** 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**

April 21, 2020

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on April 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Due to Covid-19 the meeting was held virtually. 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 Boe and seconded by Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 regular and March 19, 2020 special meeting was made by Teubner and seconded by Weisz. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Kevin Walford, Butler Machinery, stated the new blade had been delivered. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to finance the new blade with a lease with a purchase to own for 3.09 % at American Bank. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Weisz, seconded by Teubner to sell the old blade to Butler Machinery for $103,000. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Commissioner Boe, seconded by Weisz to purchase a new gravel trailer for $43,921.76 from Butler Machinery. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion passed. John Bulie would like four dollars a loaded mile to haul gravel for the County. The Commissioners left it up to Road Supervisor Kevin Rinas to use and pay Bulie at his discretion.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering updated the Commissioners on an email that was sent by the NDDOT looking for projects above and beyond projects on the Federal Aid sheet that could possibly be paid for with stimulus money. Three graveling projects were submitted for a total of 52 miles. Stimulus and the delay of Prairie Dog funds were discussed. Future bridge project and wetland mitigation acres were discussed with Tagestad. An email from Westlind Construction asking for liquidated damages was discussed. A November 2020 bid date was set for the Federal Aid project east of Cando. Tagestad stated that since the project was initiated, there was even more regulations put in place regarding mitigated acres. Commissioner Lagein was going to call Kevin Cramers office to voice the County Commissioners complaints in regard to the mitigation process.

Emergency Manager Lori Beck stated that in order to receive FEMA funding for overtime related to a disaster, something approving overtime needed to be added to our employee policy. The County Auditor presented the policy change needed. Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to adopt the change to employee policy manual. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff Kennedy updated the Commissioners on the switch over of 911 and said things were going well so far with any Covid-19 issues. Sherry Walters updated the Commissioners on Covid-19 issues and stated she did have people ready to do tracing if the need arose in Towner County. Both Sheriff Kennedy and Walters thanked Lori Beck, Emergency Manager, for her extensive work during this pandemic. Lori Beck, stated things were going well and thanked everyone for their help.

Maintenance Supervisor Bill Voight stated he was shutting down the boiler and that courthouse windows are on order. The Legion was informed that the Memorial building was closed due to Covid-19. Legion members have been congregating at the memorial building. It was decided to change the locks on the legion door. Troy Reemtsma apologized for Legion members congregating in the building and stated he felt changing the locks was extreme. Commissioners felt that the Legion now understood they could not congregate and the County would leave the locks alone.

Motion by Boe, seconded by Teubner to pay the bills. Upon roll call vote. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Tax Equalization Director Bonnie Good was on line to discuss two property owners’ requests for abatements of 2019 taxes for the City of Perth. The abatements were both due to a disagreement of the valuation placed on the property. The first one was for property owned by Bill & Sheri Langer. Good re-assessed the property from a value of $32,700 to $7,608 and from $8,900 to $2,300. The City of Perth was in agreement with the new value and approved it as such. Motion by Teubner, seconded by Lagein to approve the Langer abatement. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Denise Hanson’s property was re-assessed by Good from $17,300 to $12,700. The City of Perth approved a value of $6,000. Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to approve the re-assessed value $12,700. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Weisz, Teubner, Boe and Berg voted aye. Commissioner Lagein voted nay. Motion passed.

Lindy Berg, NDSU Extension agent, updated the Commissioners on what she had going on. Pesticide training was being done online. Commercial testing must be done in Fargo. Berg stated she was working with an advisory council on serving the underprivileged population. She stated she was also busy with seasonal work for extension and weed board. 4-H events are mainly undecided due to Covid-19 but they are remaining optimistic on still pulling some things together.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to approve a resolution to make the June 9th primary election a mail in ballot only and forgo a polling place due to Covid-19. Upon roll all voted aye. Motion passed. With everything being locked, where to put drop boxes was discussed. The County Auditor will do her best to have them placed in the small cities in the County. Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to approve a building permit for Bryan Berg. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion to approve the December 2019 pledge report by Teubner seconded by Lagein. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Issues concerning public health were discussed. Commissioner Lagein and Auditor Morlock stated several complaints had been received about Public Health administration including foot care reporting issues, grant uses, timeliness of insurance billings, coding and bookkeeping and finally the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. States Attorney Josh Frey, stated that an improvement plan should be put in place and possibly a consultant hired to come up with a plan.

The next regular meeting was set for June 2, 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