REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

December 5th, 2017

​

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on December 5, 2017 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, and Ken Teubner.  Commissioner Scott Boe was absent.

​

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

​

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2017 regular meeting was made by Weisz and seconded by Teubner.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

​

Matt Johnson, Wold Engineering, presented an environmental permit for a bridge project east of Rock Lake (BRO-0048(020).  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve the permit. All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.  Johnson also stated they were working on an issue with 1/10 of an acre of wetland mitigation for the project.  Negotiations with land owners of the right of way for the project was discussed.

​

Road Superintendent Kevin Rinas asked if they could start getting rid of some of the big trees in the ditches being there was no snow at this time.  Skid steer bids were reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners.  The purchase of a used gravel trailer was discussed.  A County road employee was on hand to explain his situation in having to take care of his wife. Commissioners stated they would support any decision he made regarding leave or retirement.  Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to purchase a skid steer and let Rinas make the decision as to which one.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

​

Sheriff Kennedy stated he had terminated an employee and was currently taking applications for 2 new officers.  Kennedy state the Stonegarden grant is paying for more than ½ of a new vehicle which they would be acquiring soon.  Kennedy wanted to look at the Sheriff’s advisory committee and see if it would be possible to meet either annually or biannually.

​

Lindy Berg and Ron Wiederholt were on hand to answer questions regarding the restructuring of the NDSU extension program.  The NDSU extension service have been under review by the State.  Wiederholt stated they had a 4 million dollar cut in their budget for the current biennium. A combination of programs and districts are one way they are saving money.  A new County structure was also proposed. Currently NDSU pays ½ of the salary of the agent and 100 % of the benefits.  The new structure states the County will pay 40% and NDSU will pay 60% of the total salary/benefit package.  The cost to the County of this new proposal would be $5,276. This would occur starting in 2019.

​

Tax Equalization Director Bonnie Good stated there were several Township and Cities that did not have a certified assessor. The City of Egeland as well as Olson and Mt. View Townships had contacted Good to see if the County could do their assessments.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to approve the addition of the City of Egeland and Olson and Mt. View Townships to the County Assessors work load.  All Commissioner voted aye.  Motion passed.

Sewer inspections in Towner County were discussed.  The Commissioners are concerned that the enforcement by the Lake Region District Health Unit is not following the Towner County agreement, which follows the State building code.  Commissioners are concerned the LRDHU is interpreting the law much stricter than what the code requires.  A meeting with the LRDHU before the end of the year was discussed as our contract with them expires the end of the year.  Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to appoint Matthew Odermann to the Public Health Board.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

​

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

​

Motion by Weisz, seconded by Teubner to give all County employees December 26th as a holiday to make up for the Christmas Eve holiday they will miss.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

​

Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to approve a transfer from the Farm to Market fund for $150,094.00 and a transfer from the FEMA 2011 fund for $79,531.44, with both transfers going to the County Road & Bridge fund.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

Auditor Morlock went over the 2015-2016 audit report with the Commissioners.  The County had a clean report with no significant issues.

​

The next meeting was set for January 2, 2018.  The February meeting was set for Thursday, February 1, 2018.

​

The meeting adjourned by motion.

​

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                                               \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joni M. Morlock                                                                              Doug Berg, Chairman

Towner County Auditor/Treasurer                                               Towner County Board of Commissioners