

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 19, 2021

April 19, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed until 8:55 a.m.

Chairman Skorheim called the meeting back to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Brintnell moved to approve the April 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes, April 14, 2021 special meeting minutes, monthly bills, and an addition of light pole at extension office. Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

The commissioners would like the “wish list” from department heads updated and presented at the next meeting. Items on the list should be one-time items/projects or things that are not budget for.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, presented a Danger Guide - Suggestions and Restrictions. There are only 5 counties in the state without some sort of burning ban. Discussed whether we put a ban back on or follow the index for the ban and at which level do we use. After a lengthy discussion, **Commissioner Barta moved to issue a burn ban, effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday April 20th, 2021. The ban will be in effect during a high or above rating following the guidance of the North Dakota Fire Danger Guide.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote Commissioner Anderson, Barta and Skorheim voted yes. Commissioners Brintnell and Burianek voted no. Motion carried.

WALSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
FIRE EMERGENCY DECLARATION
AND
BURN BAN PROCLAMATION
April 19, 2021

WHEREAS, Walsh County, North Dakota is currently in Severe Drought and has experienced high winds, low humidity, as well as continued, forecast dry weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, several rural fires have occurred due to the current conditions, and

WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to the protection of life and property: and

WHEREAS, the existing conditions make fires a continuing threat to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the citizens of Walsh County: and

WHEREAS, the cost of emergency response and inordinate wear on fire-fighting equipment may be far in excess of available County resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Walsh County Commissioners declares a Fire Emergency and Burn Ban, effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday April 20th, 2021. The Ban will be in effect during a Fire Danger Rating of High, Very High, Extreme and/or a Red Flag Warning issued for Walsh County, North Dakota. The Fire Ban will follow the guidance of the North Dakota Fire Danger Guide, issued September 1, 2015.

The Fire Danger Rating map, Burn Ban status map and ND Fire Danger Guide are available at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps>.

Pursuant to NDCC 37-17.1-10.1, any person who willfully violates the burning ban established by this proclamation is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,500.00 and 30 days in Jail.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2021, at Walsh County, North Dakota.

Dennis Skorheim,
Chairman Walsh County Commission

Sharon Lipsh appeared for the following:

- Presented a resolution for paving County Road 19 from Forest River to Interstate I-29 with an approximate match of \$400,000. **Motion by Anderson to sign the Resolution for Project SC-5022(087) with Mayo Construction.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a utility permit for Nodak Electric for underground cable across County Road 16. **Motion by Anderson to approve the utility permit for Nodak Electric Sections 14 & 24, Township 157, Range 58.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a flowage easement for Darren Kadlec. The work has already been completed. **Motion by Anderson to approve the flowage easement for Darren Kadlec Section 21, Township 156 Range 55.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Provided a snow removal expense history for the past 5 years. Expenses are hard to gauge as we are already paying salaries and it is hard to put a number to the wear and tear on equipment.
- There was wind damage to shops 3 and 4 as well as the salt shed in Park River. An insurance claim was filed. The gutters for the Grafton Shop 1 need to be replaced. Presented bids from ABC Seamless and MT Gutters. **Motion by Barta to accept the bid from MT Gutters for \$5,185.00 which includes wrapping fascia with metal to make them maintenance free.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- There will be a county auction from May 10 to May 27.
- The light pole is up at the extension office. The extension office should contact Samson Electric to wire and install the light fixture.

Commissioner Burianek wanted to discuss the health insurance benefit further in preparation for the upcoming budget sessions and recent loss of several employees to the state which pays 100% of health insurance premiums. Sondra Richardson, deputy auditor/payroll, was also present to answer any questions in regard to health insurance. Discussed premium rates, county share of premiums, out of pocket expenses and pay in lieu. There won't be any rate increases for 2022 as the rate is locked in for 2021 and 2022. Also discussed how younger people are looking at the salary and don't look at the benefits. Due to the lack of affordability our market level is at Step 11 on the pay plan where normally it should be at a Step 7 or so. We need to find a balance with the health insurance and bring the market down. Commissioner Barta will reach out to Tanya to work some numbers on the pay plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor