

2nd Quarter of 2026, Meeting of the NDTOA Board of Directors

The North Dakota Township Officers Association (NDTOA) board convened to address convention logistics, legislative strategy, and internal governance. The meeting focused on adapting to a venue change for the annual convention and securing professional lobbying and auditing services for the upcoming year.

Convention & Logistics

- **Venue Change:** Due to a fire at the Ramada, the annual convention will move to the Bismarck Motel (Clarion/Ascend). The board approved the new dates: November 29 – December 1.
- **Legislative Social:** Scheduled for Monday night to align with the start of the legislative pre-session on December 1.
- **Programmatic Shifts:** Based on member feedback, the banquet will no longer feature a keynote speaker, prioritizing networking and awards instead.

Legislative & Legal Strategy

- **Lobbying Services:** The board moved to proceed with Clearwater for lobbying services. The fee structure is estimated at \$1,000/month during the interim and \$4,000/month during the legislative session.
- **Zoning Authority:** Jamie (Attorney) warned of a likely legislative challenge to township zoning authority in the next session. He emphasized that zoning ordinances are legally unenforceable without a current comprehensive plan.
- **Tax Reform:** The board is tracking the Tax Reform and Relief Committee, specifically opposing the 3% levy cap. They will argue for an exemption based on the fact that townships already hold public votes on their levies.
- **DOT Friction:** Discussion highlighted ongoing issues with the DOT regarding frontage roads and overpasses, which often fall into a "no man's land" of maintenance responsibility.

Internal Governance & Finance

- **Audit:** Harold has tentatively agreed to conduct the 2024–2025 audit. The estimated cost is \$3,000–\$4,000 per year, with a potential discount for multi-year engagement.
- **Director Elections:** The board is considering a bylaws change to allow districts to elect their own directors rather than at-large voting. Jamie will draft language for this proposal.
- **District 6 Vacancy:** The position remains open. Larry will contact Shelly Schwab (Ransom County) to gauge interest in filling the role.
- **Insurance:** The board approved proceeding with a life insurance program through Benefica, provided it remains optional for individual townships.

Operational Directives

- Digital Transition: Larry has secured a Ricoh ScanSnap scanner to digitize records. Jamie and Larry's contracts were reviewed, with amendments made to shift reporting from weekly to monthly.
- Member Resources: Jamie will compile example zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans to post on the NDTOA website as a resource for townships.

<pocket:timeline title="Upcoming Key Dates">

2024-07-27 | Zoning Meeting | Model zoning ordinance committee meeting in Bismarck.

2024-08-15 | Legislative Meeting | Tax Reform and Relief Committee meeting regarding levy caps.

2024-09-29 | Quarterly Meeting | Next NDTOA board meeting.

2024-11-29 | Annual Convention | Convention begins at the Bismarck Motel.

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