** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Matt Odermann, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Doug Berg**

**Robert Hallaway**

**Lance Teubner**

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**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

​REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

September 7, 2021

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The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on September 7, 2021 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 Matt Odermann, Bob Hallaway and Lance Teubner

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

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Odermann.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Bill Voight was on hand and stated the roofers at the Armory were waiting on materials.  HVAC systems in the auditor’s office, states attorney’s office and extension conference room were discussed. Funding for the project would be taken from the ARPA funds.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve the project and approve the dollar amount at the next meeting.  Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Lagein, Hallaway, Berg and Teubner voted aye.  Commissioner Odermann voted nay.  Motion passed.  Voight would have the actual amounts at the October meeting.  Installing the railing at the Memorial Building was discussed.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, stated the Federal aid project east of Cando will be bid in November.  The Federal aid work sheet and the Federal bid process was discussed.  Road Supervisor Kevin Rinas stated they had started crushing gravel.  Bridge work, drainage and special assessments in Maza Township were discussed.  Rinas stated he would work on mowing cattails and trees this month.

Recorder Jolene Hoffert was on hand to request ARPA funds be used to finish scanning the mortgage books.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to release $25,000 of the ARPA funds for record scanning.  Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Teubner, Berg and Lagein voted aye.  Commissioners Hallaway and Odermann voted nay.  Motion passed.

Sheriff Kennedy stated the elevators were no longer allowing him to weigh trucks.  Kennedy stated he was not getting any complaints on over-weight vehicles.

Mike Britain, County Parks, was on hand and stated the vaulted toilet at Armourdale was installed and submitted an invoice for the project.  Game and Fish had inspected Armourdale Dam and had a list for Britain to take care of.  Building a base ramp for the boat dock area at Armourdale was discussed.  It would be researched and put in budget for next year.  The garbage bill at the parks was discussed.  Britain stated he would look into it, but stated the parks have been extremely busy.  Signage for Snyder’s lake was discussed.  Britain stated the dock for Snyder’s lake is on back order.

Motion to approve bills by Odermann, seconded by Teubner.  Upon roll call vote, all voted aye.  Motion passed.

Megan Laudenschlager of Strengthen ND was contracted by North Central Planning, through a grant, to help County’s do some strategic and economic planning. Laudenschlager was on hand to question Towner County Commissioners about what information they would like to derive from a survey that would be conducted.  Commissioners brought up ideas such as daycare capacity, housing, affordable and elderly housing, keeping existing businesses going,  jobs, workers and new businesses, in home care for elderly, and value added businesses (farmers market, entrepreneurs marketing items).  A target audience was discussed with Commissioners suggesting all residents of Towner County as well as alumni and current students.  Laudenschlager stated she would have a survey ready to go out in November of this year.

A replacement for the North Central Planning Council at large position left vacant by Bob Timms was discussed.  A nomination would be brought to the next meeting.

Kaitlin Atkinson, Vision Zero regional coordinator, was on hand to explain the Vision Zero program.  It is the States strategic highway safety program which is looking to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities in North Dakota.   Atkinson’s position is to educate the public and she stated she is currently focusing on teen drivers as that is where most of the fatalities occur.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to stop the victim witness advocate money from going to the Devils Lake SAAF program and allocate the funding to the Towner County Victim Witness program.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

Interviews for the Recorder/Clerk of Court position were discussed.  Commissioners Hallaway, Odermann and Auditor Morlock were appointed to the interview committee.

Motion to do performance reviews this year as recommended by the HR consultant by Odermann, seconded by Lagein.  All commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed. It was questioned how Commissioners could review department heads if they don’t work with them on a daily basis.  Auditor Morlock would come up with a more basic review process for department heads that would be meant to open up communication channels.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to appoint Dave Lagein as the County delegate at the NDACO conference in October.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Odermann to update the covid policy to what was presented by Public Health.  All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday Oct 6th.

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