

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 4, 2020**

August 4, 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 July 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and Saint Gianna's Home Gaming Permit.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

The highway department sold 3 items on the county auction which brought in \$15,985. The 1990 International 4900 Truck will be put on an online auction as the minimum bid was not received.

At the auditor's convention the 60 mill limitation for County General was discussed. There are several counties struggling with the 60 mill cap for counties. The Auditor's Association will draft a letter for this legislative session.

Dennis Schneider appeared to request the current late fees be removed from his parcel. Schneider hasn't been able to obtain and record the deed due to ongoing legal action with the contractor and taxes owing on it. The situation is a unique one which started 9 years ago. Schneider thanked the commissioners for their time and asked that they discuss the matter and get back to him. The commissioners continued to discuss the matter after Schneider left the meeting. The commissioners felt that it would be "opening up a can of worms". We would be setting a precedent. **Motion by Barta to deny the request to remove the penalty and interest on the Schneider property.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote Barta, Burianek, Skorheim and Anderson voted yes. Wild recused himself from the vote. Motion carried.

John Janda didn't show up for his 9:25 schedule time. Auditor had left a message for him last week and had tried to confirm with him yesterday without success.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, has put together a list of gravel pits. There are 3 categories for gravel pits, active, inactive and stockpile. We need to get accurate acreage for gravel pits and define categories. Discussed surveying other counties to see what they are doing.

Ed presented a market analysis for a bridge replacement for Highway Superintendent, Sharon Lipsh. The acquisition is for the construction of the bridge in Section 12, Lampton Township. A comparison of similar sales was \$3000 to \$5500 per acre. The recommendation for this project was \$3600 per acre. **Motion by Barta to approve the \$3600 price per acre for the land acquired for this bridge project (50-124-02.0).** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- The police department has been moving boxes out of the LEC Building. Grafton City Council met last night and Administrator Nick Ziegelmann called Madam Chair Karen Anderson this morning to say that Grafton City had rejected the County offer of \$150,000 with an annual increase of \$2500 a year for 5 years. There hasn't been any discussion as

to when the police department will be out of the building. The LEC board will schedule a meeting to see what the city's plan is. Commissioner Wild stated that the one thing that has never been discussed is the safety of our citizens.

- With the upgrading of the new equipment for dispatch now would be the time to move the dispatch center if we are going to do it. Brent's office in the Admin building would be a possible location with all the equipment already in that building. Social distancing isn't possible in the current dispatch center. Brent will continue to explore the options.
- The OMB has changed the formula again for the COVID funds and it is based on law enforcement salaries. Walsh Counties share is an estimated \$386,000. We have already received \$32,000 in COVID funds but there is no documentation as to what it is for. Brent has made several phone call and sent emails looking for the breakdown but has not received a response yet.

**Motion by Barta to approve the preliminary budget as presented at 124.25 mills.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Budget hearing date will be September 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Farmers Room in the courthouse.

Auditor, Kris Molde, discussed the General Election. With COVID-19 the Farmers Room does not allow for social distancing so she has reached out to the city to see if the Grafton Armory would be available. The armory is available and the city would allow us to use it for the General Election free of charge. We will need extra workers for greeting and providing direction and cleaning tables. We are looking to open the poll earlier to provide for people to vote before work to help reduce the crowds after 5:00 p.m. There will be additional supplies needed as well.

**Motion by Burianek to move forward with the use of the Grafton Armory for the General Election.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Report of county offices for fees collected during July: County Recorder \$6,450.90 and Sheriff fees \$1,393.80

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor