

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSONER MEETING-  
February 15, 2022**

The Board of LaMoure County Commissioners met Tuesday, February 15, 2022, with Chairman Bruce Klein, Commissioners Keith Heidinger, Jason Weigel, Bob Flath, and Lee Miller, State's Attorney James Shockman, Auditor Jan Hamlin, Highway Superintendent Josh Loegering, and Art Hagebock with the LaMoure Chronicle at the courthouse. Attending by teleconference were DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins, Chris Korkowski with the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, and Patty Wood Bartle with the Edgeley Mail. Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. with the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Klein asked for additions to the agenda. Approve February 1 Park Board minutes and Colonial Life were added. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

Comm Weigel made a motion to approve the February 1 regular and Park Board minutes, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Josh Loegering started with the bid opening for the LaMoure County box culvert which is the Kartes bridge project. There was one bid submitted from Forterra for \$267,984 for the culverts. The culverts will be delivered to the site by July 31 and the county will do the work. Comm Miller made a motion to accept the bid from Forterra for \$267,984, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried. Josh said that the Loadpass is presenting at the Township Officers meeting on Thursday. This topic will then be discussed at the next meeting. The 2022 road oil and culvert bids will be opened at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with culverts at 8:45 a.m. and road oil at 8:50 a.m. Josh has set up the 2022 township meeting with Chairman Klein and Comm Miller for March 29<sup>th</sup> in the courtroom and Comm Heidinger and Comm Weigel on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Hakuna Matata. Josh said that the county is building a culvert cleaning tool for the excavator to clean out frozen culverts and really anything else. Trail County came up with the idea a few years ago. Craig Dallmann and Boyd Dallmann requested a tree variance on CR 64 1.5 miles south of CR 35. It will extend the existing tree row on the east side further north. Josh said this is not a snow problem area and would recommend approval. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the Dallmann tree variance, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried. The next topic was the bridge south of Adrian on CR 63 which was approved for funding for rehabilitation. The request for proposal for preliminary and design engineering will be posted on February 23 in the local paper and on the NDDOT website. The construction engineering will be a separate RFP but the same process. The preference is to complete this project in 2022 but it could also be done in 2023. The bridge bundling project with the three box culverts needs a final acceptance letter. Josh would recommend accepting this project. Comm Miller made a motion to sign and send a final acceptance letter for the bridge bundling project, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye, motion carried. Josh said he started the plans for the micro surfacing project which he plans to bid on in early May. The area involved is CR 66 from CR 34 to CR 35, CR 60 from ND 13 to the county line, and CR 60 from CR 35 to ND 46. It will be a ¾" deep micro mill which will get all the cracks leveled. Then it is a 3/8" lift of high-quality aggregate and high-quality oil. It is the same process the state did on Hwy 281. This process will give the ride and wear back to the road. These roads will be chip sealed in 2023. This can extend the life of the roads by 15-17 years.

DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins started with the spring flood outlooks. They will be issued on February 10, February 24, and March 10. Kimberly listened to the National Weather Service greater Mississippi River basin spring hydrologic outlook webinar. There have been over 200% normal precipitation yet only slightly warmer temperatures from October 1, 2021, to February 6, 2022. The drought designation for LaMoure County and most of the James River Valley has been removed. Some areas in the state have concern for drought. The James River Valley is in the top 10% of the past thirty years for snowfall. The Missouri basin says moderate to major flooding along the James River. The snow water equivalent forecast indicates three to four inches of water equivalent. Ms. Robbins provided data from Allen Schlag Hydrologist with the NOAA/NWS on the James River gage at LaMoure. His report stated: "The James River basin and its tributaries are all holding an above normal snowpack and this is reflected in the relatively high risk for at least minor or moderate flooding at all forecast points along the James River and Pipestem Creek. What remains to be seen though is if the existing above normal precipitation pattern across the Prairie Pothole Region, including the James River Basin, continues on through spring, or if Mother Nature has something else in mind. It is fair to say that sufficient time remains in the snow accumulation season to where listed probabilities of flooding will change according to weather patterns over the coming weeks." This is just the first issuance of the Spring Hydrologic Outlook with the current conditions on the James River at LaMoure on 02/10/2022 are 71% at 14.0 feet minor flooding, 56% at 16.0 feet moderate, and 17% at 18.0 major. In comparison

to 2-28-2020, there was a 98% chance of minor flooding at 14.0 feet. Comm Flath requested at the last meeting to have an update on the current flood risk for Twin and Boom Lakes. The Twin and Boom Lake memo state that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) had completed investigations on each of these lakes in the past and currently monitors the elevations of the lakes during the open water season. The DWR offered to evaluate the available volume between the last gage reading and each lake's overflow elevation and compare the total available volume to frequency events developed as part of each investigation. Chris Korkowski with DWS was online and he said that they put out PRESENS units that automatically send information to their office. This information is available on their website during open water season. The last water surface elevation reading taken from Boom Lake was from a PRESENS unit on October 12, 2021, the recorded surface elevation was 1455.53 feet in North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Comparing the last recorded reading and the overflow elevation, it appears the lake would need to raise approximately three feet prior to overflowing. Using linear interpolation on the elevation/storage rating curved developed as part of the investigation, it appears there are approximately 890 acre-feet of storage available prior to the lake overflowing. On February 4, 2022, it appears the current snow water equivalent is approximately 3.1 inches at Marion, ND. It appears that the lake will likely not overtop unless there is a significant increase in snow water equivalent or multiple rainfall events. The Twin Lakes investigation in September of 2017 indicated that water would begin flowing out of Twin Lakes natural outlet when the lake reached an elevation of 1403.3 feet (NAVD88). The outlet was modified in 2020, lowering the overflow elevation to 1402.2 feet (NAVD88). The last water surface elevation reading taken from Twin Lakes was from a PRESENS unit on October 12, 2021, the recorded water surface elevation was 1400.17 feet (NAVD88). Comparing the last recorded reading and overflow elevation, it appears the lake would need to rise approximately two feet prior to overflowing. There should be approximately 5,632 acre-feet of storage remaining in Twin Lakes.

Public Health Director, Jessica Duffy, gave her presentation. She said the state and federal government are offering free at-home test kits. Public Health has some available at their office. There are some at the schools for students and staff, some at LaMoure County Food Pantry, the grocery store in Edgeley, Kulm Community Clinic, Auditor's Office at the courthouse, and other locations as they become available. The kits come in sets of two per box. LaMoure County on 2/14/2022 had eight known active cases. At the end of January, we had a peak of 35 known cases. The total death due to COVID for the county is 19. Testing remains the same. You can test at local clinics with an appointment. Public Health tests in LaMoure from 9:00 a.m. to noon. You can register at [testreg.nd.gov](https://testreg.nd.gov) prior to arrival. Testing through the county is currently free to the public. The result time varies from 24-72 hours for PCR, rapid tests are also available at Public Health. The at-home tests kits are free from the county or state as available. You can also purchase at retail stores. The new quarantine guidelines are to isolate (at home) away from other people for five days from the onset of symptoms. If you are free of fever and symptoms improved you can wear a mask in public for the next five days. People can be contagious for two days prior to having any symptoms. We can vaccinate, test at clinic or home, stay home if you are sick, and wear a mask to slow the spread. Pfizer and Moderna are FDA approved. Pfizer is on hold but expected to acquire emergency use for six months to five years. It will be less than half the adolescent dose. LaMoure County's percentage of individuals to vaccinate continues to slowly rise. COVID vaccines are offered monthly in Edgeley and Kulm and every Friday in LaMoure at the Public Health Office. Public Health is scheduled to be in Marion for all adult shots on February 25, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Jessica said the contractor surveyed the Nogosek buildings. They took some samples, and the asbestos report should be available in a couple of weeks.

Treasurer, Cindy Worrel, said two more people applied for homestead credit and they were approved at 100%. One party already paid their taxes and will get a refund. The county will receive the funds from the state in 2022. Cindy recommended approval. Comm Flath made a motion to approve the canceled/added tax list presented by Cindy Worrel, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Klein reported that Auditor Hamlin and himself visited with a representative from Colonial Life. This company offers similar benefit packages that the county currently offers employees. The representative from Colonial Life feels they can give the county better services when it came to dental, vision, etc. Chair Klein and Hamlin will report back after reviewing the benefits and costs. The commissioners will need to decide in the near future if they would be interested in adding Colonial Life to the benefits package for county employees.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, joined the meeting after receiving a call from Vanguard Appraisals informing her the one-year complimentary website they provided to LaMoure County is expiring. It is a website anyone can visit to see how their residential property is assessed. The county has the option, for a fee, to extend it for one, three, or five years. The commissioners decided not to act and let it expire since the information can be obtained locally from the Tax Director.

Break 9:40 a.m. to 9:49 a.m.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ALBER/LAUREL	144.00
ALLIED ENERGY	4,250.47
AT&T MOBILITY	122.81
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	3,306.76
CENEX FLEETCARD	1,792.48
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	379.40
CITY OF KULM	74.95
COLE PAPERS INC	260.07
COMPUTER EXPRESS	4,999.99
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	2,500.00
DAKOTA CARRIER NETWORK	875.00
DAKOTA MAILING & SHIPPING EQUIP. INC	171.09
DAKOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC	171.41
DAKOTA VALLEY SERVICES	139.20
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	106.41
DICKEY RURAL NETWORKS	231.00
ECONOMY OIL INC	5,099.64
ELECTRO WATCHMAN INC	712.50
FLATH/ROBERT	323.40
FRONTIER PRECISION INC	1,650.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	1,556.04
GOOD OIL COMPANY	8,190.98
HARMSSEN/LARRY	360.00
HEIDINGER/KEITH	400.62
HENRY SCHEIN	496.70
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	503.64
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	1,379.60
INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEM OF ND	81.95
IWI LIGHTING INC	337.80
IWORQ	3,000.00
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	2,414.73
KLEIN/BRUCE	210.53
KULM HARDWARE & HOME CENTER	68.95
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	1,115.78
LAMOURE CITY	88.00
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	27.75
LAMOURE FOODS, INC.	224.09
LAMOURE HARDWARE	1,210.95
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	877.50
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	105.00
LARSON GRAIN CO	14.80
LEAF	120.40
LUNDGREN/BLAINE	6.00
MERCK SHARP & DOHME CORP.	856.08
MILLER/LEE	267.86
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	67.76
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	10.00
ND SHERIFFS & DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION	400.00
NDACTVSO	125.00
NEWMAN SIGNS INC	2,617.72
OAKES TRUCK & TRAILER, LLC	637.81
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	4,530.82
PACWEST TOOL AND SAFETY	179.58
PITNEY BOWES	456.00
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT	58.00
PURCHASE POWER	2,015.00
QUILL CORPORATION	1,110.33
RECORD KEEPERS LLC	7.20
ROBBINS/KIMBERLY	25.74
SAFETY KLEEN SYSTEMS, INC.	428.96
SPORTS AWARDS	18.18
STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTION CENTER	2,850.00

ULTIMATE TRANSPORTATION	310.25
US POSTAL SERVICE	84.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	299.26
WASTE MANAGEMENT	283.28
WEIGEL/JASON	246.80
WEST END HIDE, FUR & METAL CO., INC	600.60
WEX HEALTH, INC.	83.00
YOUNG INNOVATIONS	430.36

Auditor Hamlin mentioned that she put the ad in the paper for the county farmland for rent.

The commissioners decided to move back into the commissioner room for the next meeting.

The LaMoure County Township Officers Association meeting will be Thursday.

The commissioners would like to start budget meetings in April.

There being no further business, Chairman Klein adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2022

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BRUCE KLEIN, Chairman

ATTEST:

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JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor