Barnes County Commission
October 20, 2026
Valley City, ND 58072

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, October 2026 with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson. Chairman Bill Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., roll call was taken, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the agenda was reviewed.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Environmental Services

Gas and water main lines are located under the old jail. Currently there is no heat source. Keith's Air Conditioning quoted $1,150.00 for a heater. Maintenance would do the installing themselves. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the heater purchase; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Change order of $6,689 questioned was for lowering duct work and piping. The change would cosmetically cover the duct work and piping. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the ceiling change order; Shawn Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Planning & Zoning

A setback variance was presented from Richard Welle for constructing a sugar shack for storing sap and making syrup located 180' from the center of county road on 10 acres on the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of section 24-137-57 of Thordenskjold Township. A second setback variance application from Richard Welle was presented to add a garage addition located 180 from the center of County Road 38 located on the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of section 24-137-57in Thordenskjold Township. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the applications; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes. A setback variance was presented for Blair Karges requesting a 77-acre tile project in Grand Prairie and Minnie Lake Townships located in the south 1/2 of section 24-142-57. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve the setback variance; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. A tree variance was presented for Kody Amann for planting trees 150' from the center of township road 18th Street Southeast located on section 6-142-58 in Ashtabula Township. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the variance. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. A setback variance of 33' from the center line of County Road 21 was presented for BEK Communications. BEK would like to bury cable located on the east side of the Northeast 1/4 of section 22-141-58 in Getchell Township. Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the setback variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed.

Auditor's Office

Pete Paulson moved to approve October 6, 2026, commission minutes and October 8, 2026, Kathryn and Nome fire department merge minutes as presented. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting aye. Vicky Lovell made a motion to move the November 3rd commission meeting to November 5th due to November 3rd being election day; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The computer software contract with Counties Providing Technology is up for the three-year renewal with a 3 percent increase in fees each year. Mike Schwehr moved to approve the contract; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Appraisal for Annual Tax Deed Property Sale

The commission reviewed the list of properties and set sale prices for each property to be sold at the annual Tax Deed Sale on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the total amount listed for each parcel listed as the amount set by the board; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Commission Discussion

Pete reported there are a couple of new businesses looking for a location. Sick leave payout request for a temporary employee needs to be initiated by the employee. The Weed Department is behind in spraying. They are currently spraying townships. The weed board will sell the pickup that was replaced to the Highway Department. He attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting. Vicky Lovell attended the Housing and Urban development meeting. The smoke house construction is completed. Vicky questioned if the moratorium on the data center should be extended. We will put this on a future agenda.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting "aye" and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission
Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor

(November 17, 2026)