

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING-Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025**

At 8:30 a.m. Chairman Heidinger called the meeting to order and opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Bruce Klein, Bob Flath, Wayne Wald, and Jason Weigel. Also present in person were Fallon Kelly, State's Attorney; Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Darrick Nitschke, Road Superintendent; Brian Tykwinski, KLG Engineering and Katie the intern; Kimberly Robbins, Emergency Manager; Denice Porter, Tax Director; Art Hagebock, LaMoure Chronicle, Todd Langston, and Karin Boom. Remote attendance by Raymond and Melissa Godlewski.

Chairman Heidinger called for additions to the agenda. None were offered. A motion was made by Comm Flath to approve the agenda, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

The May 20, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Comm Flath to approve, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Emergency Manager, Kimberly Robbins reported that burn restrictions are no longer in effect in the county. She is still getting information from all parties related to the USGS gage to monitor James River water level. She will bring that to a future meeting for action. Grand Rapids township is the only LaMoure County township with a designated floodplain management program with Robbins as the assigned manager. LaMoure/Stutsman/Dickey Counties are all included in the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update and have to agree to the updated floodplain ordinances by June 18, 2025. With the recent North Dakota Legislation passed – SB2027 – counties will have floodplain management responsibility for township; however, this will not take place until August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Townships can still elect to be their own flood plain managers. A resolution adopted today would cover the June 18 to August 1 gap in flood plain management of the township. Kelly said the county could adopt the resolution today. A motion was made by Comm Klein to adopt the resolution presented to allow LaMoure County to have floodplain management of Grand Rapids Township, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Darrick Nitschke reported that the department is currently crack sealing. Road stabilization 2 miles of CR 34 is being completed as are culverts in Golden Glen township. One RFP for bridges will be scheduling interviews on Thursday. Tykwinski said that a motion for structure removal and contract would be required today. A motion was made by Comm Klein to sign it, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried. He also reported that structure replacement bids are due on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Projected dates on projects are: paving CR 35 early July, box culvert North of Edgeley in August. He reviewed the latest information he had available on transportation funding as decided by the legislature.

The board discussed the contract with Barnes County for Veteran's Service Officer services. The contract renewal is due October 1, 2025. Klein said he is getting very good reports on services provided and will meet with the Veteran's Service Officer and Barnes County to discuss questions.

Auditor Hamlin reported that a refund of \$3,412.03 has been paid to the county on the 2024 premium. Hamlin also attended the meeting of the Gackle Rural Ambulance on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hamlin had some questions regarding the logistics of the taxing authority. Kelly mentioned a question was raised on the interpretation of statutes used when forming the district. Kelly said there were options of requesting an Attorney General's opinion or to proceed with the informal process and that other counties are also working on this. The board was notified that the final floodplain zoning including the permit and application will need to be finalized. The notice will have to be signed today to be published before the meeting. Robbins and Kelly will have fee examples and permit application forms to present at the next meeting.

Kelly also noted that a letter of response had been received from Braaten Law and he recommended scheduling an executive session to address the letter to preserve the attorney-

client privilege status of the county. Meeting agenda will have to list the executive session and the specific and limited purpose. Kelly presented a model resolution regarding parameters for public comment at meetings which is in compliance with new law adopted this session. The board will review and discuss at a future meeting.

Wald updated the board regarding a proposed natural gas pipeline between Valley City and Ellendale. Affected residents have received letters from the company. Wald will be getting more information from the company to discuss it at future meeting.

Weigel said he has been approached by Sheriff Fernandes about the pay level of law enforcement recruitment pay. Currently it is at \$54,399 plus benefits. He feels it is not enough to attract new deputies and retain them. More information from other agencies will be gathered and reviewed.

9:55-10:00 - Break

10:01-10:02 Tax Equalization meeting for Cities opened. Tax Director Porter distributed a handout of current residential values. If our county valuations are under 90% under the formula used by the State Tax Department then the state could raise all of our valuations up to 100%. We have a very small margin and any error could tip it. Board discussed how the valuations are determined, last updates and possible ways to gradually increase to keep within ratio and not have big increases periodically. Godlewski's inquired as to how the valuations were established as they were new residents. Porter and the board outlined the process and history of the current valuations. The Cities Tax Equalization meeting closed at 10:30 and the Tax Equalization meeting for Townships opened. Porter presented the inundated acres applications for review. A motion was made by Comm Weigel to approve them, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried. 10:50 Tax Equalization meeting closed for Townships.

A motion was made by Comm Weigel to raise the residential values by 1.5% to 91.2%, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

Bills were reviewed. A motion was made by Comm Weigel to pay bills presented, seconded by Comm Wald. All voting aye, motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AGRI VALLEY INSURANCE	611.00
ALLIED ENERGY	9,193.17
BANKNORTH	630.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	65.80
BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	695.00
BUILDERS MART	18.55
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	13,305.89
CHAMP SOFTWARE INC	9,508.00
CITY OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA	14.00
CITY OF KULM	83.65
CITY OF LAMOURE	436.50
DAKOTA CARRIER NETWORK	875.00
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	3,232.40
DIRECT ELECTRIC INC	4,905.53
DUFFY/JESSICA	95.90
ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV	244.90
EDGELEY DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS	100.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	645.94
GACKLE/SARAHJOY	451.27
GENERAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	7,500.00
GOOD OIL COMPANY	358.63
HAMLIN/JANICE	82.60
HARMSSEN'S GREENHOUSE, INC.	118.92

HEIDINGER/KEITH	60.20
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	443.31
INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEM OF ND	152.95
JACOBSON/TAMMY	296.80
KELLY/FALLON	3,463.38
KETTERLING/JACKIE	405.99
KULM HARDWARE & HOME CENTER	71.88
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	1,368.20
LAMOURE HARDWARE	965.42
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	1,882.88
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	50.00
LARSON GRAIN CO	50.00
LEAF	120.40
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC	64.05
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	650.58
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	11.50
NELSON AUTO CENTER	57,935.00
NEWMAN SIGNS INC	5,157.98
OTTERTAIL POWER COMPANY	166.95
RANSOM COUNTY AUDITOR	8,607.53
RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	15,287.83
REGENCY MIDWEST VENTURES LIMITED	340.50
PTNRSHIP	
SLEEP INN & SUITES	396.00
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	51.65
TRUENORTH STEEL	26,560.00
VALLEY PLAINS EQUIPMENT	76.59
VAN EEDEN/CLARA	294.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	241.39

Chairman Heidinger adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 17<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF June, 2025

ATTEST:

KEITH HEIDINGER, Chairman

JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor