

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 20, 2020**

April 20, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

Madam Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Barta to approve the April 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and agenda additions of email from Terry Traynor. Second by Wild. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta mentioned an email from Terry Traynor with the Association of Counties in regard to a supplementary stimulus package. County officials are being urged to call on our Congressional Delegation to pass additional aid for states and local governments. If passed it would provide an additional \$943,507 in federal funds for Walsh County.

The CLG application for the State Historical Society was approved and signed in February by the Commission. Now the CLG Agreement is before the commission. **Motion by Skorheim to sign the State Historical Society CLG Agreement.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Burianek to reappoint Kit Midgarden to the Planning & Zoning Board for another 4 year term. Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared to present the James Neil abatement.

The abatement is due to a property taxation error which took it out of EWP and put it on the tax rolls as Ag land. **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the Neil abatement for 2018.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call voted all voted yes. Motion carried.

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| James Neil | Walshville Twp | 01-00015-002 | 2018 RET | \$0 |
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Wanda Kratochvil, Health District Administrator, appeared to provide a COVID-19 update and discuss opening of the county buildings. We are not ready to open county buildings. "With the outbreak of COVID-19 at LM Wind Power in Grand Forks we have community contacts in Walsh County. We have people in Walsh County that work at LM. I don't believe that we have peaked yet." **Motion by Burianek to extend the closing of the county buildings until the next commission meeting, May 5th at which time it will be revisited.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissioners that a Park River Deputy has resigned and will be leaving at the end of the month. The academies are closed right now due to COVID-19. **Motion by Barta to rehire and advertise the Park River Deputy position.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. They will be interviewing for the Chief Corrections Officer position tomorrow. At the next commission meeting we will have a LEC update.

The next item on the agenda is the Nodak potential litigation/negotiation. Kelley Cole, State's Attorney and Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent were present. The board went into executive session at 9:40 AM. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC section 44-04-19.1 for the potential litigation or negotiation with Nodak Insurance, and give guidance to State's Attorney Cole on how to proceed.

At 10:00 AM the board returned to its regular meeting.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Reviewed the energy grant which includes everything except outside lights as they must be attached to a building. The grant would cover 50% of the cost. The estimated cost to the county would be \$19,609.00. **Motion by Wild to sign Energy Grant Agreement.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented flood agreement which FEMA now requires. **Motion by Barta to sign the 2019 Fall Flood Agreement.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed a flowage easement for Nick Desautel. **Motion by Burianek to approve the flowage easement for J. Nicholas Desautel in Section 26 of Farmington Township.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed gravel bids.
- Has been looking for a large format scanner to rent so the highway department can scan bridge plans and possibly other large maps/documents. A new scanner from Marco is \$5800 and that is just the scanner. Advanced Business Methods has a reconditioned scanner which includes all necessary equipment for \$2324. Advanced Business will come and set it up and make sure it is running properly. It would be warranted for 30 days. **Motion by Barta to purchase the reconditioned scanner/printer from Advanced Business Methods for \$2324.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Sharon asked if anyone had any questions about the annual report. Discussed miles of roads graveled and spring flooding costs.
- The 2 new pickups for the highway department have been delivered.
- Discussed the goal of Advanced Engineering Plan to decrease the amount of damage to County Road #2 and the surrounding township roads. KLJ will be collecting survey data this week that will help with the model Houston Engineering has completed for the BTAG group.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest: Kris Molde, Auditor