** 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**

December 3, 2019

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on December 3, 2019 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 Weisz and seconded by Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 regular meeting was made by Teubner and seconded by Boe. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Road Supervisor Kevin Rinas gave the Commissioners a list of projects that he would like to use the Prairie Dog money for. Rinas stated they were working on removing willows from the road side ditches. Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, was called upon to discuss road projects. Tagestad stated they were close to signing off on the Rock Lake Bridge project and still needed the person with the pit run to sign off on the project. Wesslen Construction would then be paid the remainder of retainage and the project would be closed out. The project east of Cando was discussed. Wold is going to start obtaining right of way and was looking for a price to negotiate. Commissioners stated a piece within the project area had recently been sold and they felt that whatever it sold for would be a fair price. Wetlands for the Cando project were discussed. Tagestad stated the only options for obtaining wetland mitigation acres were onsite or through Ducks Unlimited. Commissioner Lagein was concerned about the traffic safety of having water by the road if we used onsite mitigated acres.

Kevin Walford, Butler Machinery presented a quote for a new 2020 AWD motor grader for delivery in March of 2020. The quote was for $336,385. Butler would give the County $103,000 for a 2012 blade that would be traded in. Motion by Boe, seconded by Teubner to purchase the 2020 motor grader. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. How to sell the 2012 blade would be determined after the new blade arrived.

Sheriff Kennedy and Emergency Manager Lori Beck stated they had been visiting with Karen Kempert from Cavalier County about dispatch services. Kennedy stated financially and technology wise, Cavalier County is more prepared than the LEC where we are currently dispatching from. Cavalier County is prepared to go forward with the new state evoked SIREN program and LEC is not. Several of the local fire and ambulance districts had people at the Commissioners meeting to concur that they would be in favor of switching. The only cost to the County will be about $2,000 to switch the signal on the Egeland tower from Devils Lake to Langdon. Motion by Boe, seconded by Lagein to move towards switching the Towner County dispatch services to Cavalier County and pay LEC for each quarter their services are used plus the remainder of a contract Towner County has with the LEC to update the security system at jail. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Weisz, Berg, Boe and Lagein voted aye. Commissioner Teubner voted nay. Motion passed.

Curt Juntunen and Mike Britain were on hand to discuss County Park Board business. Mike Britain will be taking over for Juntunen on January 1st. The Commissioners thanked Juntunen for his many years of service on the County Park Board.

Bill Voight stated the County had applied for a courthouse facilities grant to pay for courthouse windows. Commissioner Berg stated the Ambulance South had hired a full time employee and were looking for office space. They were contemplating using the North unit upstairs in the Memorial Building. Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to rent memorial building offices to any non-profit organization at ½ the price of the regular public. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Derek Childs was on hand to update the Commissioners on how the elevator project was going. Childs stated all the contracts had been signed and he hoped to start actual construction next week. The completion date is March 1, 2020. Voight stated that he was using his personal vehicle to go and lock the armory at night and check on the courthouse furnace. Motion by Weisz, seconded by Lagein to allow Voight to take County vehicle home in order to use for County business. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

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

NDSU extension agent Lindy Berg and Amanda Buchwietz from FSA were on hand to update the commissioners on the impact of the fall disaster. Buchwietz stated Towner County was declared a disaster county and would be eligible for disaster programs. The Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity program (WHIP) plus was a disaster program available to farmers and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock (ELAP) program is available for livestock.

Patrick Plemmel, Towner County Public Health, was on hand to discuss the opioid response grant that public health had received. Prevention, treatment and recovery housing is provided through the grant. Plemmel stated the main drug of choice in Towner County is still meth.

Motion by Weisz, seconded by Boe to follow the City of Cando’s recommendation on the application for abatement for Gayla Wakefield. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Bob Kennedy gave a presentation on sick leave payout and new sick leave and vacation caps. The auditor would check with NDPERS to see what the requirements for sick leave transfer were.

The auditor gave a presentation on the Home Rule Charter. The Home Rule committee would be meeting next week to work on the charter. The main purpose of the charter is to give local government the authority to levy what is needed. Due to legislation changes, in 2025 the County will only be allowed to levy 10 mills for County roads. The County currently levies 21 mills for the roads.

The next meeting was set for. Tuesday January 7th.

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