

MANDAN Historical Society



Board of Directors SPECIAL Meeting - DRAFT

April 5, 2023

Location: Bennigan's Restaurant, 1506 27th St N, Mandan

Present: President Porter, Secretary Spilman, Treasurer Engelter, Directors Laine Pope and Sharon Huettl

Absent: Vice President Walt Russell

The special meeting was called by President Porter at the request of Board Members Laine Pope and Sharon Huettl to discuss continued storage of the hardcopies of the Mandan Pioneer.

The meeting began at 11:12 a.m. Quorum was present.

New Business – Storage of Copies of Mandan Pioneer Newspapers Post Scanning

Sharon Huettl the 40+ cartons of the Pioneers were soon to be returned. She was requesting funding for cold storage, locally. Laine Pope presented a summary of availability and cost, both cold and climate controlled. They recommended a 10' x 20' cold storage unit at Windsor for \$105/month.

Kathye Spilman pointed out that the post-scan disposition of the hardcopies had been discussed by the Board on multiple occasions without commitment to retain them post scanning. Her position was the value of the newspapers was the information that they recorded. It was common practice for organizations to discard them rather than incurring the expense of storing them, once digitized. She indicated support for donating the Mandan Pioneers to any private or public entity wishing to take them. No one expressed an interest in doing so, or interested seeking someone else to do so.

Laine Pope laid out information from a national archiving association that expounded on the importance of saving hardcopy documents, even after digitization. She continued by saying state law even required that a copy of all newspapers in the state be retained. Kathye indicated that the copies were now being retained only electronically. Sharon challenged the perception, indicating that all hardcopies are also retained. And that the SHSND was missing some issues of the Pioneer and was interested in filling gaps with information from the Society.

Sharon also highlighted the value of historically-relevant issues and the opportunity for revenue for the Society to sell issues on demand. Bob Porter offered the reminder many prior "researchers" had physically cut out articles from the newspapers, including multiple significant historical issues. Kathye observed the request seemed to be intended to "store the haystack to keep the needles" which would not be a prudent use of the Society's limited resources, especially when there had been little to no interest shown recently by the public in the newspapers.

Sharon asked for a recap of where the funds for the Society were generated, which was provided. Laine contended few people even knew that the Society had the papers and that an effort could be made to see if the public would be willing to help fund their storage. Bill Engelter offered he could arrange for a viewing desk be built for use in the museum to be used to store and display a limited

number of the newspaper issues. He also indicated that the Railroad Museum may be able to offer storage for the issues.

Kathye asked how much time would be required to explore the public's desire to use/financially support the newspapers and/or go through the collection to parse out historically significant issues. Laine indicated two months.

A motion was made by Kathye Spilman to authorize \$105/month for up to 6 months for the storage of the Mandan Pioneers hardcopies. Bill Engelter seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathye Spilman
Secretary

Approved: TBD