

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

December 1, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Commissioners Barta, Burianek, Skorheim and Brintnell. Madam Chair Anderson attended via telephone.

Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was turned over to Auditor Molde for election of officers.

Motion by Barta to cast a unanimous ballot for Dennis Skorheim as Chairman. Second by Burianek. Upon roll call all vote yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Skorheim to cast a unanimous ballot for Lawrence Burianek for Vice-Chair. Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Newly appointed Chairman Skorheim called for additions to the agenda. **Commissioner Burianek moved to approve the November 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, JR's Liquor License and additions of right of way, weed board and checks.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Chairman Skorheim welcomed incoming commissioner Kristi Brintnell and congratulated Kristi and Karen on their election to the board.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time. He has submitted a bill to the City of Grafton for monthly antenna use, monthly network access and annual Zuercher maintenance. He has not received a payment or had any questions on the billing. The auditor suggested waiting until after the first meeting of the month as it may require city council approval. Commissioner Anderson suggested Nelson call Nick Ziegelmann mid-month if he doesn't receive payment to see what the status is.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for permission to purchase a laptop for the new court security officer which they are currently advertising for. He is applying for a Covid grant that should cover the cost but has money in his budget if it doesn't. **Motion by Barta to approve the purchase of the laptop from NRG for \$3,151.25.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson to approve the bid from B & D Flooring of \$790.98 for labor to replace the damaged flooring in an area of breakroom on the second floor of the Chase Building. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Kris Molde, Auditor, will have more than 200 hours of vacation at the end of the year and would like permission to carryover vacation into 2021 following the county policy. **Motion by Barta to approve the carryover of the auditor's vacation.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared to present the abatement for Jeff & Nancy Boe. They were being taxed for the same structure on 2 parcels. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the Silvesta Township Board and the tax director to approve the Boe abatement for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Second by Burianek.** Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jeffrey K & Nancy Boe	Silvesta Twp	32-7623	2018 RET	\$96,037
Jeffrey K & Nancy Boe	Silvesta Twp	32-7623	2019 RET	\$96,064
Jeffrey K & Nancy Boe	Silvesta Twp	32-7623	2020 RET	\$98,301

Mary Wild and Stacy Loftsgard will no longer provided assessing services after December 31, 2020. There are 7 townships and 2 cities signing on with the county for assessing services. Scott Dalbey and Todd Morgan have picked up a few townships. There are 8 townships that Ed hasn't heard from yet.

Lori Seim, Director of Nursing at First Care Health Center; Marcus Lewis, CEO at First Care Health Center; Megan Thompson, Register Nurse; Joan Olson, Good Samaritan Administrator and Julie Skorheim, Director of Nursing at the Good Samaritan in Park River appeared to provide a COVID update from the standpoint of the medical professionals. Also present was Wanda Kratochvil, Walsh County Health District Administrator.

- First Care has an Incident Command Team that is in charge of ordering PPE and making decisions. They ordered PPE early in the game and haven't had any issues with supplies.
- First Care is a 14 bed facility. However they could take care of up to 29 patients. They average 8 patients a day with 20 being the highest number per day. They are providing care to many more patients per day with the same staff. Discussed triage scenario. They receive anywhere from 100 to 1000 calls a day.
- They are fully staffed and have hired 4 traveling nurses. They provide employee screening and have not had 1 case spread through the hospital facility.
- First Care Health Center averages 75 Covid test a day with people coming from all over for the rapid test. When testing 2 tests are done the rapid test and the send in test. The two tests are done so that the public can get an answer in a timely fashion. Hours versus days are important when trying to reduce the spread.
- They have gone through the stages of prepare and respond. The recovery stage will depend on the public and would ask that the commissioners lead by example. Masking up, social distancing and hand washing.
- A plan has been submitted to the state to administer the vaccine once it is becomes available. Discussed the issue of keeping the vaccine at the required temperature and how transporting it might be handled.
- Commissioner Brintnell said the work they do is much appreciated. Kudos to the health care workers. Wanda also thanked First Care for being an amazing leader going above and beyond.
- Under normal circumstance, when patients come into First Care they are treated if the hospital can meet the level of care they need, and if they cannot meet the need they are transferred to a referral hospital like Altru, Sanford or Essentia. During this pandemic First Care has had to treat people beyond what they would normally care for due to inability to transfer to a referral hospital. This has been very challenging for First Care, but they will never turn anyone away.

Joan Olson and Julie Skorheim from the Good Sam gave an updated on the status at their facility.

- They have been preparing for this since March. They do testing twice a week.
- The Good Samaritan has a Covid wing.
- The residents are the biggest loser in all of this. The lockdown has been mentally draining for them all. Employees are standing in for family when someone is ill or dies. This is very traumatic for everyone.
- Would encourage all to follow the mandate.
- Chairman Skorheim acknowledged the hardship and thanked them for the dedication.

The commissioners asked if there was anything they could do. The response was mask up, social distance and support the Covid vaccination as "we are all in this together". The hope is to have adequate number of people vaccinated by spring.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Asked the commissioners to sign their Designated Medical Provider forms which need to be reviewed annually.
- Reviewed the janitor's budget for 2021 as he is retiring at the end of the month. Had a cleaning company come in and look at the County's needs. They couldn't provide services for all the buildings in the complex. Discussed hiring out lawn service and/or snow removal. Bonnie's Cleaning will be done on December 31, 2020. **Motion by Barta to advertise and begin the hiring process.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- There will probably be an executive session at the next meeting as the water board is requesting the county pay more for culverts on Drain 87.
- The State's Attorney's office has reached out to the attorney for the right of way group. The ball is their court.
- Insurance Reserve is working on the Gudajtes Bridge accident.
- Answered a question in regard to a check.

Another check to J & J Spraying was mentioned. It costs \$189,758.70 to spray weed in Walsh County this year.

Report of county offices for fees collected during November: County Recorder \$6,440.00 and Sheriff fees \$1,432.60

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor