

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE AND DICKEY COUNTY JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT -Wednesday, January 14, 2025**

At 8:02 p.m. LaMoure County Chairman Keith Heidinger called the meeting to order. Commissioners Jason Weigel, Bruce Klein, Robert Flath, and Wayne Wald were present from LaMoure County. Chairman Brandon Carlson and Commissioners Kacey Holm, Marke Roberts, and Jerry Walsh were present from Dickey County. Also, attending were Fallon Kelly, LaMoure County State's Attorney, Jan Hamlin, LaMoure County Auditor, Wanda Sheppard, Dickey County Auditor, Art Hagebock, LaMoure Chronicle, Mike Vogel, LaMoure Fire Department Chief, and Lynn Haro.

LaMoure County State's Attorney, Fallon Kelly, explained that a petition has been filed by the LaMoure Fire Department to establish a Rural Fire Protection District. A determination has been made that they meet the requirements and tonight's meeting is the next step of the process under NDCC 18-10-02. The boards of county commissioners and all person residing in or owning taxable property within the proposed district shall have an opportunity to be heard respecting the formation of such district or the location of the boundaries. The boards of county commissioners shall determine whether the proposed district is suited to the general fire protection policy of the county or each of such counties, as a whole, determine the boundaries of the proposed district, whether as suggested in the petition or otherwise.

The floor was opened to the commissioners for discussion. One question asked was the advantage of forming a district. This would give the district the authority to levy up to 5 mills. The other discussion was on the proposed boundaries. The map presented is based on the current fire departments boundaries that were establish in the 80's drawn out based on response time. The concern was if the district decided to levy up to the maximum 13 mills if approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the question it would create several addition ballot styles for LaMoure County in a primary election. Mr. Kelly stated that the voting on that question would be at an annual or special meeting of the fire district.

The floor was open to the public for comments. Lynn Haro inquired why now. Fire Chief, Jeff Vogel, stated basically for more funds to purchase equipment. Everything is more expensive, but the funds received remain the same. The other question was how much will 5 mills average. The estimated at this time was \$75,000. A quarter of land would be approximately \$42.00 per year and a \$115,000 residence would be approximately \$27.00 per year.

Comm Flath stated that both boards are not approving the district but are allowing it to proceed and the next meeting would decide if approved by a vote of the people residing and owning property in the district.

Dickey County Comm Holm made a motion to accept the proposed rural fire protection district, seconded by Comm Roberts. Roll call vote was Comm Carlson yes; Comm Walsh yes; Comm Roberts yes; Comm Holm yes. All voting aye, motion carried. LaMoure County Comm Flath made a motion to proceed with the proposed rural fire protection district presented, seconded by Comm Klein. Roll call vote: Comm Klein-yes; Comm Weigel-yes; Comm Wald-yes; Comm Flath-yes; Chairman Heidinger-yes. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Heidinger adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2025

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KEITH HEIDINGER, Chairman

ATTEST:

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JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor