

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 19, 2022**

April 19, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Brintnell moved to approve the April 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of investment meeting and mill levy meetings.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time to discuss the recent snow storm, flooding and possibility of emergency declaration. Even if there is one Walsh County probably wouldn't qualify.

Commissioners discussed if they should hold public meetings to inform the public about the mill measures on the June 14<sup>th</sup> ballot. Public meetings are poorly attended. Will use newspaper and social media to educate the public.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, and Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared to discuss the correction officer salaries which they feel has put the County in crisis mode. The salary survey from NDACo is still not available so Tanya presented some local market data. Discussed differential pay, COLA which is approximately 8%, incentives to stay, creating corporal positions, burnout, sign on bonuses and recruitment strategies. There are 9 correction officer positions with 6 currently filled. **Motion by Brintnell to increase the correction officer's salaries by 10% and to create 2 corporal positions which would be a 10% higher salary than the correction officers effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Upon roll call vote Anderson, Barta, Burianek and Brintnell voted yes. Skorheim voted no. Motion carried. Once the salary survey is available salaries can be looked at again.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- The county can back out of the bridge inspection agreement. One county did drop out and now they are back on it. If the county doesn't participate they are responsible for 100% of the cost of the inspection.
- Presented gravel bids. **Motion by Barta to accept the gravel bids as presented with all hauling being award to Jim Thompson.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed a few right of way issues including a feed lot.
- The Fair Commission recently had a meeting and another is scheduled. Based on Jason's information a rough estimate is 3.1 million for a building with a rink, \$95 per square foot or roughly \$45 per square foot without the rink. Based on wants and needs

of the group the price could be \$11 million. We are in the infancy stage and there is lots of time before any ground is broken.

- The Park River Shop #3 lost shingles during the last storm and a claim has been filed with insurance.
- There will be a special township meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> to provide information in regard to the Township Transportation Funding Program for township projects. It is one time funding. The deadline for applications is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Funds could be used for bridges under 20 feet, gravel and road maintenance. Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment.
- Is having trouble finding summer help.
- Has been appointed to the steering committee for North Dakota Great Plains GRIT Commission.

Commissioner Anderson left the meeting.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the auditor, incoming and outgoing treasurers, states attorney and Commissioners Brintnell and Skorheim met with a lending agency to discuss different investment options to maximize our interest rates on the County's investments.

Commissioners briefly went back to discussing the labor issue within the County. Turnover seems to be at the lower end of the pay plan. The younger generation seems to look at the salary and isn't concerned about the benefit package.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

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Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor