REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

May 1st, 2018

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The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on May 1, 2018 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 Lagein and seconded by Boe.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

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Motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2018 regular meeting was made by Teubner and seconded by Weisz.  All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

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Sheriff Kennedy stated he was having trouble with the security system in the courthouse and would eventually have to replace it.  The Sheriff’s department has been working with the school and emergency manager for training and awareness of school or courthouse incidents involving an active shooter.  Kennedy addressed the 911 calls with LEC and stated he would be at the next Law Enforcement Center meeting.  Weight limits on trucks were discussed.

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Joshua Frey, was on hand to request the Commissioners approval to be on the ballot in both Towner and McHenry County.  He has already received permission from the McHenry County Commissioners.  The issue was tabled until the Commissioners could visit with the States Attorney.

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Road Department Kevin Rinas has a list of Townships that would like culverts replaced and does not have enough money in the budget to cover them all.  Commissioners referred Rinas to the Water Board to try to get assessment districts set up in order to bill specific areas for culvert projects they want done.  Later, Rinas came back after meeting with the Water Board and stated the Board would like to be on the agenda for the next meeting.  Larry Halverson presented a spreadsheet of what it cost to maintain the County roads.  The cost to the county was approximately $200,000 just for summer maintenance.  That cost did not include gravel or snow.  Weight limits for trucks were discussed with the road department.  Road limits are set by a total weight, not axel weight.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to move toward weight per axel limits.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

John Peters was on hand to state he would like to recommend Jeremy Johnson as his replacement on the Towner County Economic Development Board. Motion by Teubner, seconded by Boe to accept John’s resignation and appoint Jeremy Johnson to the TCEDC board.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.   Peters also stated that Tim Hedrickson has told him he is not doing assessing for several Townships.  There are 12 Townships that would not have an assessor.  County Tax Director Bonnie Good was on hand and the Commissioners asked for her advice.  Good would like to contract with a data collector and bill the Townships.  The auditor and tax director agree that by passing costs to the Township, the County can get the work done.

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Greg Westlind, District 15 House Representative, was on hand to go over legislation regarding air ambulance subscriptions.  Westlind stated the bill protects North Dakota residents from overbilling by air ambulance services.  Westlind explained that insurance companies must cover the air flight service and air flight services must accept that payment, therefor making any extra insurance unnecessary.  Commissioner Lagein asked Representative Westlind about the social service bill and how it affected Towner County.  Towner County was spending less money on human services and therefor did not get the relief that other Counties had.

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Maintenance Supervisor Bill Voight stated they had hired 2 people to supervise the Armory for about 10 hours per week and they were waiting for background checks.  Bids for 7 windows at the memorial building were opened.  Bill Voight would like time to check over the bids.  Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe for the building committee to make the decision regarding the project.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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Emergency Manager Lori Beck talked about the County hazard mitigation plan which is due in 2020.  A grant is available for the plan.  2 bids were received from KLJ and Nexus.  Motion by Weisz, seconded by Teubner to go with the low bid from KLJ.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.  Beck discussed a fire management plan with the Commissioners.  Beck stated they were trying to manage with communication with their local fire department and 911 services.  There would not be a burning ban in at this time, but ask people to check the state website for map restrictions.

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Matt Johnson, Wold Engineering was on hand to talk about the right of way in the Hansboro road.  The 2 acre triangular area in question has a slope easement for construction that reverts back to the owner after construction.  The warranty deed the County has is for the road bed.  Johnson also stated the new bridge project would be bid in May.

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Lindy Berg, NDSU extension went over the 2017 annual highlights with the commissioners.  Berg also stated she was going to try a new approach for cost share of the weed spray.  Reimbursements would be done at the end of the year versus an up-front savings.  Berg stated they are planning a babysitting training, safety day and youth lead local events.  Berg said they were working on ideas for the community garden as well as several other summer programs and activities.

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Curt Juntunen was on hand to inquire about trees at the rest area.  The County would like the Finnish organization and State to agree on what is moved where. Junten also updated the Commissioners on spring park maintenance.

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

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A zoning update was given by Morlock. She is working on zoning for Marijuana facilities as well as bee keeping issues.

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The States Attorney election was discussed.  Motion by Lagein to leave the decision until after the election.   The issue was tabled for lack of a second.

Commissioner Teubner updated the Commissioners on the LEC.  Teubner stated some of the LEC Board was not very receptive to switching the mill levy to some kind of percentage at this time.

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Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to approve an application for abatement for a disabled veteran in Cando Township.  All Commissioners voted aye.  Motion passed.

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The next meeting was set for June 5, 2018.

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