

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 18, 2020**

August 18, 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 Skorheim to approve the August 4, 2020 regular meeting minutes, agenda additions of Letter from Secretary of Interior, Resolution Committee, LEC Building update, culvert update and Covid funds.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time to discuss COVID funds. The state formula has changed again. It is based on salaries and benefits of licensed law enforcement officers in each county or city for March through July. August & September will be reimbursed in October. The current amount is \$367,842.58. The funds are to be used at the discretion of the commissioner but is intended to keep property taxes down. **Motion by Wild to create a separate account for the Covid funds and reimburse current and future Covid expenses.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Nelson will continue to track the Covid expenses.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Burianek to approve the Township Road Certification for 2020.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll, call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. It is the same as the 2018 report.
- During a fuel station inspection, it was discovered that there is no shut off valve at the Grafton site. Samson's is doing the work. A crack was also found. The County has a maintenance contract with O'Day but Valley Petroleum was cheaper and will make the repair. The contract with O'Day is up and their prices have increased. Lipsh will get a quote from Valley Petroleum for the maintenance contract. There were no issues at the Park River site.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permits for Lee Gudajtes, Section 35, Harriston Township; Roger Weinlaeder, Section 11, Acton Township and Walsh County Water Board, Section 11/12, Walshville Township.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll, call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Flood update. County Road 15 gravel section, Co Rd 19 and paved portion of County Road 15 was approved by FHWA for a disaster. Spring Flood meeting is next week. Hope to wrap up the fall flood by September.
- The Corp is updating their operating plan so now would be the time to make comments and changes to the plan. Homme Dam will be drawn down about 3 feet so that cracks in the spillway can be repaired.
- Dean Thompson was hired to fill the truck driver position and started August 10. Derek Silewski will start August 31 and will fill the bridge foreman position.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 2nd quarter treasurer's report. **Motion by Burianek to approve the 2nd quarter treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report  
2nd Quarter 2020

Balance on hand as of April 1, 2020	\$11,189,616.43
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,915,086.54</u>
	\$13,104,702.97
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,061,385.50)</u>
Balance on hand as of June 30, 2020	\$ 10,043,317.47

- **Motion Barta to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter treasurer's checks as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

John Janda appeared to voice his continued concern with the water board and the legal drain east of Veseyville. He has 3 sump pumps going and is tired of pumping water. He would like to see the dam disappear.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, appeared to share options for health insurance through NDPHIT. Also present were JR Steele, Ron Jurgens and Sondra Richardson who are also on the health insurance committee. The committee had a 1 ½-hour call with NDPHIT. They were given premium rates for a 80/20 and a 90/10 policy. They are both the same policy that we currently have but include 125 wellness benefits. Rate increases are estimated to be 3-6% each year and rates will be available in July for budget purposes. Open enrollment would be in October and take effect January 1, 2021. It would provide for a larger pool, which would help premium and claim rates. The 80/20 policy is rated as a Gold Plan and the 90/10 policy is considered a Platinum Plan. **Motion by Skorheim to approve moving to the 90/10 plan effective January 1, 2021 with the County continuing to pay the 100% of the single policy and 75% of the single with dependent and family plan.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote Wild, Barta, Skorheim and Anderson voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried. Joining the Trust will require the County to pay 2 months premium and a 65,000 deposit on claim payments. There are other additional plans but the group did not have time to explore all of them due to the short notice with the Trust needing a commitment by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Anderson informed the board that the LEC committee met and that the police department is waiting on Polar Communications. They are the hold up with moving out of the LEC building and into city hall. Dispatch will handle all 911 calls. The city was wondering if dispatch could handle the traffic stops. Wild said that if they want to be an individual organization they can handle it as an individual organization. Discussed rent for tower, Covid and quarantining crippling the jail. After a lengthy discussion, the commission gave direction that no dispatch services besides 911 will be offered to the City of Grafton.

The commission was informed that the shooter from the event on Friday night was in the Grand Forks Hospital and that the County is responsible for providing security while he is hospitalized and his medical expenses.

There will a meeting in regard to the culvert policy with Daryl Campbell, Dan Gaustad, attorney for the water board, Kelley Cole, Karen Anderson, Sharon Lipsh and Lawrence Burianek, portfolio for the water board.

**Motion by Burianek to approve the Grafton Armory as the polling place for the General Election with polls open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Barta received a letter from the Secretary of Interior. They are looking for a place for monuments of American heroes.

Barta is serving on the Resolution Committee and will bring the 60-mill issue to the committee's attention.

The board toured the Admin Building and the LEC building. With new equipment in the future, if dispatch was to be moved now would be the time to do it. The Admin building has no windows and can be claustrophobic. However, it is more secure and safe.

Next meeting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

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Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor