

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 2, 2022**

August 2, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the July 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes, Saint Gianna Maternity Home Gaming Permit and additions of software meeting, Congratulations to Father Lefor and seeding ditches.** Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

Adam Trahan, Head Corrections Officer, introduced Adam Fitch a newly hired corrections officer. He comes to Walsh County with 12 years of experience.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, introduced Isaiah Hylden the new deputy tax director.

Brent Nelson appeared during employee time to present a Memorandum of Agreement between Walsh County and Kinloss Township for administering federal funding. **Motion by Barta to approve and sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Walsh County and Kinloss Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The Executime part of the Tyler Payroll software will be demonstrated at 1:00 p.m. in the Farmers Room on Monday, August 8th. All department heads should attend.

Commissioner Skorheim congratulated Father Lefor of Pisek on the successful Second Annual Nepomuk Narly Race.

Nick Ziegelmann, Grafton City Administrator and Matt Marshall, Economic Development Administrator for Minnkota Power Cooperative presented information on the Grafton Housing Project. There is a lack of housing in Walsh County and this would be an asset to the community. It is a market rated housing project. It would be located on the old Central School grounds. Would have 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments as well as ground level parking. The center between the two buildings would be a public space for events. The Walsh County JDA, Louis & Clark Development and rural electric cooperatives are also participating in the project. They will be asking for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) from the county and school district. They have been working on this project for a year.

Heidi Jensen from Agassiz Associates provided data from inception to July 25, 2022 for the new treatment services provided to inmates. Provided numbers for Substance Use Disorder Evaluations, mental health intakes and hours of services used. Presented goals, barriers and successes of the program. They have had positive feedback and experiences. Agassiz Associates will be doing a presentation for the correction officers. There is a need for more providers in rural areas but it's hard to recruit with the low wages in North Dakota.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, presented a bid for lighting in the jail. During the last DOCR inspection it was a deficiency and needs to be corrected. Commissioners would like to see more than one bid. Sheriff Jurgens will try to get another bid. **Motion by Anderson to get a second bid for lighting and take the lower of the two bids.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes motion carried.

Differential pay and bonuses have been discussed during budget meetings. To move forward with budgets, we need to determine shifts or hours and dollar amounts. Information on local businesses varies from \$1.00 to \$2.00 dollars for differential pay. Bonuses also vary from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on the position. **Motion by Anderson to pay \$1.00 an hour for differential pay from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for deputies, correction officers and dispatchers.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote Anderson, Brintnell and Burianek voted yes. Barta and Skorheim voted no. Motion carried.

**Motion by Anderson to make the differential pay effective September 1, 2022.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussed sign on bonuses. **Motion by Brintnell to provide a \$3,000 sign on bonus for correction officers, deputies and dispatchers to be paid out \$1,000 at the completion of each year for the first 3 years effective September 1, 2022.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote Anderson, Brintnell, Barta and Skorheim voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.

Referral bonuses were also discussed. **Motion by Brintnell to pay a \$500 referral bonus to any county employee who refers someone to any open position in the county. To be paid at the completion of their first year.** Second by Skorhiem. Upon roll call vote Anderson, Brintnell, Barta and Skorheim voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.

Jill Denault, Zone Director, appeared to give an update. She would like to attend commission meetings quarterly to keep the commissioners up to date. Since the Northern Valley Human Service Zone's inception, they are down 10 staff members between the 3 counties. The Zone is currently helping out the Mountain Lake Zone. They are in the process of an eligibility redesign which will create a one call center for the whole state. It should be open in February of 2023. The zone will probably be asking the board for a new vehicle in the near future. The Grafton office has 6 staff on site and 3 that are in and out of the office. The rest are working from home.

Sheriff Jurgens was also present and expressed his concern if the citizens are being served safely. It seems any time law enforcement calls in they usually get an answering machine and seldom get a return call to know that the situation is being handled. Sheriff Jurgens misses the day when you walked across the parking lot to the zone offices and come up with a plan. There was a partnership between the zone and law enforcement. His concern is the kids being left behind. Ron and Jill will meet for further discussions.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to discuss a service called lamResonding.com for texting responders. There are 2 fire departments that currently use it. Annual cost would be \$4,000 to \$5,000. Pagers are still the most reliable way to reach responders. There is a free 60-day trial period. **Motion by Skorheim to sign up for the**

**lamResponding.com service for 1 year.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- The guardrail maintainer that Stuart Swartz and Dean Thompson designed and made won at the national competition.
- Presented 3 utility permits for Nodak Electric that came in after the packets went out. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 3 utility permits for Nodak Electric, County Road 2, Sections 13 & 14, St Andrews Township; County Road 6, Sections 16 & 17, Grafton Township and County Road 6, Sections 31 & 32, Farmington Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented road mileage certification for approval. **Motion by Anderson to approve and sign the County Township Road Mileage Certification.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- We received the payment for the Gudajtes Bridge accident.
- Water was found in the women's bathroom in the basement of the LEC Building and there is black mold on the walls. LEC female employees use the restroom instead of the public bathroom upstairs. Have someone coming to look at it. Will bring in some dirt to put around down spouts to prevent seepage.
- Presented Century Code in regards to historical buildings, preservation and modifications.
- Discussed the storm shelter at Homme Dam, cost to the county, lead paint and asbestos removal. **Motion by Barta to continue to move forward with the plan to remove shelter.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Officially submitted paperwork to FEMA last Friday after watching a 3-hour training video.
- Daryl Campbell reached out to the highway department about the Heritage Village Road. Can seal depressions with new equipment. Would be a great training opportunity.
- Will sell the old asphalt heater for \$2,000. No longer need it.
- Soil conservation district is short staffed and the grass seeding of ditches has not been completed.

Report of county offices for fees collected during **July** County Recorder **\$5,106.36** and Sheriff fees **\$2,585.00**.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde