

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING-
March 1, 2022**

The Board of LaMoure County Commissioners met Tuesday, March 1, 2022, with Chairman Bruce Klein, Commissioners Bob Flath, Jason Weigel, Keith Heidinger, and Lee Miller, State's Attorney James Shockman, Auditor Jan Hamlin, and Art Hagebock with the LaMoure Chronicle at the courthouse. Attending by teleconference were DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins and Patty Wood Bartle with the Edgeley Mail. Josh Loegering with the Highway Department was absent due to a meeting in Bismarck. Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at approximately 8:32 a.m. with the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Klein asked for additions to the agenda. Comm Weigel added park business. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Comm Weigel made a motion to approve the February 15 minutes, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Josh Loegering, left handouts with Chairman Klein to pass out. It was the 2021 and 2022 LaMoure County Highway Department price listings. The commissioners will review them and there will be a discussion at the next meeting.

DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins started with a request to upgrade/rebuild the county website with accessibility in mind. The website would have new pictures, a layout, and an accessibility check throughout. The last time the website was updated was in 2017. The cost would be \$375. Comm Flath made a motion to update the county website for the \$375, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried. Kimberly went over the Spring Hydrologic outlook from February 24, 2022. The modeled snow water equivalent indicates some areas up to four inches. In the next 10 days we are going to get precipitation. The Pipestem Dam is 88% full and the Jamestown Reservoir is 68% full. The current conditions on the James River at the LaMoure gage show a 25% chance of minor flooding at 14 feet, 15% chance of moderate flooding at 16 feet, and less than 5% chance of major flooding at 18 feet. This is significantly less than the last report.

Public Health Director, Jessica Duffy, gave a COVID update. The numbers are declining. The Omicron surge is slowing. The CDC updated the community risk formula to focus less on numbers and more on having fewer overwhelming hospitals. This change was based on the number of people immunized, having received treatment and natural immunity. LaMoure County Public Health is no longer running the PCR testing on Fridays but will continue to do the rapid tests. Public Health has the home kits available. The home kits tests are located at all schools, the Edgeley grocery store, and the Food Pantry. Jessica gave a building project update. The Nogosek buildings have been inspected for asbestos. One building contained asbestos in the basement. The total cost for the survey and removal was \$2,600. The removal was completed last Friday. It was done since the individual would not be available again until sometime this summer. It was brought to Jessica's attention that there are \$8,200 in specials on the two buildings. They have been paid up to date and around \$6,700 remains. Jessica visited with LaMoure Community Development Corporation and they are interested in possibly helping with the specials or the removal of those buildings. The next step if we want to move forward with this project would be to transfer the deeds. A question was asked if Jessica had gone to the Kulm and Edgeley Developments for money as well. She has not. A member of the Edgeley Community Development has contacted Jessica. The individual told her their community would like to be considered as a location for Public Health since it is centrally located in the county and the city owns property that has offices. State's Attorney, James Shockman, said that the county needs to look into the legality of accepting Community Development money for specials or donations. The county also has to follow specific statutes when looking at bidding county property. It will have to be publicly bid if over \$200,000 for the whole project. After some discussion, if all communities should be taken into consideration, Comm Flath said that the Public Health Board had already agreed to look at the current location. Jessica said there was a motion at the Public Health Board meeting to look at the Nogoesk buildings and will bring the findings to the commissioners. It was decided the Health Board will hold a special meeting with the architect and bring the recommendation to the commissioners. The other purpose of the building would be to have extra office space for county employees currently located at the courthouse. The architect had also looked at the courthouse for an elevator that will take up office space. Jessica said that at the last legislative session, Public Health was put under the same umbrella as Human Services. Public Health is now under the Healthy and Safe Communities.

The bids for farmland rent located at the W1/2W1/2 of Section 2-13-63 were open at approximately 9:38 a.m. Wyatt Gentzkow had submitted a bid of \$7,700 and Blake Naze's bid was \$5,250 per year for three years. Chairman Klein allowed for bids to be raised by \$100 increments with Gentzkow and Naze challenging each other until Gentzkow forfeited to Naze's bid of \$12,600.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, asked the commissioners to set the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 7, 2022, with cities at 9:00 a.m. and townships at 9:30 a.m. It will be held in the courtroom. The commissioners agreed to the date, time, and location. They also agreed to keep the assessment fees the same which are \$1 per parcel for townships and \$2 per parcel for cities.

