

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSONER MEETING-
August 3, 2021**

The Board of LaMoure County Commissioners met Tuesday, August 3, 2021, with Chairman Lee Miller, Commissioners Bruce Klein, Bob Flath, Keith Heidinger, and Jason Weigel, State's Attorney James Shockman, Auditor Jan Hamlin, and Treasurer Cindy Worrel at the courthouse. Attending by teleconference were DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins, Art Hagebock from the LaMoure Chronicle, and Patty Wood Bartle from the Edgeley Mail. Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 8:31 a.m. with the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Miller asked for additions to the agenda. There weren't any additions. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Comm Weigel made a motion to approve the July 20th minutes, the July 6, 13, 20, and 27 budget minutes, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye, motion carried.

DES/911 Coordinator, Kimberly Robbins, went over the Community Notifications. LaMoure County currently uses a telephone alert system, social media, and the county website. LaMoure County has had the telephone emergency alert system since September 2011. All landlines are automatically registered. Cellphones must register-you can select text, call or app. Currently we have tiered response system depending on the situation: either employee only call list (CodeRED) or first responder only (eDispatches). CodeRed can also be used for specific geographic areas in the county or all the county. Then we can use IPAWS to "push" to any cell phones in the county. If the situation meets criteria, Silver, Amber, or Blue Alert will be used. Public Health, Sheriff's Office, and Extension have used social media and the county website in the past for disaster information. Over 70 percent of Americans prefer text over calling. TextMyGov uses a mobile phone's regular messaging app (no usernames or passwords to remember). It searches for keywords and automatically responds to inquiries, 24 hours a day. Some thoughts on the text response system would be it has automatic responses and may help provide messages faster. The system can push messages to anyone signed up, it keeps a log that can be used to date/track messages. It could be used to schedule appointments, and could be used for "non-emergency" or tip information. Someone would need to review the messages and manage the system. Individuals need to sign up for the text messages which would be similar to doctor and dentist appointments. TextMyGov is a way to take communication to the next level. The approximate cost would be \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year. It would be a good way for anyone to text pictures of damage during a disaster. Kimberly request that one of the commissioners take a look at this system. Chairman Miller volunteered.

LaMoure County is currently in a D2/D3 drought. There was a larger area in the D3 in May of 2021. The state of North Dakota and 15 counties have a Drought Declaration. You can review the resources at www.ndresponse.gov. The fire danger rating continues to be updated at 7:00 a.m. daily. The burn ban for the county has been in place since April 5th and there have been 93 low/moderate days and 25 days in the burn ban. The commissioners can think about putting a drought declaration in place at the next commissioner meeting. Kimberly also mentioned the pest (grasshopper) control that is available due to the drought.

Comm Heidinger made a motion that, LaMoure County may honor other city or county beer and liquor licenses issued in the State of North Dakota, and shall charge a special event fee set at \$25.00 to be retroactive to January 1, 2021, in accordance with N.D.C.C. 05-02-01.1, seconded by Commissioner Flath. All voting aye, motion carried. Horseshoe Saloon has been the only establishment to receive the special event permit and will be refunded the difference once the new application is received.

Thomas Vonbische with NextEra Energy Resources gave a project update on North Dakota III Wind Project. NextEra Energy is a renewable energy leader. They have 16 operational wind energy centers, 5 wind projects in development, 2 operational pipelines, and 2 solar projects in development in North Dakota. They have been investing in North Dakota since 2003. They make \$8.5 million in annual land payments, have \$19.3 million in annual payroll, have \$3.0 billion total capital investments, and \$3.4 million in property taxes in 2016. North Dakota III Wind Project is a \$450 million capital investment. It will have between 200-500 MW project producing enough electricity to power as much as 125,000 homes. It will have as many as 150 wind turbines. The commercial operation is targeted for December 2023. It will have new roads, underground electrical cables, substation, transmission line and a new operations and maintenance facility. The project will be in LaMoure and Stutsman counties. The towers will be taller and quieter. NextEra Energy Resources conducts numerous studies in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure their projects are responsibly sited including: avian use and

