** 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**

October 6, 2021

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on October 6, 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 September 7, 2021 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Teubner. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Lindy Berg was on hand to update the Commissioners on where they were at with the City water being dug into the weed shed. She was still working with the contractor and the City. Berg updated the Commissioners on extension projects and stated they had 25 kids participate in project day and 80 kids participated in safety day in Rock Lake.

Kevin Walford, Butler Machinery, stated there was a 5% increase in machines before October 1st which would amount to $17,000 for Towner County on the next blade purchase. Walford stated he had a machine that met Towner County’s specifications price protected at the rate before the 5% increase. The price of the new blade is $351,117 with a $127,000 guaranteed trade in on the old blade. Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to proceed with ordering the new blade with payment occurring in 2022. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Road Superintendent Kevin Rinas was on hand. A bridge in Maza was discussed. Rinas was going to talk to the Water Board and the Water Board would be present at the next Commissioner meeting to discuss the issue. Rinas said they were no longer graveling due to a concern the gravel would not set up before winter.

Bill Voight stated the roofing for the Armory gym and the extension flooring was completed. Voight stated the estimates received for HVAC systems were $9,169 for the Auditor’s office and $11,710 for the States Attorney’s office. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve $20,879 be taken out of ARPA funds to pay for the HVAC systems. Commissioner Odermann requested there be a plan for the expenditure of the remaining ARPA funds. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Lagein, Hallaway, Berg and Teubner voted aye. Commissioner Odermann voted nay. Motion passed.

Sheriff Kennedy stated they were working on getting new radios installed. Kennedy also stated they were busy with drug testing. Sheriff Kennedy had previously emailed the Commissioners a letter of resignation. Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to accept Sheriff Kennedy’s resignation effective November 15, 2021.

North Central Planning Commissions at large position was tabled until the next meeting due to no nominations available. Department head reviews were discussed. It was decided to put off reviews and follow the HR consultant’s advice on how to review department heads. Each department head would have a Commissioner assigned to them, who would sit down with the department head and set up goals for the upcoming year, which would then me reviewed at the end of the year. Department heads were assigned as follows: Road Superintendent and Emergency Manager – Doug Berg, Maintenance Supervisor – Lance Teubner, Recorder – Bob Hallaway, Auditor – Dave Lagein, Tax Director – Matt Odermann.

Kathy Benson, Veterans Service Officer, was on hand to give an annual report on what is happening within Towner County.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to nominate Dave and Jannel Lagein to the ND State Fair Board. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

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

The interview committee for the Clerk of Court/Recorder position recommended current Deputy Clerk of Court Kendall Brehm be awarded the position and recommended a starting salary be set at $60,000. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to accept the recommendation. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The budget hearing meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. No citizens appeared at the hearing. There being no changes in the budget, motion to approve the final budget was made by Odermann, and seconded by Hallaway. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners vote aye. Motion passed. A motion to adjourn the budget hearing was made at 10:15 a.m.

ARPA Funds were discussed. A plan to discuss ARPA funds with all department heads was made. An application will be made so that ARPA funds can be applied for through an organized means.

The next meeting was set for November 2, 2021

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