REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

September 5th, 2017

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The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on September 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, Ken Teubner and Scott Boe.

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

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Motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2017 regular meeting and August 17th and 30th special meetings was made by Boe and seconded by Weisz.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

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County Road Superintendent Kevin Rinas stated that a farmer had made a mess out of a County road while tiling his field.  Disturbing County roads is against County policy.  The States Attorney and Water Board would be consulted.  Other road projects including the Egeland road were discussed with Rinas.  Rinas stated that FEMA is in the area working with the County and then Townships.

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Issues at the Armory were discussed with Bill Voight.  A letter to the Commissioners concerning the locking of the Armory was discussed.  Commissioner Weisz would arrange a meeting with the person to try to come up with a solution.

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Sheriff Dustin Kucher stated they are monitoring truck speeding.  A vehicle auction will be held before winter.  Sheriff Kucher stated they were having trouble with Rolette County Sheriff’s department helping them obtain criminals.  Kucher stated he was not willing to sign a jail contract with Rolette County until they were more cooperative.

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Jim Slusser and Vicki Lingen were on hand to discuss the old school building on the Courthouse grounds.  Slusser stated the Pioneer Foundation Museum owns the building and would like to get rid of it.  The building currently needs a new roof.  The Commissioners were not interested in maintaining the building.  Slusser stated he would talk to the Towner County Museum, the Hawk Museum or try to sell the building.

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Tax Assessor Bonnie Good was on hand to explain the increase in her budget for providing tablets and software to the Township Assessors.

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Several representatives from the Towner County Economic Development were on hand to talk to the Commissioners and answer any questions.  Director JoAnn Rodenbiker filled the Commissioners in on what had happened in the previous year.  Rodenbiker stated 2 FlexPACE loans were approved, they had referred 6 clients to the North Central Small Business Development Center for free new business consultation and there were a couple of deals in the works which they could not discuss at this time.  Chairman James Gibbens was on hand to discuss Towner County taking over the Executive Director position as Rodenbiker is retiring.  Auditor Morlock stated that she would be willing to assume the position.   John Peters stated he would like to resign his position.  Peters had someone in mind and would try to come up with a replacement.

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Kim Rulliffson, Lindy Berg and Lindsey Kennedy from the NDSU extension office were on hand.  Rulliffson introduced herself as the district director.  Rulliffson stated that Lindy Berg had been recognized nationally for many of her projects including a poster in the education area, her collaborative project with the Soil Conservation for “Women on the Farm”, and her weekly column “People Were Wondering”.  A bid for carpet tiles was discussed. Berg questioned the county making Lindsey Kennedy a benefited employee after she received her degree until state funding became available.  State funding has been cut and they are not adding positions at this time.

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Paul Johnson, Towner County Ambulance, was on the agenda to discuss the Ambulance South budget.  They had increased their budget from $12,000 to $31,716.  Johnson stated they have been running in the red and are looking at purchasing a new or refurbished ambulance and have to update software.  Johnson stated they average 100 calls per year.

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

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Rob Johnson, Lake Region Law Enforcement Center, was on hand to explain the issues going on at the Center.  The mill levy assessed to each member County was discussed.  Towner County does not agree with the mill levy charge.   911 services were also discussed with Johnson.

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The Rollette County Jail Contract was discussed.  Motion by Lagein, seconded Boe to approve the contract.  Upon roll call vote Commissioners Lagein, Boe, Berg, and Weisz voted aye.  Commissioner Teubner voted nay.  Motion passed.

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Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to accept an application for abatement for a house in Hansboro which had been removed before the 2017 assessment.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.  Motion by Weisz, seconded by Teubner to approve a permit from Northern Plains to cross a County road.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Carpet for the extension office was discussed.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to replace the carpet out of this year’s budget.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Motion to contract with the Towner County Economic Development Corporation for the Executive Director position was made by Teubner and seconded by Lagein.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to approve the preliminary budget.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.   A public meeting to discuss the increase in the budget was set for Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 6:30 p.m.

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The next meeting was set for October 3, 2017.

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The meeting adjourned by motion.

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ATTEST:

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Joni M. Morlock                                                                              Doug Berg, Chairman

Towner County Auditor/Treasurer                                               Towner County Board of Commissioner