Break 9:47 a.m. to 9:58 a.m.

Sheriff Fernandes attended the meeting to discuss the two deputy openings in his department. He has been advertising for over a year and not getting hireable applicants. He said a lot of individuals are getting out of law enforcement. He is asking for ideas of how to attract applicants to LaMoure County. LaMoure County currently contributes 70% towards family health insurance, contributes 15.26% toward NDPERS retirement, pays \$1,600 annually for on-call, and offers a \$3,000 incentive bonus payable upon completion of one year of service. The salary is comparable to surrounding counties but surrounding counties are offering more benefits to their deputies and are fully staffed. The extra benefits other counties offer include holiday pay, straight pay when filling in shifts, Law Enforcement NDPERS retirement, and full family health insurance. Sheriff Fernandes is asking if LaMoure County can do more to attract and retain applicants to compete with surrounding counties. The commissioners and State's Attorney will do some research and see what is possible.

Auditor Hamlin let the commissioners know that the county currently levies a total of 20 mills for Road and Bridge. Ten mills are levied from Farm to Market and the other ten mills are from County Road and Bridge. The ten mills from Farm to Market will expire in 2024. An additional 20 mills could be levied under County Road and Bridge with voter approval. The county would only need 10 voter approved mills to continue at the current mills levied but 20% of the voter approved 10 mills would go to cities prorated based on taxable valuation. The vote on Road and Bridge levy can be held at a regular or special election. The next election will be in June of 2022. State's Attorney, James Shockman, recommended the following language for the measure:

LaMoure County levying authority beyond 10 mills will be expiring and majority vote is required to continue the additional 10 mills for County Road and Bridges for a maximum of 20 mills. Should the LaMoure County Commissioners have the authority to levy up to 20 mills in the County Road and Bridge Fund, as per N.D.C.C. Chapter 57-15-6.7 (5)?

Yes-means you approve the measure as summarized above

No-means you reject the measure as summarized above

Comm Miller made a motion to approve the above Road and Bridge measure for the primary ballot, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Auditor Hamlin asked to correct an amendment from January 20, 2022 meeting for the 2021 County General. The incorrect amount was \$1,142,141.87 and the correct amount should have been \$111,226. Hamlin said she missed State Aid, Road and Bridge, and County Agent transfer out of the county general on the CPT program side. After fixing the error, the correct amount for the amendment is \$111,226. Comm Weigel made a motion to correct the 2021 County General amendment to \$111,226, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye motion carried.

Comm Weigel said that Doyle Edwards with Direct Electric sent him an estimate to re-do the campground electrical services at Memorial Park. The plan is to keep all the current pedestals but install another supply box to double the power. The estimate is \$9,173. Comm Weigel made a motion to approve the \$9,173 to upgrade the electrical system at the park, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

There will be a 5-County meeting on March 10 at the Black Pelican in Wyndmere.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BALCO UNIFORM CO INC	159.83

BANKNORTH	580.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	66.68
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	327.71
CITY OF KULM	75.29
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EMS OF LAMOURE	600.00
COMPUTER EXPRESS	5,194.94
DACOTAH PAPER CO.	287.14
DAKOTA DYNAMICS	1,000.00
EDGELEY MAIL	71.50
GOOD OIL COMPANY	8,060.27
GOOD/LAURIE	1,719.87
HEARTLAND STATE BANK / VISA	2,525.49
HENRY SCHEIN	78.08
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	32.01
KULM MESSENGER	35.00
L&M CONTRACTORS	2,650.00
LAMOURE CITY	180.64
LEAF	120.40
NATIONAL BUSINESS FURNITURE	3,877.70
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	113.23
PEPSI-COLA	191.43
QUILL CORPORATION	674.86
RACINE/JULIANNE	186.62
RADISSON HOTEL BISMARCK	432.00
ST ANSGAR LUTHERAN CHURCH	32.99
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	50.03
SUNSET LAW ENFORCEMENT	110.70
VERIZON CONNECT NWF INC	210.47
VERIZON WIRELESS	718.75
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CENTER	2,240.00

There being no further business, Chairman Klein adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 15th DAY OF MARCH, 2022

BRUCE KLEIN, Chairman

ATTEST:

JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor