** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Doug Berg, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Matt Odermann**

**Robert Hallaway**

**Lance Teubner**

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**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

December 6, 2022

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on December 6, 2022 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 Lagein and seconded by Teubner. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022 regular meeting was made by Odermann and seconded by Hallaway. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Troy Reemtsma, American Legion Commander, updated the Commissioners on a remodeling project in the Legion room. Reemtsma inquired about renting office space in the Memorial building. Hiring a Veterans Service Officer was discussed with Reemtsma.

The Veterans Service Officer position was discussed. Motion by Hallaway, seconded by Lagein to appoint Commissioner Odermann as the interim VSO until someone is hired. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff Hillier stated his new hire would be starting mid-December. They are still looking for one more officer. Hillier would like to offer a $2,500 retention bonus to his current officers as the labor shortage has greatly affected his department. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Odermann to offer a retention bonus of $7,500 in total to current officers due to the department being short handed for 18 months. Upon roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Maintenance Supervisor Bill Voight stated ICON had been here to measure the courthouse and they were coming back to meet with department heads to determine space requirements for a new courthouse. They will also be assessing the current courthouse to determine what it will take to make the building handicapped assessable. The building committee will discuss the Legion renting the office in the Memorial building. Renting the Commissioners room was discussed and referred to the building committee.

Road Supervisor Kevin Rinas was on hand. There is a triangular piece of land located within the County easement on the hog barn road project. The farmer was wondering if he could farm the land. The Commissioners discussed if they should sell or give the property to the farmer, or just let him farm it. The issue was tabled and the States Attorney will be consulted as to the legality of the issue. Rinas and Lori Beck stated 2022 FEMA is being finalized. Replacing bridges in Towner County was discussed.

Lindy Berg, NDSU extension agent, was present. Berg stated all the Townships were sprayed for weeds using County employees and only the highways needed to be contracted. Roger Copeland retired from the weed board and Berg is looking for a replacement. Lindsey Kennedy gave an update on 4H program events. Berg also updated the Commissioners on extension program events.

Clerk of Court Kendall Brehm presented a quote for new cushions for the courtroom. The quote would be submitted under the Courthouse Facilities Grant in which the State pays 75% of the costs. Motion by Hallaway, seconded by Odermann to submit the application. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Rhonda Allery, Mountain Lakes Human Service Zone, was on hand to give the Commissioners an update on social services. Allery stated the labor shortage has hit her department hard. Appointment of a Towner County community member was discussed.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering attended. Commissioner Lagein questioned if approaches on farm-to-market roads could be lowered to the height of the road to prevent snow build up.

Motion by Lagein seconded by Teubner, to deed foreclosed property to the City of Cando. All Commissioner voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Hallaway to approve an abatement of taxes for 2020 and 2021 to a citizen claiming a Homestead Credit. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Odermann to approve an abatement of taxes for 2022 to a citizen claiming a Disabled Veterans Credit. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Teubner, seconded by Odermann to approve a zoning permit for David Klier and Michelle Chauvin. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Odermann, seconded by Teubner to approve a resolution adopting a cafeteria plan for Towner County for 2023. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Hallaway to transfer $85,364.45 from FEMA 2017 to County Road. Upon roll call, all voted aye. Motion passed.

Purchasing a sound and video system for the Commissioners room was discussed. Auditor Morlock will get a cost estimate.

Setting up a water district for the southern portion of the County for the purpose of funding bridges was discussed.

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

The next meeting was set for January 3, 2023.

The meeting adjourned by motion.

ATTEST:

Doug Berg Joni Morlock

Commission Chairperson Auditor/Treasurer