

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING-Tuesday, June 4th, 2024**

At 8:30 am Chairman Jason Weigel called the meeting to order and opened by reciting the pledge of allegiance. Commissioners: Lee Miller, Bruce Klein and Robert Flath were present. Also attending were Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Darrick Nitschke, Highway Superintendent; Brandy Rolland, State's Attorney Paralegal; Bryan Tykwinski, KLJ; Cindy Worrel, Treasurer; and Art Hagebock, LaMoure Chronicle. Absent was Commissioner Keith Heidinger.

Chairman Weigel called for additions to the agenda. The addition was Commissioner for Canvass Board June 24. Comm Klein made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Weigel called for a review of the May 21st 2024, commissioner meeting minutes and May 28th special commissioner meeting minutes. Comm Flath made a motion to approve both the commissioner and special commissioner minutes with corrections, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Darrick Nitschke, reported that they did close the bridge near Jud on 77th Ave. It will be a low-water crossing. Darrick noted that his department has been renting a packer for about \$7,400 per month. He saw one on Steffes Auction, which is a 2019 enclosed cab with 4,000 hours. It could also be used for packing shoulder pulls. Comm Flath made a motion to bid up to a maximum of \$35,000 plus shipping on the Packer on Steffes Auction located in Colorado, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried. The board said if he doesn't get it to keep looking.

Bryan Tykwinski with KLJ presented two contracts to the board for the CR 35 Jud paving project along with the milling on CR 35 and the reclaiming project on CR 34. Comm Klein made a motion to accept the contracts for engineers on those two projects contingent on the State's Attorney approval, seconded by Comm Flath. All voting aye, motion carried.

Comm Miller made a motion to approve the encroachment to the county right of ways letter created by the State's Attorney, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried. LaMoure County has everything set at 66 feet or less.

NDSU Extension Agent, Julianne Racine, introduced Abby Peterson who is interning at the county as the Family Community Wellness Agent.

Auditor, Jan Hamlin, informed the board that in October of 2023 the commissioners approved Law Enforcement to go to the Public Safety Retirement Plan with NDPERS. When this happened, it was discovered that the coroner's position was not eligible for NDPERS retirement based on the information provided to the county by NDPERS. Two other paid positions, Community Service and Risk Manager are held by county employees but currently are not getting NDPERS. NDPERS requires written agreements for all compensated positions above their regular positions when not NDPERS eligible. Hamlin did have agreements written up, which the State's Attorney approved but have not been approved by the commissioners. There was discussion on how to pay the employee so they aren't losing a benefit. The commissioners tabled for the next meeting to get the State's Attorney's opinion.

Auditor, Jan Hamlin, gave an election update. The Auditor's Office held the public testing of the election equipment yesterday. As of today, 818 absentee/vote-by-mail ballots have been mailed and 469 have been returned. The LaMoure County polling locations will open at 9:00 am election day and will close at 7:00 p.m. Absentee/vote by mail ballots must be postmarked June 10th or dropped in the drop box on the northeast side of the courthouse by 5:00 p.m. June 10th. Poll worker training is scheduled this week for Tuesday and Thursday. Canvass will be June 24th at 10:00 a.m. The staff is doing a good job preparing for the election. Comm Miller made a motion to appoint Comm Flath to the Canvass Board, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Since the holiday of July 4th falls on a Thursday this year, it was brought to the commissioners' question if they would consider Friday, July 5th off as well. The Human Service Department follows the closing of Emmons County and they have approved being closed on the July 5th. Comm Klein made a motion to grant employees July 5th off, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Hamlin let the commissioner know that the county has received two checks from the North Dakota Association of Counties. The first check was the workforce safety discount where our Risk Manager, Julie Senger, did a great job by completing all the requirements needed to receive the discount. The amount of that check was \$1,181.65. The second check is a premium dividend credit refund of \$5,542.92.

Break 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, joined the meeting. Chairman Weigel opened the County Tax Equalization meeting for cities and townships at 10:00 a.m. No one was present for the cities or townships. This meeting was closed at 11:03 a.m.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, reported the assessment sales ratio for residential values is sitting at 87.1 % and commercial values are sitting at 93.4%. The ag values are at 94% - 95%. She recommends increasing residential by 4% to comply with the state guidelines which is at least 90%. Comm Miller made a motion to increase the residential values by 4% and leave the commercial and ag values as-is, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AGRI VALLEY INSURANCE	75.00
ALLIED ENERGY	732.47
ANDERSON/JAKE	300.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	56.00
BUILDERS MART	613.83
CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT	200.65
CITY OF LAMOURE	316.00
DACOTAH PAPER CO.	386.69
DAKOTA CARRIER NETWORK	1,750.00
DAKOTA DYNAMICS	1,250.00
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,150.33
DIRECT ELECTRIC INC	693.12
GEINERT/TIM	418.96
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	844.98
GOOD OIL COMPANY	42.03
GOOD/LAURIE	83.68
HEARTLAND STATE BANK / VISA	2,779.90
HENRY SCHEIN	948.32
HI-WAY SERVICENTER, INC	407.85
KELLY/FALLON	2,726.28
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	13,477.97
KULM HARDWARE & HOME CENTER	397.57
KULM MESSENGER	171.68
KULM PUBLIC SCHOOL	35.00
KUSTOM MACHINE INC	122.00
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	849.55
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	45.47
LAMOURE FOODS, INC.	17.66
LAMOURE HARDWARE	1,741.33
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	2,086.41
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	310.00
LARSON GRAIN CO	130.00
LEXIPOL LLC	3,794.28
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC	52.10
MAIN STREET FARM & HOME	30.98

MERCK SHARP & DOHME LLC	1,708.47
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	368.28
NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION	125.00
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	10.00
ND SAFETY COUNCIL	325.00
NDACS	50.00
NEWMAN SIGNS INC	752.53
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR	310.00
POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	55.00
QUILL CORPORATION	26.17
RANSOM COUNTY AUDITOR	8,222.61
SOLINGER'S LUMBER INC	1,167.88
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	50.85
VERIZON WIRELESS	240.70

Chairman Weigel adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024

JASON WEIGEL, Chairman

ATTEST:

JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor