.60 bridge plank; Curt Miller \$386.25 scoria & hauling; Cory Smith \$1,541.25 scoria & hauling; City of Belfield \$2,728.00 road oil; Jason Downing \$366.00 scoria & hauling. WEED SPRAYING: Doug & Katie Oe \$40.10, Perry Redmond \$28.19, Tim Loh \$55.44

Revenues for the month of May: Sheriff \$7,438.34 permits, Highway Distribution \$25,806.57 (two months); Oil & Gas Production Tax \$66,073.60; Royalties \$10,964.69; Unorganized Oil & Gas Production Tax \$4,409.90; Interest \$4,710.15; Cash Bar permit \$25.00.

Payroll in the following amounts was approved for May: General Fund \$176,073.39; Road and Bridge Fund \$126,125.07; Weed Fund \$12,573.92.

With there being no further business, the meeting ended at 3:25 P.M.

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Michael Kasian, Vice-Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonna Bertelsen, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer