



Bismarck-Burleigh Commissions Committee

5/12/2023 - Minutes

Call to Order.

County Commissioner Chair Matthews called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Committee members present were City of Bismarck Mayor Schmitz, Burleigh County Commission Chair Becky Matthews, Burleigh County Auditor Mark Splonskowski, and City Administrator Keith Hunke.

1. Consider approval of minutes of April 28, 2023, meeting.

Chair Matthews called for approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2023, meeting. Mayor Schmitz motioned to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2023, meeting as presented, and Auditor Splonskowski seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

2. Consider review of Municipal Court Lease Agreement.

The group discussed the current lease agreement held by Municipal Court for the space it occupies in the Burleigh County Court House. City Attorney Combs noted Judge Severin understands the current lease rate could be reconsidered in addition to reviewing the services provided by the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. Attorney Combs continued by stating that Judge Severin would prefer to keep all court-related activities centrally located in the current location at the Burleigh County Courthouse. Attorney Combs closed by noting she is working to discuss similar arrangements with Judge Kautzman in Mandan for reference.

County Deputy Finance Director, Justin Schulz, suggested the lease for Municipal Court and 1st-floor space in the City/County Building could be discussed at the staff level between himself and Auditor Splonskowski, Finance Director Chernyak, and Administrator Hunke, with the intention of returning to the Commission's Committee to share the information for the group's consideration.

3. Consider continued review of City/County IT Services Agreement.

City of Bismarck Finance Director Chernyak updated the committee by noting recent conversations between Burleigh County Emergency Manager Mary Senger and City of Bismarck IT Manager Tandra Kraft will need additional time to continue working through details relating to Burleigh County's desire to become independent from the City of Bismarck's Information Technology services.

4. Consider meeting topics for future meetings.

Chair Matthews remarked that she is struggling to navigate information between the Commission's Committee and the Burleigh County Commission. She requested the full City and County Commissions meet collectively to discuss their respective 2024 budget items and requests.

Mayor Schmitz remarked it was his understanding the intention of the Commission's Committee was to work through details and report back to the respective commissions with recommendations to move forward. Mayor Schmitz closed by saying that he would prefer to support staff-level meetings, noting potential struggles to build consensus between 10 elected officials at one meeting.

The consensus was to discuss the lease agreements between the City and the County for the 1st-Floor space in the City-County Building and the Municipal Court space at the Burleigh County Courthouse at the next meeting. Additionally, the Committee agreed to discuss operations of Public Health following Burleigh County's discussion at the May 15, 2023, Burleigh County Commission Meeting.

5. Consider future meeting dates.

- May 19, 2023
- June 2, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- July 7, 2023
- July 21, 2023

6. Other business.

Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM.