NDACo / NDCCA COUNTY TOUR 2023

Bottineau County

Bottineau County Courthouse

June 27th, 2023

2:00pm

Present: Chairman, Lance Kjelshus, Vice-Chairman Nathaniel Buynak, Commissioners, Ben Tonneson, Jeff Beyer, Rod Hiatt, and Auditor, Emily Deschamp, Tax Director, Ashley Pedie, Northern Prairie Human Service Zone Director, Kelly Jensen, Recorder, Bobbi Milbrath, Clerk of Court, Tammy Knudson, Treasurer, Ann Monson, Sheriff, Jeremy Tofteland, State’s Attorney, Seymour Jordan NDACo: Aaron Birst, Steve Lee, NRG: Dwight Driscoll, and NDCCA Officer: Chad Peterson.

Commissioners Kjelshus started the meeting with introductions and welcoming the guests.

Discussion was held on the 2023 Legislative session and how the board and NDACo (North Dakota Association of Counties) felt the changes will affect county government moving forward. Property tax exception was discussed and how the revenue that counties receive from this would be supplemented if this is something that is considered in future legislative session. Zone funding was discussed and how there needs to be adequate funding in the future.

HB1040 was discussed and how this will affect the counties and the employees moving forward. HB1040 deals with the closing of the Main plan for new employees and requiring them to join a newly created Defined Contribution plan. Chad Peterson with NDCCA (North Dakota County Commissioner’s Association) talked about where the funding would come from when the to support these plans and informed the board about the cost to the counties moving forward to support this plan.

Aaron Birst with NDACo discussed how future road funding will have to be completed through a grant process, they will no longer base the funding a formula like they have in the past, discussion was held about how the grant process will make it more of a challenge for counties to receive funding. North Dakota Association of Counties is looking into adding a grant writer to the staff in the future to assist counties with this process.

Dwight Driscoll, NRG Technology Services, notified the board about the GIS through NDACo.

Emily discussed the cost that will be being incurred to the counties due to the of the current software Dakota Program no longer being available to counties after December of 2025. Emily asked the association if there was going to be anything in the future for funding to assist the counties with this increase. Aaron did explain that NDACo has plans to reach out to Tyler Technology in the future and to have some information for auditors at the annual conference in July.

A tour was taken of the County Courthouse and Jail.

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Lance Kjelshus, Chairman

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Emily Deschamp, County Auditor