

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

February 2, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

Commissioner Burianek moved to approve the January 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of SB2026 and Matejcek Dam. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson to appoint Julie Hjelle of Lankin and re-appoint Melissa Oppegard of Park River to the Carnegie Regional Library Board. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta mentioned Senate Bill 2026 in regard to road trains which could weigh up to 360,000 pounds and be as long as 200 feet. If passed, these road trains could not operate on interstates forcing them onto state and local roads. Barta encouraged the other commissioners to reach out to our representatives.

Tracy Laaveg, Coordinator for the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission and board member Dennis Markusen appeared to discuss the Walsh County CLG Grant. **Motion by Anderson to sign the Walsh County CLG Grant Application.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Laaveg also explained geocache as a virtual treasure hunt allowing those that participate to learn about GPS and the history of the area. Currently there is one site at Homme Dam down by the dock but they would like to put another cache somewhere near the flower gardens. **Motion by Anderson to sign the geocache placement form.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. The cache located on a tree by the back parking lot of the courthouse is broken and needs to be repaired. The County is considering removing the tree and asked if the cache could be relocated. It shouldn't be a problem.

The historic commission currently has 9 members and they are in need of 2 more. They will come back for appointments when members are found.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented the Steve and Kelly Lessard abatement. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Grafton City and the tax director to approve the Lessard abatement for 2019 and 2020.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve & Kelly Lessard	Grafton City	37-11165-380	2019 RET	\$275,000
Steve & Kelly Lessard	Grafton City	37-11165-380	2020 RET	\$275,000

Sidwell came back with the 2% calculation on land values. The assessor meetings Friday there will be an assessor meeting.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 4th quarter treasurer’s report. Barta asked where the gain/growth in funds came from. Jill will look into this. The balance on hand on the report is all the funds in the County. **Motion by Burianek to approve the 2020 4th quarter treasurer’s report as presented.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer’s Report
4th Quarter 2020

Balance on hand as of October 1, 2020	\$ 8,881,490.87
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 6,672,763.66</u>
	\$15,554,254.53
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,251,541.43)</u>
Balance on hand as of December 31, 2020	\$ 12,302,713.10

- Motion by Barta to approve the 4th quarter treasurer’s checks as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Norby’s was unable to find a vendor that could provide workstations that meet the requirements requested for the dispatch center. A second vendor, Advanced Furniture Systems out of Bismarck, couldn’t find a comparable option either. A bid from Grand Forks County was also provided for price comparison. The commissioners previously approved \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the workstations. They will probably come in between \$40,000 to \$50,000 now. Brent will move forward with purchasing workstations.
- Discussed the new radio system and funding for the project which is estimated to be \$376,324.32. The EMS Council will contribute \$100,000 towards the new system. Discussed using 911 funds, CARES funds and getting a loan. Brent will check with a few local banks for loan options.

Motion by Barta to rescind his motion from the January 19, 2021 meeting to extend the mask mandate for 2 months for Walsh County. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. The Mask Resolution issued in November to strongly encourage citizens to wear masks and practice social distancing is still in effect at this time.

Larry Tanke, Albin Jallo and Darryl Campbell from the water board appeared to provide an update.

- There is some sediment issues due to erosion with Drain 87 but they are finishing up that project.
- Drain 31 will be dug deeper and culverts resized.
- Some basic maintenance is being done to Drain 70.
- Discussed map of drains. There is one on the county website but it is missing Drain 87.
- Commissioner Brintnell asked about Matejcek Dam. They have drilled some test bores. Erosion is filling the dam. NRCS is in charge of the study. It will probably be 2 or 3 years before any work begins.
- Discussed the northern Park River where NRCS is using a holding pond to reduce flooding as part of a study.
- Mentioned SB 2208 which would take funds away from the water board. It would also affect counties.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Introduced Mickey Schumacher the new maintenance worker and Chad Arendt the new sign foreman.
- The skid steer is in need of new tracks which will cost over \$5000. **Motion by Anderson to approve the purchase for new tracks.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed a letter from the state in regard to the Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) which will be shared with 12 major cities and the 53 counties. The funds are eligible for all current federal aid eligible items as well as to help offset the loss of gas tax tax revenues. Sharon would like to put the funds into the road fund and use it for the County Road 19 project. Walsh County's share is \$140,262.71. Sharon will submit necessary paperwork to get funding.
- Provided an updated Title VI statement for signature. The form is needed to apply for the CRRSAA funds and is reviewed annually due to Walsh County receiving federal funds. **Motion by Barta to sign the updated Walsh County Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The sign truck was sold for \$3,900 to Jerry Lowe.
- A used semi-truck was budgeted for in 2021. However good ones go fast and she would like to be able to work with Commissioner Barta should one become available.
- Will purchase a new air compressor from Park River Implement for \$2010 which was budgeted for. It is used to do a lot of truck tire repairs.
- DJ Gosselin resigned. He is going to work for state. The state offers full health insurance for a family plus they get over time. The highway department is down 3 employees and there are 3 employees that are close to Rule of 85 or retiring. We need to look at our benefits. Auditor's office will work on the difference in cost to the county to pay 100% of all health insurance policies.
- Would like to have a new large map made with bridges and drains on it.

- Should have annual report in March. Was asked to separate out gravel and flood expenses from contractors like Gowan's.

Discussed releasing Nelson County from the library agreement. The agreement requires a 2 year notice before withdrawing. **Motion by Barta to sign the Agreement to Waive Notice of Requirement and allow Nelson County to withdraw from the Joint Public Library Service Agreement.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

An updated copy of The Carnegie Regional Library Agreement was reviewed. Discussed reducing the mills from 2.5 to 2 mills. Will confirm with the state's attorney that the mills can be reduced.

Report of county offices for fees collected during January: County Recorder \$7,285.20 and Sheriff fees \$1,265.76

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor