

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 16, 2022**

August 16, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited with Vice Chair Barta running the meeting.

Commissioner Brintnell moved to approve the August 2 and August 8, 2022 meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of health district update and ditch seeding. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Pembina County reached out to the Walsh County Health District to inquiry about possibly merging with Walsh County. Commissioner Barta will keep the commission up to date.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissioners that a correction officer has resigned. **Motion by Skorheim to advertise and fill the correction officer position.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried. They are getting applications with the new salaries for correction officers.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to discuss the lamResponding contract options. They normally don't do one-year contracts but gave us a quote for one-, three- and five-year plans. **Motion by Skorhem to sign the 3-year contract with lamResponding.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Hope to have it up and running the first of September.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- They are backfilling at the Fordville Bridge and are waiting on Gowan Construction. Hope to have the bridge ready for harvest. The Thorson & Thompson Bridge have been accepted for replacement with DOT funding. The Ardoch Bridge was brought up as a safety issue again. The Ramsey County Bridge on County Road 22A has been ripped out and repaired.
- Gave a FEMA Update. Township paperwork needs to be submitted by August 30th.
- LTAP will be presenting Bridge Training on September 1st in the Farmers Room. They will also present Motor grading training on September 23rd.
- Gave an update on the mold in the LEC basement. Steamatic is there today and is doing an air quality inspection. The humidity is still 50-70% with a dehumidifier running. A sump pump is being installed.
- Commissioner Barta has some farmers who agreed to the ditch seeding and being billed. Will show Jason the areas that need to be seeded. Some spots will have issues and that's where common sense comes into play.

Kelly Lessard, Safety Director, presented safety grant requests. Furniture is not included in the safety grant. Most of the requests are for chairs or safety equipment for deputies. **Motion by Anderson to approve the grant applications as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brad Brummond, County Agent, appeared to request the hiring of Katie Thompson on a part time bases through November to fill the gap. Job duties would include prepare for the fair, get judges and organize the fair, work with 4-H Council and maintain the program as needed. **Motion by Skorheim to hire Katie Thompson on a part time bases at \$25.50 per hour.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Furnaces for the extension office will be installed in September.

Sondra Richardson, Deputy Auditor, informed the commission that the NDPHIT health insurance increase is 12.86% not the normal 3% that was discussed during the enrollment process. Walsh County is operating at 107% loss ratio which falls into the 12.86% renewal increase tier. Sondra has reached out to NDPHIT to discuss the rates and is waiting for a call back.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Ernie Barta, Vice Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde