** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Doug Berg, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Mike Weisz**

**Scott Boe**

**Ken Teubner**

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Cando, ND 58324

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**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

January 7, 2020

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on January 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the county courthouse. Chairman Doug Berg called the meeting to order. Present were Vice Chairman David Lagein, Commissioners Mike Weisz, Ken Teubner and Scott Boe.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Teubner and seconded by Boe. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Weisz. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to approve the amendments to the 2019 budget and transfers as recommended by the County Auditor. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The meeting was turned over to Vice Chairman Lagein to proceed with the Commission reorganization process. Doug Berg was nominated for Chairman. Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Berg. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. The meeting was turned back over to Berg. David Lagein was nominated for Vice Chairman. Motion by Boe, seconded by Teubner to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Bill Voight updated the commissioners on the progress of the platform lift at the memorial building. Voight stated it should be completed this month. There was a cost overrun of $2,980 on the electrical. There was grant money available for the overage so the County share would be 10%. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve the extra cost. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to pay the bills. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion Lagein, seconded by Boe to approve agreements with Northern Plains Electric and North Dakota Telephone Company involving the project east of Cando. All Commissioners voted aye, Motion passed. Commissioners decided not to charge any permit fees as the project is for the County.

The County is in need of extra mills for the road department starting in 2025. Legislation reduces the numbers of mills the County can levy to 10 mills. The County currently levies 23 mills. The legislation provides for allowing up to 30 mills if put to the vote of the people. Putting the 30 mills to a vote on the ballot in June was discussed. Voting on a home rule charter, which would allow the County to levy what it needed will be on the ballot in November.

Wold Engineering was on hand to discuss right of way on the project east of Cando. Greg Hagen, Wold Engineering, stated in order to purchase the right of way, a clear title was needed. Property in that area is worth $1800-$2100 per acre. Motion to purchase right of way at $2,000 per acre and $1,000 for temporary construction easement was made by Teubner, seconded by Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Mitigation acres for the project was discussed. Motion to use wetland banking for mitigation acres by Boe, seconded by Teubner. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. A letter from Wesslen Construction was discussed. Wesslen was asking for a reduction in liquidated damages. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to refuse waving the liquidated damages as requested. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Renting a room in the upstairs of the Memorial building was tabled until the platform project was completed.

Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to approve the new sick leave policy as presented by the County Auditor. All Commisioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Karen Kempert, Cavalier County 911 Coordinator was present. A contract was presented for services. There was some issues with the contract in that it required Towner County to pay a mill. A conference call was made with the Cavalier County Commissioners. Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to pay $15,000 for first year and add a Towner County Commissioner to the advisory board. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Brenda Bergsrud, Heather Gibbens and Cliff Azure were on hand to discuss addiction issues in the community. Heather Gibbens, Heartview worker, told a heartwarming account of her brothers lifelong battle with addiction which he lost on December 8th. Brenda Bergsrud, director at Midstate Volunteer Program, stated she sits on a group which provides peer support to people struggling with addiction. Cliff Azure, a recovering addict, was on hand to tell the commissioners his need for support and how peer group support is vital after going through the Heartview program. All three urged the Commissioners to be active in getting community support for recovering addicts in Towner County.

A financial report was given by auditor Morlock, who stated that although several departments had gone over budget, there was additional revenue available to cover the overages so the bottom line was good.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve a deed to transfer foreclosed property to Rock Lake. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The next meeting was set for February 4, 2020.

The meeting adjourned by motion.

ATTEST:

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Joni M. Morlock Doug Berg, Chairman

Towner County Auditor/Treasurer Towner County Board of Commissioners