nest surveys, local species reviews, bat acoustic monitoring, habitat assessments, wetlands/waters of the U.S. evaluations, cultural resource evaluations, and phase I environmental site assessments. Some landowner's benefits include over \$2.5 million in landowner payments per year, compatible with farming and ranching, road improvements, and clean, home grown, affordable energy. NextEra Energy has extensive coordination with stakeholders including: Landowners, County Commissioners, Township Board Members, School District Superintendents, Native American Tribal Outreach, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff, and EMS. The local benefits: county and state tax payments of approximately \$25-\$50 million, creation of 300 jobs during peak construction, creation of eight new full-time, quality, good paying jobs, and increased activity for local business during construction and operations. NextEra Energy provides sponsorships to local schools, youth athletics, sheriff's, EMS, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development, Future Farmers of America, volunteer fire departments, and donations to food pantries. Thomas also said that North Dakota is an exporter of power.

Chairman Miller started the abatement hearing for Paul Konrad at 9:36 a.m. It is for a homestead credit for last year and this year. Tax Director Denice Porter said that Mr. Konrad has completed the proper paperwork and does qualify for the credit. It was Ms. Porter's recommended the abatement be approved. The City of Kulm has approved it as well. Comm Weigel made a motion to approve the homestead credit abatement for Paul Konrad, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye, motion carried.

Holly Braun with Agri Valley sent an email stating that some of the premiums have increased since the last meeting. The suggested changes at the meeting were at \$7,003. The total premiums right now without any changes at all is \$4,586. If the changes are done as suggested, it would increase to a total premium of \$9,152. This amount is at replacement cost. The commissioners will go over the new spreadsheet, which had a few suggested different building values that Holly sent, and make a decision at a future meeting.

Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ANDERSON BROS., INC.	139.25
AUTO CREATION & SIGNS	285.50
BANKNORTH	580.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	63.00
BUILDERS MART	44.56
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	210.54
CITY OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA	14.00
CITY OF KULM	74.94
COAST TO COAST COMPUTER PRODUCTS	243.00
COLE PAPERS INC	201.15
COMPUTER EXPRESS	5,339.22
D VENTURE	545.00
DAKOTA CARRIER NETWORK	875.00
DAKOTA DYNAMICS	1,000.00
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,393.23
DICKEY RURAL NETWORKS	231.00
DUFFY/JESSICA	61.97
EDGELEY MAIL	107.25
ELECTRO WATCHMAN INC	635.92
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	4,258.34
GOOD OIL COMPANY	28,668.50
HEARTLAND STATE BANK/VISA	902.44
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	508.76
HOMAN/CAROLINE	141.96
INTERGRAPH CORPORATION	1,736.40
INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEM OF ND	263.90
JAMESTOWN COMMUNICATIONS	30,851.40
JONES/TORIE	234.03
KETTERLING/JACKIE	73.36
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	766.20
KULM HARDWARE & HOME CENTER	44.92
KUSTOM MACHINE INC	83.53
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	727.10
LAMOURE CITY	190.31
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	3.98
LAMOURE HARDWARE	1,360.66

LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	1,001.99
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	310.50
LEAF	120.40
LEXIS-NEXIS	543.61
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	164.09
MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY	57.34
MOTION INDUSTRIES	4,570.72
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	1,257.30
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	5.00
ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	11,117.40
ND STATE'S ATTORNEY ASSOCIATION	300.00
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE DEPT 7510	12,481.45
PORTER/DENICE	60.48
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC	48.23
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT	49.20
RACINE/JULIANNE	281.59
SANDNESS/SHANNON	45.92
SCHWAAB INC.	37.75
SHOCKMAN LAW, PLLC	2,467.97
SHOCKMAN/KEVIN	121.17
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	50.53
VERIZON WIRELESS	579.44
WORREL/CINDY	61.60

There being no further business, Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2021

LEE MILLER, Chairman

ATTEST:

JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor