

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 5, 2022**

April 5, 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 Barta moved to approve the March 15, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of Gudajtes Case, Water Drainage Committee Update and Jail Committee Update. Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Sheriff Ron Jurgens appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that Park River Deputy Faltersack has taken a position in Fargo and that Deputy Moreland is the new weight management deputy. The position will continue as a shared position with Pembina County with Walsh County reimbursing Pembina for half of all expenses. **Motion by Skorheim to fill the full time deputy position in Park River.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. The jail still has 2 correction officer positions open.

Jill Trenda, introduced Sherry O'Toole the newly appointed treasurer. She has been training for the last week.

Allen Anderson, Health District Administrator and Heidi Jensen from Agassiz Associates presented some data collection to the commissioners and gave their first quarterly update on the new treatment services provided to the inmates. Forty two people have been booked into the Walsh County Correction Center and 10 have participated in treatment. Of those 10 participates 2 have been in treatment for mental health issues and 9 for treatment of addiction issues. Monthly meetings are being held with the jail administrator, Adam Trahan and Joelle Schmuck, jail nurse. Pre and post questionnaires are being used to collect data with positive comments from inmates on the post questionnaire. Inmates are seen within a week of requesting services. Discussed providing hope, setting goals, providing education material and continued support after being released from the jail.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented an abatement for Jerry & Cynthia Hooper. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Glenwood Township and the tax director to approve the Hooper abatement for 2021.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a mobile home abatement for Jeffrey Frovarp. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the Frovarp**

abatement for 2022. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jerry D & Cynthia L Hooper	Glenwood Twp	16-4177-010	2021 RET \$79,000
Jeffrey Frovarp	Golden Twp	23-8000-1432	2022 RET \$13,306

- Equalization meetings have started. Notice of increases have gone out with Grafton City sending out over 400 notices.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a bill for the NE Region Bridge Inspections/load ratings with rating changes on 2 of the bridges. **Motion by Anderson to sign and pay the Certificate of Local Match for Bridge Inspections/Load Ratings.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. Discussed the new more expensive billing and cost of inspections.
- Briefly mentioned sign issues within the County.
- There is no agreement on file for Bridge 131-19.2. Presented an agreement for commission approval. **Motion by Barta to approve, sign and send out the agreement for Bridge 131.19.2 to Eden and Ops Townships.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented several pictures of the Fair Building which show extensive water issues. The building was built in 1954 as a livestock arena. There is an Arena Commission consisting of members from the hockey, skaters, fair and commission to address fair building issues. They have a stake in the funding mechanism and the solution. The rink is not of regulation size so only works up the hockey program through the Bantam group. They do not pay rent but pay for monthly operational cost such as heat. Hate to say it but may need to knock it down and start over. Looks like 3 options, remodel, rebuild with rink or rebuild without rink. There will be a meeting next Monday.
- Presented pictures showing sinking along County Road 2 which are not flood related. May want to consider moving County Road 2 considering the cost to stabilize it.
- Presented a drainage permit for McCann Farms. **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permit for McCann Farms with them paying all cost; Section 27 & 34; Township 156 Range 53.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Informed the commissioners that WC Water Resource District approved drain tile for Brad Narloch in Ops Township and the work is already done.
- Sold the snow blower at auction for \$2800.
- Presented an updated equipment wish list with a list of equipment for possible trade or sale.
- Discussed the mills that expire for the highway department and how the county can maintain those mills in the future with measures on the ballot and voter approval. Options were discussed. **Motion by Anderson to put the following measure on the 2022 Primary Ballot. Shall the Walsh County Commissioners be authorized to continue the additional levy up to 20 mills in order to maintain county roads and bridges. Yes means you approve the measure.**

No means you do not approve the measure. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

The additional mills for the extension office expire at the end of 2024 also and an advisory board would like a measure on the ballot to continue with an additional 2 mills for the extension office. The extension office has previously budgeted up to 3 mills. **Motion by Anderson to put the following measure on the 2022 Primary Ballot. Shall the governing body of Walsh County Levy up to an additional 2 mills for the County Extension work above the 2 mill levy limitation set out for a total of up to 4 mills. Yes means you approve the measure. No means you do not approve the measure.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

After reviewing and discussing the current building conditions and challenges faced in the jail facility it is the committee's recommendation that the commission proceed with exploring the process of building a new jail facility. The average expected lifespan of a jail facilities with 24/7 use is 30 years; ours was built in 1974. We have squeezed every bit of life out of it. The committee requested the commission to reach out to other entities in the region to determine if there are others who may be interested in joining the conversation. A letter will be drafted and sent to Cavalier, Pembina, Towner and Nelson Counties as well as Grafton and Grand Forks City. They are still in the preliminary stages of discussion. Barnes County just built a new 40 bed jail for 16 million. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8th.

Kelley Cole, State's Attorney, informed the commissioners that the court decision in the Gudajtes case was in our favor. We will recover all of our costs.

Commissioner Barta gave an update from the Legislative Council, Water Drainage Committee meeting.

Discussed the election. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the Farmers Room in the courthouse as the only polling location in Walsh County with the hours being 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Report of county offices for fees collected during March: County Recorder \$9,559.83 and Sheriff fees \$2,416.65.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde