

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERMEETING- January 5, 2021**

The Board of LaMoure County Commissioners met Tuesday, January 5, 2021, with Chairman Lee Miller, Commissioners Bruce Klein, Bob Flath, Jason Weigel, Keith Heidinger, State's Attorney James Shockman, Highway Superintendent Josh Loegering and Auditor Jan Hamlin at the courthouse. Attending by teleconference were DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins, Clerk of Court Billi Warcken, Patty Wood Bartle from the Edgeley Mail, and Art Hagebock from the LaMoure Chronicle. Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 8:32 a.m. with the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Miller asked for any additions to the agenda. Auditor Hamlin added commissioner portfolios and GSA rate for mileage, lodging and meals. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

Comm Klein made a motion to approve the December 15th minutes, seconded by Comm Flath. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Josh Loegering, said that he drove the CR 62 paving project with NDDOT last week. This was the final inspection. There weren't any issues. Comm Heidinger made a motion to sign off on the final acceptance letter for the CR 62 paving project, seconded by Comm Flath. Motion carried. Loegering did mention that in the future the approaches will need to be paved differently. The road crew will fix the approaches this year. Loegering said that the Bridge Bundling Project will need to be amended. It will cost an additional \$22,670.42 for historical bridge documentation, section corners, and right of way plats. The total project will go to \$145,000. Loegering said that this is still under his \$150,000 original estimate. Comm Flath made a motion to do the amendment to the Bridge Bundling Project, seconded by Comm Heidinger. Motion carried. Yesterday the county roads were bladed to level out loose gravel and ridges. The new snow plow map with pictures is up and running with Galaxy Tablets. The road shop finished cleaning up the county pit and storage area in LaMoure. They hauled 40 plus tons of scrap metal for \$9,000. They have completed the sign inventory, are working on stop sign project, doing equipment maintenance, shop inventory, and cleaning. Next week there will be three crews going out a couple nights to do nighttime sign inspections. Loegering also mentioned that he is working with Josh Geinert to draw up a shop addition. It will be 124' X 200' to the east of the current building and cost approximately 1.5M. Loegering said it will need a wash bay. He would like to see this completed in the next year or two. There was some discussion on Prairie Dog funding. LaMoure County was supposed to get 2.5M. Comm Klein said that at the 5-county meeting last week they talked about still giving 80% of what was expected from the Prairie Dog, which would be a bonding proposal using portion of earnings from the state's Legacy Fund.

DES/911 Coordinator, Kimberly Robbins, started with the Memorial Park Storm Shelter. She said the grant process was started in 2019 and was put on hold when COVID arrived. It is an above ground, pre-cast community safe room, 53ft long x 8ft high x 12ft wide, to accommodate 100 people. The estimated cost is \$87,500. There is a new Hazard Mitigation Grant Program available in 2021 which requires a 15% cost share agreement which is \$13,125 of local in-kind or cash contributions. Our local highway department will help with some of the ground work on the project. LaMoure County has been preapproved so a motion is needed to sign the 15% local cost match letter. Comm Klein made a motion to go ahead and sign the local cost match letter, seconded by Comm Flath. Motion carried. The next topic was DR 4553 Appeal. The ND Department of Emergency Services received a response that FEMA has decided to stay with their initial determination that groundwater/frost damages will not be eligible for the DR4553 PA Program. FEMA has taken the stance that these damages are a natural occurrence and not directly related to the 2020 spring flood event. 44 CFR Part 206.369 says that a state is only allowed one appeal related to the denial of specific service or area related to a disaster declaration. No further options can be taken to change this determination by FEMA. The draft document shows that 15% of the 256 sites submitted in LaMoure County will be identified as groundwater or frost damage and thus ineligible. Letters will be mailed with the payments to the townships for sites that were approved and informed which sites were not approved. No township was denied completely, they will receive some funding. The 2021 Spring Outlook Flood and Water Resources Outlook was the next item. This flood and water resources outlook is for the Missouri and James River basins of North Dakota, covering the period from December 26, 2020 through March 26, 2021. The current conditions are a below normal snowpack existing across central and western North Dakota, less than normal frost depth, lower end for river/stream/reservoir levels, and drier soils. The only elevated risk indicator are the wetlands and small lakes across the region which are still above normal due to excessive moisture during the early fall of 2019. Most have receded to something below their respective high-water marks of 2019 and 2020. The percent to exceed flood stage at the gauge in LaMoure County on the James River shows all below flood stage. The next report will be the last Thursday in January.

The commissioners reviewed the inclement weather policy. A decision to close the County offices due to inclement weather shall be at the discretion of the County Commission, with the assistance of the Sheriff, Road Superintendent, Emergency Manager and County Auditor, who will make the necessary arrangements to notify employees. If the decision is made to close County offices, employees will receive their normal rate of pay, considered storm pay. Should an employee choose not to attend work due to inclement weather, or to arrive late or leave early when the County offices are still open, that employee will have that time off charged to either vacation or leave without pay. Essential employees are defined as any employee who is in a position that cannot be left unattended or is subject to duties as the need arises. Essential employees will be required to work as needed. Essential employees, who are not on duty but scheduled to work, will be required to make the necessary arrangements to get to work or provide enough notice to their supervisor to ensure that their position is covered. Essential employees who are required to work during an official storm closing are not eligible for storm pay. If the decision is made to close county offices, a CodeRed message will go out at approximately 6:45 a.m.

The commissioners discussed the 2020 vacation which was tabled from the last meeting. Due to COVID last year, some employees were unable to use their vacation and are over the 240 hours carry over that is in the county policy. There are four employees with hours over 240. Comm Flath made a motion that due to COVID the vacation hours over 240 will be extended six months, seconded by Comm Heidinger. Roll call vote Comm Klein-yes; Comm Heidinger-yes; Comm Weigel-yes; Comm Flath-yes; and Chairman Miller-yes. Motion carried.

The commissioners will keep the courthouse at restricted access and revisit it at every meeting.

Comm Klein and Comm Flath will hold the portfolio for the Highway Department. Comm Miller and Comm Weigel will hold the portfolio for the Courthouse.

Auditor Hamlin informed the commissioners that the state rate for mileage has decreased to \$.56 per mile. Comm Heidinger made a motion to adopt the state rate, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

Hamlin reviewed the meal and lodging reimbursement rates. The meal allowance in-state for first quarter, 6 a.m. to 12 noon is \$7.00, second quarter, 12 noon to 6 p.m. is \$10.50, third quarter 6 p.m. to 12 midnight is \$17.50. The in-state lodging is \$86.40. Comm Flath made a motion to accept the current reimbursement rates for meals and lodging, seconded by Comm Klein. Motion carried.

The Park Board Meeting was set for February 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Public Health Director, Jessica Duffy, gave her COVID report. The current (known) active cases in the county are eleven. There have been a total 476 cases to date and sixteen deaths. LaMoure County has tested over 1900 since May 2020. Public Health has the PCR (Gold Standard), Binex tests (rapid), and spit tests available. They do test international travelers. The testing in LaMoure County is low compared to average ND testing (27.1). The percentage positives in LaMoure County are higher than the ND average 14 day (7.5). There are currently two vaccinations for COVID which are Moderna and Pfizer. Both are a two does series and 95% effective. The first round of Moderna arrived the week of Christmas. Ninety doses have been administered to healthcare and emergency service personnel. Fifty new doses are arriving today. These are for St. Rose Care Center and individuals in priority phase 1, tier 3. Watch the newspapers and Facebook for information on when shots are available to the community. The plan is to focus on mini-POD'S. The distribution will follow the guidelines of the CDC and NDDOH. We will have to continue to wear masks and social distance until we have a majority of people vaccinated.

Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ALLIED ENERGY	4,038.22
BANKNORTH	580.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	161.02
BIG CONE/THE	115.50
BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES INC	116.06
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	101.64
CITY OF KULM	74.75
COLE PAPERS INC	425.19
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EMS OF LAMOURE	650.28
COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,683.67
D & B PORTABLES LLC	50.00

DAKOTA MAILING & SHIPPING EQUIP. INC	162.59
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,432.05
DICKEY RURAL NETWORKS	771.00
DUFFY/JESSICA	110.40
EDGELEY AMBULANCE	600.00
EMMONS COUNTY	553.72
GALLS, LLC	166.36
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	974.35
GOOD OIL COMPANY	307.50
HEARTLAND STATE BANK/VISA	6,461.28
GRAINGER	1,211.94
HENRY SCHEIN	23.49
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	336.91
HWY. 13 ONE-STOP SHOP, INC	77.55
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	28.31
KETTERLING/JACKIE	51.75
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	6,758.19
KULM HARDWARE & HOME CENTER	97.88
L & O ACRES TRANSPORT, INC.	2,438.18
L & S WORREL TRUCKING, INC.	1,060.00
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	511.78
LAMOURE CITY	98.81
LAMOURE COUNTY TREASURER	799.67
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	20.05
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	548.07
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	175.00
LAMOURE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST. #8	250.00
LEAF	133.10
MEDICARE PART B	77.41
MID-STATES ORGANIZED CRIME INFORMATION	100.00
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	46,272.58
ND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION	200.00
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	11,567.57
ND 911 ASSOCIATION	25.00
NDEMA	50.00
NEWMAN SIGNS INC	1,406.80
NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION	275.00
NORTHWEST TIRE INC	2,592.00
ONSOLVE	2,052.39
OTTERTAIL POWER COMPANY	479.86
PK SAFETY SUPPLY	3,253.76
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC	47.55
QUILL CORPORATION	473.79
SANDNESS/SHANNON	60.95
SCHMOKER/MICHAEL	193.78
SCHMOKER/RON	14,676.97
SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABORATORIES	658.20
SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL	9,764.00
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	55.61
TRUENORTH STEEL	514.70
VAN EEDEN/CLARA	17.25
VERIZON CONNECT NWF	210.47
VERIZON WIRELESS	551.03
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	405.51
WEXBANK	273.89
WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE	250.00

There being no further business, Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

LEE MILLER, Chairman

ATTEST:

JANICE HAMLIN, County Auditor