** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Doug Berg, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Mike Weisz**

**Scott Boe**

**Ken Teubner**

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**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

August 4, 2020

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on August 4, 2020 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, and Scott Boe. Commissioner Ken Teubner was absent

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

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020 regular meeting was made by Weisz and seconded by Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Sheriff Kennedy stated they had caught the person responsible for vandalizing several buildings in Cando. Kennedy stated they would be meeting with Cavalier County concerning the 911 contract as we were coming up to the six month mark. All was going well with the 911 service. Kennedy also stated the student resource officer was receiving training.

Building maintenance supervisor Bill Voight stated he was working on lighting at public health. Motion to install a new handicapped accessible door at the memorial building for approximately $10,000 was made by Lagein, seconded by Weisz. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Weisz, seconded by Boe to allow the blood bank to use Armory on November 16th. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Boe, seconded by Lagein to allow the November 3rd election to be held in Armory. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion to allow the school to use the Armory for practice this fall was made by Lagein, and seconded by Boe. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. New windows at the Courthouse were discussed.

Jessica Tagestad and Greg Hagen, Wold Engineering were on hand. Hagen stated he was working on right of way for the project east of Cando and had sent letters to all the property owners. A land owners meeting was discussed. Tagestad thought the project would be bid in February. Preliminary engineering for two box culvert projects in Monroe and Howell Township was discussed. Approximately $80,000 was needed to do the preliminary engineering. The issue was tabled to be discussed along with the budget. Road Supervisor Kevin Rinas stated that the State had hired an independent contractor and was inspecting bridges in Towner County. So far 3 bridges had to be closed in Towner County. Pinky’s gravel is selling their gravel pits for bid. Commissioners gave Rinas permission to bid on some of the gravel. Bids for two trailers were opened. Motion to award the high bid for both trailers to Leroy Nelson for $7,364 for the 1992 trailer and $7,565 for the 1986 trailer by Lagein, seconded by Boe. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion to accept the high bids on Hansboro property by Boe, seconded by Weisz. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Mike Britain, County Parks, was on hand to update the Commissioners. Britain requested $10,000 be added to his budget in order to apply for a grant for a rest room at Armourdale Lake. This would cover the County portion of the grant. This issue was tabled to be discussed along with the budget. Motion to reimburse a group $1,000 for a dock at Snyder Lake which was being used by the public by Boe, seconded by Lagein. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Britain stated there were issues with the County mowing Bisbee Dam being the campground was now charging a fee. The issue would be discussed at the next meeting with the States Attorney.

Veterans Service Officer Kathy Benson gave a report on numbers of Vets being served in Towner County. Benson also discussed the move of her office. Benson notified the Commissioners she will be gone for approximately 5 weeks and described a plan for her absence. Commissioners stated they would like someone in the office in her absence. Benson stated she could probably get someone in to cover for her part of the time. It was agreed that Benson would try to find someone from other Counties to come to Towner County 1 day a week when she was gone.

Rhonda Allery, Social Services, was on the phone to discuss housing for homeless people with Covid. A FEMA grant has been applied for. Commissioner Lagein would approach public health on covering the costs. In the meantime, Allery was in need of an option that would cover the costs. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz for the County to provide funding for quarantined and covid positive housing for homeless residents not covered by other avenues. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to approve the Home Rule Charter and put it on the November ballot. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

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

The preliminary budget was discussed. Adding $80,000 to the general fund for the purpose of doing the preliminary engineering for two box culverts was discussed at length. The increase would add about a 6% increase to the general fund and a 3% increase to the overall budget. Motion by Boe, seconded by Lagein to add $80,000 to the general fund for preliminary engineering on the two box culvert projects. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Weisz, seconded by Boe to approve the preliminary budget. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The next meeting was set for September 1, 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