** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Doug Berg, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Matt Oderman**

**Robert Hallaway**

**Lance Teubner**

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**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

November 2, 2021

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on November 2, 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 Hallaway. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Teubner. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Bill Voight stated that the heat pumps in the States Attorney and Auditors office had been installed. Voight stated that the door at the Armory was vandalized and the Sheriff’s department was investigating. The building committee had discussed going forward with estimates for a new chair lift. The building committee would like to get a structural engineer to look at the building before making large investments in building improvements. Voight would get estimates for the structural engineer.

Sheriff Kennedy was on hand to go over a proposal for wages for his department. Motion to accept proposed wages for the Deputy Sheriff’s by Hallaway, seconded by Odermann. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Odermann, Hallaway and Berg voted aye. Commissioners Lagein and Teubner voted nay. Motion passed. Deputy Andy Hillier was called upon to tell the Commissioners about his experience. Hillier stated that he would like to maintain the standard of investigation the County currently has. Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to appoint Andy Hillier as Sheriff starting November 15 upon the resignation of Sheriff Kennedy. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion to pay Hillier a starting salary of $60,000 with a 5% increase going into effect in 2022 by Odermann, seconded by Teubner. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Sheriff Kennedy stated computers need to be replaced. The future Sheriff Hillier will be coming to the Commissioners with an estimate for the computers. Commission Chair Berg presented Kennedy with a gift and thanked him for his service.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering was on hand to update the Commissioner on bridge projects in Monroe and Grainfield Townships. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Hallaway to give Kevin Rinas permission to work with Wold for wetland approval on the Township bridge project. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Citizens disturbing the slope of the road was discussed with Wold Engineering. A copy of the road policy pertaining to this issue will be mailed out with the tax statements. A blatant offender will be referred to the States Attorney.

Tax Director Sheri Leas was on hand to update Commissioners on what she has been doing since she started her position in August. Leas updated the Commissioners on OnX and where we were at. She stated the State was responsible for the OnX information and Towner County was in their Que. Leas stated she has done a large amount of training and has 2 courses to go to get her level one assessors certification. Leas stated that she has updated the Assessor website but is still mailing out forms for exemptions.

The Water Board and Maza Township officers were on hand to discuss a bridge in Maza Township. The bridge \ has been condemned by the State and will cost over 1.5 million dollars to replace. The bridge in question was under the water when they were here to inspect it and it was condemned. Rinas was instructed to get an engineer back here to inspect the bridge now that it is not under water to make sure it is structurally damaged. Wold Engineering will inspect the bridge and give us an estimate to replace or repair.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to recommend Joseph Parker to the North Central Planning Council as a Towner County at large representative to replace Robert Timms. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Odermann to approve the minimum sales prices on the foreclosed properties as recommended by the County Auditor after adding $30,000 to all properties with residential structures. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion to approve a zoning permit by Lagein, seconded by Hallaway to Matt Odermann. All Commissioner voted aye. Odermann abstained. Motion passed.

The Certificate of Support for the hospital was discussed. Commissioner Odermann voiced his concern of the professionalism of the letter that was sent to the Commissioners. Commissioners also questioned if taxpayers would end up being responsible for paying off the debt in the event the hospital could not afford future payments. There was a motion and a second to table the issue and invite the hospital to next the meeting.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to pay the bills. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Auditor Morlock discussed redistricting with the Commissioners. Morlock also gave a brief historical comparison financial report to the Commissioners.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, December 2nd.

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