

Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

June 13, 2022

The special meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Rostad at 8:03 AM with Commissioners Anderson, Fjeldahl, Pietsch, and Weppler present. Also present were department heads Kristi Frederick, Marisa Haman, Robert Roed, and Roza Larson.

Emily Yanish, Program Manager of Youthworks, appeared and presented two options for housing in Minot. The first is a former sober living home on the south end of Minot that is, for the most part, ready for use and includes 7 bedrooms. This is a double lot with a large shop on the property that can possibly be utilized. The cost of this property is \$350,000.00. An inspection has been done but Youthworks is requesting an appraisal which should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The second option is to purchase the Trinity Guest Home in which Trinity will be selling 9-12 months from now. This space would need immediate renovations but is much larger and would be better suited in the long run.

Youthworks has been approved for a \$150,000.00 state grant which can be used for the purchase of a building, remodeling, or operating costs. If Youthworks ceases operation within 2 years, the grant money will need to be returned.

There were some concerns about liability issues and damages if Ward County owned the property.

Discussion was held as to utilizing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Melanie Heitkamp, Executive Director of Youthworks, present by telephone, spoke as to the long term use of a larger building and that the Trinity building would be ideal. Ms. Heitkamp also addressed the grant offerings available and transitional living need. She stated that quite a few kids come to the transitional living program once they age out of the foster care system or the Boy's Ranch. Transition time is 6-12 months for these individuals at which time Youthworks helps them find a job and eventually their own place to rent.

Discussion on possibility of Ward County owning the building with entering into a lease agreement with Youthworks and having liability covered by Youthworks. Building maintenance was also discussed. For the building on the south side of town, there would need to be appliances, additional beds, and minimal furniture purchased.

Once again a Memorandum of Understanding was discussed in order to ensure that Ward County youth has a bed available at all times and that Ward County needs are addressed if possible.

Discussion on how much input Ward County will have on operations. Shelter care and attendant care will be housed in this new building. Shelter care is overseen by the State of North Dakota and Youthworks will be required to keep in touch with the county regarding changes. In regard to attendant care, Youthworks stays in touch with the county with any changes as well.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to provide \$350,000.00 in ARPA funds to purchase a house with Youthworks being the owner, a Memorandum of Understanding that states Ward County youth will be cared for, and a 5-year stipulation that Youthworks stays in Ward County or a portion of the \$350,000.00 will need to be returned to Ward County should they leave prior to 5 years. Roll call; Weppler, Pietsch, Anderson, and Rostad voted yes; Fjeldahl voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve \$200,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act funds be set aside for Youthworks for the purpose of possibly moving into the next

building in 9-12 months. The amount was amended by Comm. Weppeler to \$100,000.00 and approved by Comm. Anderson. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Discussion began on the Minot Municipal Court placement within Ward County facilities.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch to offer the Minot Municipal Court the space in the Ward County Courthouse currently occupied by the Superintendent of Schools plus the storage room adjacent to this office. All remodeling would be the responsibility of the City of Minot which would including moving the storage area. This move would be on a 1-year probationary status at which time the county commission would make a determination as to whether or not to continue this arrangement. Monthly or yearly compensation from the City of Minot is also a requirement. Comm. Anderson seconded the motion with the 1-year probationary status changed to November 1, 2022. Comm. Pietsch agreed to this change.

Discussion was held on the storage space and feasibility of moving records to another area.

Final amended motion acceptable to Comm. Pietsch and Comm. Anderson was to offer the Minot Municipal Court the space currently occupied by the Jodi Johnson, Superintendent of Schools August 15, 2022 or as soon as Ms. Johnson moves into the Ward County Administrative building. There will be an assessment of this arrangement on November 1, 2022 with the Ward County Commission to ensure this space fits the needs of the Minot Municipal Court. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

At 9:29 AM with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2022

Chairman, Ward County Commission

ATTEST: