

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 16, 2019**

April 16, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Commissioners Anderson, Burianek, Skorheim and Wild.

**Motion by Wild to approve the April 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and agenda additions of soil conservation update, Conway Bridge, park board update, planning & zoning update, JDA update, 911 signs and drain tile.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time for the following:

- Gave a flood update. There are 53 farmsteads that are either isolated or surrounded by water. There are some concerns about a narrow channel on the South Branch that is between Section 8 & 9 in Grafton Township. Brent will reach out to the Corps in regard to this area.
- Gave a brief update on the phone system and will come to the next meeting for further discussion.
- Was asked about 911/street signs or lack of street signs in Walsh County. Highway department pays for them. Will discuss at the next meeting.
- This week is National Telecommunication Week. Stop in and visit with a dispatcher.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Had to let go of a deputy. Hired 2 deputies, one is starting on Wednesday and the other May 1<sup>st</sup>. Will be interviewing for the open jailer position. **Motion by Burianek to fill the open deputy position.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- A jailer read the approved minutes and saw that 2 dispatchers were paid for hotels during a storm and would like to be reimbursed as well. Discussed language in the storm policy. **Motion by Anderson to reimburse jailers for hotel stays during storms.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. This policy should be discussed/reviewed in the near future.
- Provided some information about the Stone Garden Grant which is a federal program supplementing the border patrol and basically affects only the sheriff. Ron has visited with HR about it. **Motion by Wild to approve first reading and incorporate into policy.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Stainless steel toilets are wearing out in the jail. There are 10-12 toilets in the jail and cost is approximately \$6000-\$8000 per toilet to replace. They are working to repair.
- Discussed the truck regulatory zero activity.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented abatement for Dale Niswonger. Trailer was removed from the property in 2018. A moving permit was not issued. **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the Niswonger abatement as follows.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Dale Niswonger	Harriston Twp	06-8000-1140	2019 RET	\$0
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- There will be a soils committee meeting on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the extension office.

**Motion by Burianek to sign the FEMA agreements for Acton and Farmington Townships.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Anderson to approve and sign the railroad crossing agreements for County Road 1, Project RSC-3432(002) and County Road 6, Project RSO-C650(002) with a 10% cost share from the County.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Questions in regard to Conway Bridge will be discussed at the next meeting when Sharon is available.

A planning & zoning meeting was held yesterday and 2 tree variances were approved. A permit fee schedule and penalties were presented. Discussed enforcement, timeline, possibly having tax director sit in on meetings and to communicate and educate the public about planning and zoning. Several questions come up and the committee will need to have another meeting to address them.

Burianek gave a JDA update.

Discussed the park board meeting and purchase of a new dock. Some felt that the vote to purchase the dock should have waited for full commission.

The County received a bill from Hi-Land Village Trailer Court for the 2 trailers that the county took last fall. They have not been removed to date. **Motion by Skorheim to pay the bill and get the trailers out by May 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid any further charges.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The county received a letter from Lowell Thorson requesting that Walsh County disinter the human remains on some land he bought and relocate them. This is not a registered cemetery. It is a burial site. There are fines for removing human remains and if it is tribal remains there are other steps that are required. A letter will be drafted to Thorson.

Discussed if drain tiles could be turned on effective Monday. Walsh County is still flooding and drain tile pumps should remain off.

**Motion by Anderson to approve the second reading of the Equal Opportunity Employer Policy, Harassment Policy, Grievance Procedures and Funeral Leave.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Soil conservation district bought a grass seeder and will contract out services. They received a grant to help purchase the grass seeder.

Planning and zoning is short 1 member. We will advertise for the position.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor