

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

December 15, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Commissioner Barta moved to approve the December 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes and additions of service awards, Conway parcel, Court Facilities Grant, and thank you. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Wanda Kratochvil, Health District Administrator, appeared during employee time to give a Covid update. Two vaccines are being distributed in North Dakota. The vaccine from Pfizer is in Fargo and Bismarck. The Pfizer Vaccine will require a booster in 3 weeks. The Moderna Vaccine will need a booster in 4 weeks. Phase 1 health care workers and long term care facilities will be vaccinated first. Phase 2 will be 65 and older population and essential workers. Next Monday we will have vaccines in Walsh County and will begin vaccinating. Vaccines will be shipped weekly. The vaccine is free to the public. Commissioner Barta stated that the masks seem to be working and thanked everyone for masking up.

Dan Gowan and Brian Ingulsrud from American Crystal Sugar appeared to discuss the 129,000 lb. overweight permit. Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, was also present. The 129k trucks spend fewer hours on the road, put on less miles, have more braking capacity with more axles, use less fuel which is better for the environment, reduces traffic and is better for the roads. The overweight permits have been approved for state roads. The issue with the county permit is item 2, "this permit is valid December 1 to March 31 ONLY. NO EXCEPTIONS!". American Crystal would like to see the date changed to August. **Motion by Anderson to strike out item #2 from the Walsh County 129,000 Overweight Permit.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Kelley Cole, State's Attorney and Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent were present. Chairman Skorheim announced that we would go into executive session to get legal advice in regards to the Drain 87 cost share/bills to the County as provided by NDCC 44-04-19.1 & 44-04-19.2.

Motion by Barta to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting. Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barta to decline the Water Board's request to join in the seeking of an Attorney General's Opinion on the Drain 87 cost share. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- DOT has finally closed out the 2016 Hoople box final certification. **Motion by Burianek to sign the final certification of local match for BRC-5006-(063).** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- County Road 9 from Highway 32 to Highway 18 is getting rough. It has depressed tracks. Bargan has winter specials for the mastic we used on County Road 19 a few years ago. She will get another quote.
- NDOT will be conducting traffic counts in 2021 in our area. We had several done last year. Are there any road the commissioner would like looked at?
- Reviewed the Homme Dam annual report. In 2020 we took in \$36,807, 2019 \$20,528.25 and 2018 \$20,640.48. The park accepts Rover Pass which is free advertising which could play a role in the 2020 increased revenue or it could be the pandemic. Caretaker Blaire started at the end of the 2019 season and has done a great job out there.
- Read comments, suggestions and concerns from a recent lockdown situation on the County campus. The policy needs improvement. A meeting will be scheduled with Brent, Ron, Sharon and possibly other department heads or employees. Commission Anderson will also sit on the committee as she already sits on the court security committee.
- Only received one bid from Pastorek Construction for the Court Facilities Grant. Several attempts were made to get a second bid but no one responded to the request. The bid came in at \$189,000 and that didn't include any electrical work, that would be additional. Judge Whalen told Lipsh to put it on hold for now. The Court Facilities Grant is available every year so we can work on a plan and submit again next year.
- Asked Pastorek Construction about a previous request for a bid for replacing glass on first floor with bullet resistant glass. That bid came in at \$170,000.

Motion by Barta to submit CARES reimbursement to Park River City for their share of law enforcement payroll. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to discuss moving dispatch to the Administrative Building.

- Veterans Officer, Katrina Hodny, is willing to move to the LEC Building.
- Would like to purchase new workstations for dispatch as the current ones are 20 years old. He has had some issues with them and the company he bought them from no longer exists so finding parts is difficult. A rough estimate to replace them is \$50,000 to \$60,000.
- Mentioned the possibility of using CARES Fund for some of the SORN expenses and reimbursing as funds are available from the 911 accounts. It would save on paying interest. Auditor will reach out to state auditors to see if that would be allowable.

- **Motion by Barta to allow the purchase of 2 workstations using CARES Funds.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote Barta, Anderson, Brintnell and Skorheim voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.
- The CARES Funds could be used for special projects like SORN, a new software program for first floor or transferring funds back to the emergency fund to make it whole so mills wouldn't need to be levied for it. More conversations need to be had and a possible wish list created.

Motion by Burianek to reappoint Albin Jallo to the water board for another term. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Portfolios were discussed. In the past portfolios have been rotated. At this time Commissioner Brintnell will take over Commissioners Wild's portfolio. The others will remain the same. Auditor will update the list.

Individuals will still be recognized for service awards even though there is no Appreciation Party this year.

Motion by Brintnell to accept the bid of \$1 plus recording fee for a parcel in Conway. Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor