REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

April 4th, 2017

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The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on April 4, 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 Weisz and seconded by Boe.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

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Motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2017 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Teubner.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

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Matt Johnson, Wold Engineering, was on hand to inform the Commissioners the NDDOT still had not signed off on a change order for the Wanzek part of the Hansboro project.  The project could not be finalized until the change order was signed.  Penalties for completing the project late would be assessed with the final payment.

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Ryan Clark, RDO, was on hand and interested on demoing a blade.  Cutting edges for the blades were discussed with Clark.

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Roads and washouts were discussed with the Road Department.  Emergency funds would be used to begin the repairs as the extent of FEMA funding, if any, is not known at this time.

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Sheriff Kuchar was on hand and stated a Deputy had resigned and they are in the process of interviewing candidates to replace him.  Commissioner Teubner asked the Sheriff to monitor people driving around the road-closed signs.  A letter from the Sheriff’s department was approved to request the ND Highway Patrol enforce the weight limits for trucks on Towner County roads.  The Sheriff had met with Pierce County concerning a contract for jailing prisoners.  The contract price was slightly cheaper and they had better medical care.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to approve the contract to be used at the discretion of the Sheriff.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Bruce Teubner was on hand to fill the Commissioners in on the water situation in his area.  Teubner stated there were several washouts due to the County putting culverts in before the coolie was cleaned out.  Teubner stated that Atkins Township was now responsible for fixing roads that had washed out due to the quick influx of water.  The Commissioners directed Teubner back to the Water Board to request the clean out.

Lindy Berg was on hand to fill the Commissioners in on the process of getting Lindsey Kennedy to finish her college degree and keep her employed by the extension office.  All Commissioners were on board in helping Kennedy finish her education while working for Towner County.  Spraying trees in the ditches was discussed with Berg.

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Gary Martin and Curt Juntunen were on hand to talk about the cleanup at Snyder’s Lake.  Martin stated a group of hunters from Wisconsin had already cleaned a large portion of the trees at Snyder’s Lake, but there were still some that needed to be removed.

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Tax Director Bonnie Good was on hand to go over the status of farm exemptions received and those still outstanding by the March 24th deadline.   An extensive conversation was held concerning another extension. Area farmers were on hand to express their concerns with the exemption.

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In answer to a question raised at the last meeting, States Attorney Tom Nikolaisen stated that an off premise liquor license would have to be provided by the County in order to serve alcohol at a rural wedding dance.

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Motion to approve a gaming site authorization for a raffle on June 3rd to the Egeland Senior Citizens and waiver the fee was made by Weisz, seconded by Teubner.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Motion by Teubner, seconded by Boe to approve an emergency flood declaration for Towner County. All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to issue a zoning permit to NDTC for crossing county roads with a fiber upgrade.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to accept the resignation of the Public Administrator.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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

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Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to approve an abatement of taxes for a Homestead Credit.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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A county permit for 10% overweight on County roads was discussed.  The issue was tabled until further research.

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The issue of several farm exemption forms submitted after the deadline were again discussed. If the County Commissioners allowed another extension there would not be sufficient time to notify the applicant they did not qualify.  Also, many of the County farmers had not been given the option of a later deadline, and had already been assessed.    Motion by Boe, seconded Weisz to deny anything notarized on or before the March 24th deadline to be denied.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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A draft between the County and the American Legion for leasing the “Hans apartment” was discussed and tabled until next month.

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The next meeting was set for May 2, 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 Commissioners