

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

December 21, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Skorheim moved to approve the December 7, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of 2022 Ag Land values, JDA update and appointment. Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

Wade Thompson from KLJ thanked the commission for their business and presented some tokens of appreciation.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, along with Debbie French, Deputy Treasurer, appeared during employee time. During budgets last year Jill indicated that she would probably retire in April/May of 2022. She has set a date of April 14th. Debbie expressed that she is not interested in taking the treasurer's position. She can retire the following year and doesn't want to learn the job for a year. Commissioners stated they should have been working on this sooner. Auditor will request that state's attorney and HR Director start working on the process of making the position appointed.

Commissioner Barta informed the commissioners that the water board committee intends to submit 4 or 5 smaller bills instead on one bill. If a county is getting less than \$10,000,000 could possible use for whatever the county wants.

Commissioner Barta left the meeting.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented an abatement for Edinburg Farmers Elevator. They feel the structure value exceeds the current market value. An inspection was done and the cost approach was used to determine a value. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Edinburg City and the tax director to approve the Edinburg Farmers Elevator abatement for \$607,561 for the 2019 and 2020 tax years.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented an abatement for Dale & Geraldine Pesek as they qualify for the farm residence exemption. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the Pesek abatement for \$5,000 for 2021.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Edinburg Farmers Elevator	Edinburg City 45-13701	2019 RET	\$607,561
Edinburg Farmers Elevator	Edinburg City 45-13701	2020 RET	\$607,561
Dale J & Geraldine Pesek	Shepherd Twp 34-7983-010	2021 RET	\$5,000

- The 2022 average value per acre for Ag Land in Walsh County is \$1,021.11. We are required to be within 90-100% of the calculated value. If we are not in tolerance the state will set it for us at 93%. He would recommend keeping the values the same for next year as we are currently at 92.1%. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the tax director and keep the Ag Land values the same for 2022.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, presented 2 bids to replace flooring in the old dispatch area and the jail. Would like to put carpet tile in the old dispatch area and tile in the jail. **Motion by Skorheim to accept the bids from B & D Flooring of \$3,272.01 to replace the flooring in the dispatch area and \$1,062.60 to replace the flooring in the jail area.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burianek announced that Angelle French has accepted the position of Job Development Authority Director. She will take office on January 1, 2022.

Auditor Molde asked for permission to fill the deputy auditor position with Angelle leaving and taking the JDA position. **Motion by Anderson to advertise and fill the deputy auditor position.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor also presented new precinct maps for approval. The new districts were created by the redistricting committee based on population after the 2020 Census was complete. **Motion by Anderson to approve the new district 19 & 20 maps as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Larry Tanke, Daryl Campbell, Albin Jallo and Jennifer Lindenberger from the Water Board appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Skorheim to reappoint Larry Tanke to another 3 year term.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Gave an update on Drain 87 and Snag and Clearing.
- Discussed dam rehabs for Bylin and Matejcek Dam. Reminded commissioners that nothing is free. There is always the local match for projects.
- Would like to sit down with new highway superintendent and get on the right track with legal drains, cost and century code issue.

Motion by Skorheim to reappoint Ernie Barta and Jeff Moen to the Walsh County JDA Board. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Allen Anderson, Administrator for the Health District, appeared in person while Heidi Jensen, from Agassiz Associates appeared by telephone. Allen informed the commission that Quinn Counseling here in Grafton provides the same services as Agassiz and would like the opportunity to present a proposal. Discussed the new 3 & 4 year plans drafted. The State's Attorney reviewed the contracts and had no issue with the contract part of it. Agassiz provides more than addiction counseling, they work with mental health issues and are a team. Ultimately we could be a pilot program for the state if we have good data and could possibly lead to funding going forward. Will give Quinn until the next meeting to provide a plan.

Motion by Brintnell to accept the Opioid Settlement from Johnson & Johnson. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Gave an update on the guard rail on 138-8 which was damaged by a plow. It has been patched up.
- The Voss Bridge needed an immediate repair or would need to be closed. Repairs were made and we are waiting on NDDOT for load rating.
- Bid opening for bridge 126-24 came in just under \$1,000,000. **Motion by Skorheim to award the bid for BRO-0050(055) to Swingen Construction for \$949,757.00.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed HB155 and submitting projects. Will submit all 6 projects to show number of projects.
- Gave an update on the Lankin Shop Roof.
- Mickey Demester and Gary Quiring, janitors, were present to discuss cleaning of the buildings. Jason is in charge of buildings and grounds and is their supervisor. Gary is getting the LEC building back to where it should be while keeping hours under 20 a week. He is doing well and has been doing some handy man duties and fixing things. They are cross training Gary for the courthouse so he can fill in when Mickey is on vacation or sick. Handling of supplies and budgets were discussed. Discussed the contract with Bonnie's Cleaning. Discussed Mickey and Gary taking over the Chase Building. **Motion by Skorheim not to renew the contract with Bonnie's Cleaning.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. Jason will reach out Bonnie's Cleaning as well as Twila from social service zone and Lori from Red River Regional Council.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor