** TOWNER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Doug Berg, Chairman**

**David Lagein, Vice Chairman**

**Mike Weisz**

**Scott Boe**

**Ken Teubner**

PO Box 603

Cando, ND 58324

**Phone: 701-968-4340 Joni M. Morlock, Auditor/Treasurer**

**Fax: 701-968-4342**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOWNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

November 8, 2018

The Towner County Commissioners met in regular session on November 8, 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.

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

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018 regular meeting was made by Lagein and seconded by Teubner. All Commissioners voted aye, motion carried.

Engineering on the project 6 miles east of Cando was discussed. Replacing culverts was discussed. A motion to amend the Road Maintenance Policy was made by Boe, and seconded by Weisz as follows: “Towner County shall furnish existing culverts 36” and larger in diameter for use in township roads. If the culvert size is increased to 36” or larger from a smaller size, the Township is responsible for the initial replacement of the culvert. Townships shall be responsible for all other maintenance including installation of above culverts.” All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. Motion by Lagein, seconded by Boe to sell the 2011 140 M motor grader to Butler for $92,000. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Weisz, seconded by Boe to approve the hazardous material operation procedures as presented by the Emergency Manager Lori Beck. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

County Vehicles were discussed with Bill Voight. Securing the back door was discussed. Finding a roof repair for the Armory is a problem. Voight was looking for other options.

Chief Deputy Howard reported the school resource officer is going well. Grant money is being used to purchase a new vehicle.

NDSU Extension Agent Lindy Berg was on hand to discuss the cost share for the weed board. A training for emergency response to cattle accidents was discussed. Commissioners questioned if all livestock could be included. “Building Tomorrows Leaders”, which is a program for high school students, was discussed. Berg stated her grad school projects was on small farmer resources and interaction with extension. A project researching hail damage on soybeans was discussed and the Commissioners gave approval for the project.

Roger Rance was on hand to present Mike Britain of Egeland as his replacement on the Towner County Economic Development Board. Motion by Weisz, seconded by Lagein to appoint Britain to the board. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. The Commissioners thanked Rance for his many years of service on the TCED Board.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve the Thanksgiving turkey certificates. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Boe, seconded by Weisz to approve zoning permits to NDDOT and North Central Grain. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Matt Johnson, Wold Engineering was on hand to discuss the Rock Lake bridge project. It is not going well. Wesslen Construction, Inc. out of Spokane, Washington was awarded the job. Johnson stated charges for non-completion started on November 3rd. Johnson stated the project is not progressing and is concerned about anchoring what is done in order to secure it for winter. Johnson would check with the State to find out the procedure for getting another company in to secure it.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Teubner to approve the NDDOT Maintenance contract. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

A public meeting concerning the bee ordinance was opened. Commission Chair opened the meeting up to comments. Josh Freeman, Vice President of the ND Association of Beekeepers was on hand. Samantha Brunner with the Dept. of Agriculture was also on hand. Jim Kester, beekeeper, stated he contacts all landowners he deals with annually to make sure there are no issues and has the opinion that County regulations are not needed. Bob Morlock, beekeeper, questioned what prompted the ordinance and stated the bees will fly over the road regardless of how far they are from the road. Ryan Thomas, beekeeper, stated he was worried about expansion of buildings. Paul Reese, beekeeper, stated the beekeepers were willing to work with landowners to maintain roads. Commission Chair Berg thanked the beekeepers for coming and closed the meeting. The issue was tabled and referred to the zoning board for further discussion.

Curt Olafson was on hand to discuss an opioid litigation contract. The Towner County States Attorney stated that the ND Attorney General has recommended the individual Counties let the State of ND handle the litigation. Motion by Boe, seconded by Lagein to sign with the law firms of Nachawatie, Ferrer Poirot & Wasnsbrough, and Motley Rice. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Teubner, seconded by Boe to approve the new employee handbook. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Lagein, seconded by Weisz to affirm to North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System that Towner County is formed pursuant to N.D.C.C. 11-01 and is neither a non-profit nor a for-profit corporation, to join the NDPERS Group Life Plan and offer the plan to all eligible employees of Towner County. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed. The Board approved joining the NDPERS Group Life effective February 1, 2019

Motion by Teubner, seconded by Weisz to set minimum bids at $5,000 for each empty lot for the foreclosure auction. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion by Weisz, seconded by Teubner to deny the application for abatement of taxes because of the missed deadline. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed.

The next meeting was set for December 4, 2018.

The meeting adjourned by motion.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joni M. Morlock Doug Berg, Chairman

Towner County Auditor/Treasurer Towner County Board of Commissioners