



Burleigh County Home Rule Charter Commission
Tom Baker Room, City/County Office Building, 221 N 5th St, Bismarck
3:00 pm



September 6th, 2023

3:00 PM

HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Roll call of members.
3. Approval of August 23rd meeting minutes.
4. Review of requested information from August 23rd meeting:
 - a. Ballot language.
 - b. Graph on proposed spending structure.
5. Work on a Policy for the sales tax.
6. Added discussion items future meetings.
7. Other Business:
8. Adjourn.

Mark Splonskowski
Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer/Tax

**HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 23RD, 2023**

3:00 PM

Chair Munson called the meeting of the Home Rule Charter Commission to order.

Roll call of the members: Commissioner Munson, Commissioner Schwab, Emergency Manager Mary Senger, Representative Pat Heinert, Dustin Gawrylow, Kay LaCoe present, State's Attorney Julie Lawyer absent. Auditor Mark Splonskowski, and Deputy Finance Director Justin Schulz were also present as well as guest Brenda Nagel, President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Commissioner Schwab, 2nd by Rep. Heinert to approve the Aug. 9th, 2023 minutes. All members present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

Auditor Splonskowski provided the requested information from the August 9th meeting regarding the 2024 Burleigh/Morton County Detention Center budget analysis with line items obtained from Sheriff Leben. The impact to counties based on budget requests minus projected income for Burleigh County is \$6,807,326 and Morton County is \$2,848,456. Auditor Splonskowski also provided the rates for the Detention Center which are as follows: Current Rates for Bismarck/Mandan - \$66, All other entities - \$75. Rates as of 01-01-2024 for Bismarck/Mandan - \$75, US Marshal/Bureau of Prisons - \$115 (rate has not been approved by BMDC Board yet), and All other entities to include state and contract counties - \$100. County Deputy Finance Director Justin Schulz submitted sales tax data which will be updated monthly. Burleigh County Sales Tax Collections for 2016 were \$9,169,491.16 and \$10,876,345.54 for 2022. Thus far Burleigh County has collected \$4,260,375.30 for 2023.

Chair Munson then began a discussion and review of how we would utilize the tax and whether it should be a ½ cent, one cent, or two, ½ cent measures with separate descriptions for each measure. He explained that the committee needed to find line items in our budget that would be paid for with this tax. It was discussed previously that the tax could cover all the Detention Center budget, all the Sheriff's Department budget and the State's Attorney budget. Rep. Heinert talked about establishing goals first and he proposed a three-part goal: 1. Funds collected from the ½ cent sales tax must be used to replace property taxes collected from Burleigh County property owners for Detention Center operations. 2. Funds collected from the ½ cent sales tax must be used to replace \$502,000 which is equivalent to 1 mil in 2003 for the City of Bismarck for inmate fees associated with housing. 3. Any monies remaining from the ½ cent sales tax collected will be utilized to reduce Burleigh County property taxes for the purpose of criminal justice operations. This would give approximately \$3.5 million left over to go into "criminal justice operations" which would have to be a county commission decision. Mr. Gawrylow stated that he changed his mind on having a split question on the ballot but suggested having one question be on the June ballot and the second question being on the November ballot. He provided a handout/flow chart for the members detailing this. Chair Munson then asked County Deputy Finance Director Justin Schulz if he could find out the State's Attorney's 2024 budget as well as the Sheriff's 2024 budget. Mr. Schulz stated that the State's Attorney's budget is just short of \$1 million, and the Sheriff's is between \$8-8.1 million covered by the levy. Chair Munson stated that Burleigh County Commission has used up too much of their reserves and so