

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

February 4, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

**Motion by Burianek to approve the January 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and agenda additions of custom work rates and employee evaluations.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.

Cheryl Osowski, Coordinator and Agatha Frisby, President of the Historic Preservation Commission, appeared to request reappointing of members and to present the grant application. **Motion by Wild to reappoint Agatha Frisby, Bernice Flanagan, Jean Bodmer, Brenden Brazil and Tracey Laaveg to another 2 year term.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Discussed the six projects that the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application will cover. Cheryl is retiring and Agatha presented her with a plaque for her service. Tracey Laaveg will take over as the new coordinator. Cheryl will still be available to help with the transition. **Motion by Wild to sign the application for the 2020-2021 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, is working to implement the employee evaluations on-line.

The County was asked to join the Northern Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council to help with promoting economic and community development of natural resources. The county has not participated in the past. **Motion by Burianek to decline participation or payment of dues to the Northern Plains Resource Conservation.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared to present the following abatements:

- **Motion by Skorheim to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the Jimenez abatement due to an incorrect true and full value.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.  
*Roxanna Jimenez Minto City 39-8014-8100-000 2019 RET \$5,184*
- **Motion by Skorheim to follow the recommendation of the tax director and the City of Adams and deny the Daniel Thompson abatement as the Vanguard cost approach indicates a higher true and full value higher than what it currently is at.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all yes. Motion carried.  
*Daniel Thompson Adams City 48-0000-14270-000 2018 RET Denied*
- **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the tax director and the City of Adams and deny the Daniel Thompson abatement as the Vanguard cost approach indicates a higher true and full value higher than what it currently is at.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all yes. Motion carried.

*Daniel Thompson Adams City 48-0000-14308-000 2018 RET Denied*

- **Motion by Burianek to follow the recommendation of the tax director and the City of Adams and approve the Daniel Thompson abatement to reduce the true and full value to \$3,100.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all yes. Motion carried.

*Daniel Thompson Adams City 48-0000-14309-000 2018 RET \$3,100*

Dan Thompson joined the meeting.

- **Motion by Skorheim to follow the recommendation of the tax director and the City of Adams and deny the Daniel Thompson abatement as the lot falls well below the range of values.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all yes. Motion carried.

*Daniel Thompson Adams City 48-0000-14310-000 2018 RET Denied*

- **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the tax director and the City of Adams and deny the Daniel Thompson abatement as the lot falls well below the range of values.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all yes. Motion carried.

*Daniel Thompson Adams City 48-0000-14319-000 2018 RET Denied*

Mr. Thompson asked for the reason for the denial. Ed Sevigny stated that he had reached out to the state tax department and the state's attorney's office and his job is to address land value and that is what he did.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissioners the DOCR will be here on February 14<sup>th</sup> for another inspection. He also introduced the new Park River Deputy Randall Baker and the new road deputy Jorden Hoffer.

Commissioner Barta joined the meeting via telephone.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Provided a copy of the letter sent to the townships with flood information and meeting dates.
- Discussed bids from D & B Motors, Hanson's and Puklich (state bid) for pickups. Currently 7 pickups are under 16 years old. **Motion by Wild to go with the low bid from Puklich (state bid) for the 2020 Chevy Silverado 4WD 1500 Crew Cab LT at \$33,643 and the 2020 Chevy Silverado 4WD 2500 Double Cab LT for \$32,555.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Sharon introduced Eric Abrahamson the new Park River Blade Operator.
- There was an article in the NDLTAP Newsletter about Dunn County making their own disks for their motor grader and we have decided to try making our own as well. Dunn County has already made some modifications and will be a good resource. Will need to look for some used disks.
- Sharon presented a new custom work rates document. There was an error in the formula on the previous rates in the administrative costs. Blading would go from \$120 to \$145. Snow removal would go from \$130 to \$180. **Motion by Barta to approve the new rates as presented.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- At the recent County Road Conference Aaron Birst gave a bidding presentation. He said that keeping it local is not a reason to not take the lowest bid. You are required to take the lowest bid and must keep documentation with bids if you go with a different bid. Must compare apples to apples or provide the same services.
- 17 of 36 townships have filed for spring flooding.

- Will bring updates on bridge court cases to the next meeting.

Commissioner Barta left the meeting by ending the call.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Discussed 2 bills from Red River Regional Council for grant writing for a backup generator for the Admin Building and a storm shelter for Homme Dam Park. Homme budget will pay for Homme bill and building maintenance will pay for Admin Building bill.
- CenturyLink has reached out to the county to renew our contract for services. Polar provided a bid for the same services at a lower rate. CenturyLink's service stops where the wires come into the building. Polar is a local company that is a one stop shop. **Motion by Skorheim to sign the one year contract with Polar for trunk line and phone lines services.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan must be renewed every 5 years. **Motion by Wild to move forward with the low proposal of \$21,800 to write the plan.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Currently the 911 fees are \$1.50 with 50¢ going to the state and \$1 going to the County. 911 fees are used strictly for the 911 equipment. With the cost of the new SIRN system and upgrades needed for the communication center should the county look at an increase of 50¢ to the 911 fees? Brent will work on a resolution to increase the 911 fees for the county by 50¢ and bring it back to the commissioners for further discussion.
- Upgrades required for the Walsh County Communication Center were discussed.
- The current estimated cost to update the Communication Center to SIRN 2002 is \$393,574.32 which includes installation and equipment costs for a redundant network, 2 Radio consoles, CAD interface and a portable radio for emergency use. Annual maintenance and upgrade costs would run around \$25,000.00 starting in year two with annual increases. The redundant network could be done this year at a cost of \$56,500 with the other upgrades being made in 2021.
- Discussed the need to upgrade the current 911 equipment this year. Century Link is working to refresh their proposal for upgrade. Once that is available it will be brought back to the Commission for discussion.
- There are many questions to consider when discussing the future of the communication center. A LEC Board meeting will be scheduled to discuss the issues.

Report of county offices for fees collected during January: County Recorder \$5,696.95 and Sheriff fees \$2,784.07.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Karen Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor