

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

February 1, 2022 – 12:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 1:00 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Barta moved to approve the January 18, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of Covid Funds and deputy auditor position.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time to present a proposal from Samson Electric to complete work on the LEC generator. The previous work on the generator did not work because the emergency manager 2 panel was not on the generator. Only the emergency manager 1 was on the panel. **Motion by Skorheim to accept the proposal from Samson Electric for \$4,280 to complete the work on the LEC generator.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented an abatement for Ray and Michelle Gowan. They feel that they qualify for the farm residence exemption as a retired farmer and submitted the required application. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Walshville Township and the tax director to approve the Gowan abatement for \$28,019 for 2021.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.

Ray & Michelle Gowan Rev. Living Trust    01-170    2021 RET    \$28,019

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- The highway department was called out twice in one week to clear snow so that the ambulance could reach an emergency call or medicine could be delivered. Discussed purchasing a plow to put on the  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pickup and what it would do to the warranty on a pickup. **Motion by Anderson to purchase the plow for just under \$9,000 from the emergency fund if it qualifies, otherwise the highway funds will be used for the purchase.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- Discussed the request for Kelly Lessard to be compensated \$700 a month for the Risk Manager position. There is some confusion about how the situation was handled and poor communication as Kelly has emails stating that Tanya would get back to her. Commissioner Barta will reach out to Tanya Weiler, HR Director.

- Requested purchasing a scale for the pay loader to mix salt and sand at the right ratio. RDO has one available for \$14,900. Before a decision is made commissioners wanted to know why the snow blower is on the agenda.
- The snow blower is old and they are having trouble finding parts for it. Park River Implement has a new one on the lot for \$9,000. If they were to order one from a third vendor straight from the factory the cost would be \$14,500. Commissioners felt that a snow blower was needed more than a scale. **Motion by Barta to purchase the snow blower for \$9,000 from Park River Implement.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- An employee modified the exhaust on the P-6 Blade and extensive damage was done due to melting. Repairs to the blade will be approximately \$15,000. Employees have been instructed not to modify any equipment without the approval of Stuart.
- **Motion by Skorheim to sign the final payment document for Project SC-5022(087) for \$5,418.65 and sign the Project BRC-BRS-0099(011) for bridge inspections done by Collins Engineering.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- **Motion by Anderson to approve the utility permit for the Walsh Rural Water District for 5 crossing along County Road 11, 9, 6, 4 and 7.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- NDDDOT has reviewed over 111 applications covering 129 bridges as part of HB 1505. Three bridges in Walsh County have been approved and the county needs to decide if they want to move forward with them. **Motion by Barta to accept the funds for 50-136-07.0, 50-139-16.0 & 50-124-23.0 and move forward with the projects.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- Mentioned living snow fences to help catch snow along roads and highway. Could possibly work with NRCS and the soil conservation district.
- Received a bill from the water board for cost sharing on a culvert on Drain 71. Commissioners asked how can we be billed if we have signed off on that drain already. Jason will visit with water board.
- Presented a bill for drone services to inspect buildings. Also discussed buying a camera. Will put camera on CARES Funds wish list.
- The courthouse boiler has been inspected and passed. Sheriff Jurgens stated that the jail boiler needs to be inspected every year. Jason will reach out to state to get them inspected.
- The court facilities grant for Walsh County was approved for a locking system for the front doors of the courthouse. **Motion by Anderson to accept the grant and move forward with installing the locking system on the front doors of the courthouse.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.
- KLJ was the only company that applied for the engineering contract and was interviewed. **Motion by Barta to hire KLJ for engineering for construction process with Swingen Construction.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Absent was Commissioner Brintnell.

The public hearing for changing the treasurer's position from elected to appointed will be 9:00 a.m. February 15 and March 1<sup>st</sup> before the commission meetings.

Commissioner Anderson volunteered to sit in on the deputy auditor's interviews which will be held on Thursday.

Auditor will update wish list and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Portfolios were discussed and auditor will draw up a new list to share with department heads and employees after commissioner review.

Report of county offices for fees collected during January: County Recorder \$5,312.07 and Sheriff fees \$2,400.60.

Meeting adjourned.

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Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor