

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING-Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

At 8:30 am Chairman Robert Flath called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge to the flag. Commissioners Jason Weigel, Keith Heidinger, Lee Miller, and Bruce Klein were also present. Also attending were James Shockman, State's Attorney; Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Darrick Nitschke, Highway Superintendent; Art Hagebock, LaMoure Chronicle; Representative, Mike Brandenburg; and Tom VonBische and Daulton Pearson with NextEra Energy. Attending virtually was Kimberly Robbins, DES/911 Coordinator.

Chairman Flath called for additions to the agenda. Comm Miller added the Adrian outdoor warning siren. Auditor Hamlin added HireClick. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Flath called for a review of the May 16, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Comm Klein to approve the minutes with a correction of adding a zero to one of the figures listed, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Darrick Nitschke, Highway Superintendent, informed the board that the crew is finishing shoulder pulls on the Grand Rapids road and will be moving to townships. They are crushing at the county pit. The summer crew has crack sealed the lake road. They're now working on the new section of the Litchville road, and will move to the Jud road. Darrick also informed the board that there are two or three culverts left to put in.

Treasurer, Cindy Worrel, joined the meeting to get board approval for an abatement. A private party sold a piece of property to the Kulm City Park District in June of 2022. The park is exempt, but the change was missed in the system. The park does have to pay city specials but the rest should be abated on parcel number 35-0109090. Comm Heidinger made a motion to approve the abatement, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Tom VonBische and Daulton Pearson with NextEra Energy gave a project update on North Dakota III. NextEra is a renewable energy leader and is the world's number one generator of wind and solar energy. In North Dakota, they have 16 operational wind energy centers, two operational pipelines, 2 battery storage, and 5 wind projects in development. They have been investing in North Dakota since 2003. The preliminary project boundary for this project are located in parts of LaMoure and Stutsman Counties. North Dakota III wind project overview is a \$400 million capital investment bringing between 200–800-megawatt, producing enough electricity to power as many as 125,000 homes. There will be as many as 285 wind turbines. The commercial operation targeted date is for December 2026. There will be new roads, underground electrical cables, substation, transmission line and a new operations and maintenance facility. This project also proposes to power a clean fertilizer plant that converts electricity and water into ammonia for local distribution to North Dakota farmers.

Representative Brandenburg said the state has a loan for this project, but the money is not available until there is a commitment to build the fertilizer plant. Once the commitment has been met, the loan will be forgiven. NextEra Energy Resources conducts numerous studies in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies. There will also be landowner benefits with \$5 million in landowner payments per year. There will be road improvements, and clean, home-grown, affordable energy. There will be extensive coordination with stakeholders. The project will provide local community benefits. This will create 300 jobs during peak construction. There will be county and state tax payments. It will create eight new full-time jobs. NextEra provides sponsorship to local schools, youth athletics, sheriffs and EMS, Chambers of Commerce, economic development, Future Farmers of America, and volunteer fire departments. They also make donations to food pantries.

NDSU Extension Agent, Julianne Racine, gave her first 2023 quarterly report. She started with the February Cattle Workshop. It was a huge success. There were 21 attendees. Those presenting were Dr. Gerald Stokka, Karl Hoppe, Breana Kisa, and Julianne. It was one of the

most interactive and engaging audiences. Producing for Profit was held in March. Julianne, Dr. Frayne Olson and Randy Martinson offered education on agriculture markets, economics, budgets, and carbon credits. The first quarter also included pesticide training which had the spot-on spray case and activity stations. Julianne reported that the 2023 Tri County Activity Day was held in Oakes. LaMoure County 4-H Council paid for a bus to transport our youth, so attendance was above average. Another youth activity was the Prairie Waters Water Olympics which teaches 4th graders about the properties of water and surface tension through various competitive events.

Deputy Auditor, Shanel Bohnenstingl, joined the meeting to discuss Text My Gov. She said that the county started the service on November 2, 2021 and the startup and annual fee was \$2,700. The annual fee now is \$1,800. Only two people have used it and that was in November of 2022. The contract is up at the end of July. It is a good tool but is not being utilized. Comm Miller made a motion to not renew the contract, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Comm Miller said that DES/911 Coordinator Kimberly Robbins let him know that the City of Berlin accepted a grant for a new siren. The City of Berlin no longer has a need for the old one which was acquired through a grant written by the county. In the Hazard Mitigation Plan, a siren is supposed to be placed in Adrian. The county doesn't have land there so it would have to be placed on private property. There would be some expense for putting it up. Comm Miller had discussion with the township and none of the board members want to proceed. The value of the siren \$8,000. Kimberly will work with State's Attorney, James Shockman, to figure out who owns the siren.

Auditor Hamlin informed the board that the county currently is using Hireclick to advertise open positions. We have had the service for a year now and pay \$99 per month and haven't received any applicants. Comm Heidinger made a motion to no longer participate with Hireclick, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Break 9:46 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Tax Director Denice Porter and Treasurer Cindy Worrel joined the meeting. Chairman Flath opened the Tax Equalization meeting for the cities at 10:00 a.m. No one was present for the cities.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, reported that residential values are sitting at 90.6 % and commercial values are sitting at 90.3% which look good. The ag values are at 86.8%. She recommends increasing ag 3.5% to be in compliance with the state guidelines which is at least 90%. Comm Klein made a motion to increase the ag value 3.5% and leave the residential and commercial values alone, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Under correspondence, the James River CCO meeting for LaMoure, Stutsman, and Dickey County government officials will be June 7, 2023 at the LaMoure County Courthouse basement meeting room from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be four representatives from FEMA and representatives from the Department of Water Resources. The public evening meeting will be June 22 at the BankNorth meeting room in LaMoure. More information will be coming at a later date.

Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own an approximately 95-mile transmission line in North Dakota. The Jamestown to Ellendale transmission project (JETx) will run from Otter Tail Power's Jamestown substation to Montana-Dakota Utilities' Ellendale substation. They are currently targeting an in-service date of late 2028. They will start meetings with stakeholders this summer.

LaMoure County received a letter from the North Dakota Department of Transportation. During the 68th Legislative session, HB 1012 was passed which designates North Dakota

Highway 13 from Edgeley to LaMoure as the Trooper Beryl McLane Memorial Highway. The NDDOT will work with the North Dakota Highway Patrol on sign procurement and plans to have the signs installed the summer of 2023.

Sonya Albertson submitted her formal letter of resignation from the LaMoure County Memorial Park Board. She also administers the LaMoure County Memorial Park Facebook page and will pass on the responsibility to whomever wishes to fill that role. The board wants to thank her for her 13 years of very active service. Comm Klein made a motion to appoint Comm Keith Heidinger to the LaMoure County Memorial Park Board, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner meeting dates were set for August 1 and August 15; September 7 and September 19; and October 3 and October 17.

State's Attorney, James Shockman, informed the board that we have received an email from our attorney who is handling the opioid litigation. They are interested in going after McKinsey and Company, Inc. They recommend that we join the multi-district litigation in the event that there is a settlement with that company. Comm Weigel made a motion to join the McKinsey and Company, Inc. litigation, seconded by Comm Heidinger. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Flath closed the Tax Equalization meeting for the cities at 10:27 a.m.

There was discussion on the excess vehicles the county owns. Treasurer, Cindy Worrel will check the inventory and reach out to the department heads to get a list.

Chairman Flath opened the Tax Equalization meeting for the townships at 10:30 a.m. No one was present for the townships. The meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.

Auditor Hamlin informed the board that the county received two checks from the North Dakota Association of Counties. One was a Workforce Safety Discount in the amount of \$1,610.01 and other one was for the 2022 Workers Compensation premium dividend credit in the amount of \$8,496.75.

The Sheriff was out on a call, so the NDPERS Public Safety Retirement was tabled.

Comm Heidinger made a motion to pay the bills presented, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ALLIED ENERGY	394.16
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS	320.82
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	66.45
BUILDERS MART	206.14
BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	45.00
CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT	46.00
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	887.17
CITY OF KULM	79.66
CITY OF LAMOURE	196.00
COLE PAPERS INC	857.69
COMPUTER EXPRESS	14,821.86
CORNER HOME MEDICAL	425.00
DACOTAH PAPER CO.	142.20
DAKOTA VALLEY SERVICES	2,005.55
DELL MARKETING L.P.	4,481.14
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,471.97
DICKEY RURAL NETWORKS	231.00
DIRECT ELECTRIC INC	240.00
ECONOMY OIL INC	4,525.62
ESCOSUPPLY	2,484.36
FASTNACHT/JOSHUA	96.87
FLECK/JEFF	238.00

GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	466.67
GOOD OIL COMPANY	8,733.67
HAMLIN/JANICE	76.64
HARMSSEN'S GREENHOUSE	480.00
HEARTLAND STATE BANK/VISA	2,001.89
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	6,435.34
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	54.50
JOHNSON MANUFACTURING OPERATING, INC	14.12
KULM HOMETOWN EVENTS	30.00
KULM SERVICE	124.00
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	1,079.98
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	4.29
LAMOURE HARDWARE	1,245.10
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	1,064.53
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	320.00
LEAF	120.40
LEXIPOL LLC	3,579.51
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC	52.21
LITTLE LOBOES BRIGHT BEGINNINGS	400.00
MAERTENS WELDING & MACHINE COMPANY	589.01
MARQUART/ANDREW S.	243.00
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	451.14
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	52.96
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	15.00
NELSON AUTO CENTER	38,507.53
NELSON-GRIGGS DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	50.00
OAKES TRUCK & TRAILER, LLC	171.73
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL - 1250	290.00
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	2,166.64
PHARMCHEM INC	159.75
PITNEY BOWES	456.00
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT	192.00
PURCHASE POWER	2,015.00
QUILL CORPORATION	406.05
RACINE/JULIANNE	292.79
ROBBINS/KIMBERLY	312.74
SHOCKMAN LAW, PLLC	2,610.05
SOLINGER'S LUMBER INC	392.35
STEFFES EXCAVATION & TRUCKING LLC	480.00
STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTION CENTER	225.00
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	50.85
TRUENORTH STEEL	46,583.40
US POSTAL SERVICE	532.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	976.66
VISTOS CARQUEST	1,377.79
WALK-N-ROLL	174.73
WEBER/SARAH	40.00

Chairman Flath adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF JUNE, 2023

ROBERT FLATH, Chairman

ATTEST:

JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor