

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 15, 2019**

January 15, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

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

**Motion by Burianek to approve the January 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes and agenda addition of schedule picture, water board bill, soils survey update, active shooter, Cleveland Township road closure, County Road 10 and social services update.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed scheduling an appointment with Tweten's Photography for a picture with the new commissioner. Auditor will check with Tweten's and the state's attorney for possible dates.

Stacie Sevigny, Red River Regional Council, presented the guidelines and requests for the 2018 Self Help Program funds. Eleven applications were submitted. The program is to promote development within the Walsh County communities. **Motion by Burianek to award up to \$750 per city.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Discussed the senate bill that would require water board members to be elected instead of appointed. Water board projects are based on century code and petitioned by the people. The commissioners that Commissioner Anderson spoke with are opposed and they are recommending a kill the bill.

Walsh, Pembina and Cavalier Counties will meet on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to discuss the possibility of the 3 counties forming a "zone" for the redesign of Social Services being proposed. There would be no reduction to access points, salaries or employees.

Chairman Barta informed the commissioners several phones within the complex weren't working and a \$3000 new card was needed to get all the phones back on the system.

Larry Tanke, Daryl Campbell, Albin Jallo water board members, Jennifer Lindenberger, Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Gaustad, Attorney for Pearson Christensen and Zach Herrmann from Houston Engineering appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Burianek to reappoint Larry Tanke to the water board for another term.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.
- Tanke gave an update on the 2 legislative bills in regards to the snag & clearing and making board members elected instead of appointed.
- Gave an updated on the BTAG group.
- Daryl Campbell gave an update on Drain 87 and mentioned a quick take of 1 parcel that is needed for Drain 87.
- Attorney Dan Gaustad explained the process for a quick take which is not really a quick process. Land owner must be given a 30 day notice before hearing. **Motion by Anderson to schedule a public hearing to discuss quick take.** Second by Skorheim. On roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sarah Johnson, Soil Conservation District, appeared to get a scope of work we are looking for with the grass drill. There is an individual with a grass drill that the District has worked with that the County could utilize. They are also looking at grant opportunities through Game & Fish. A used 6 or 8 foot drill is approximately \$15,000-\$20,000. Other counties charge \$30 an acre with a minimum of \$200 to \$250.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Requested permission to buy 2 new Tahoe's. They are cheaper than Expeditions. Hanson's Auto won't accept state bid but would be willing to service the Chevy vehicles. Ron will check with Birchwood Motors to see if they will honor the state bids. **Motion by Wild to purchase 2 new Tahoe's at state bid price.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.
- Discussed cost per day for prisoners.
- Will be conducting another interview for one of the jailer positions.
- An inspection of the jail will take place in April.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Introduced Valerie Dalbey the new deputy tax director/recorder.
- Presented the final Agricultural value per acre for the 2019 assessment which is \$1006.84 for Walsh County. In September of 2018 the commissioners had approved an estimated value of \$912 for 2019. This would put the County at 90.6% with many adjustments to be worked through yet. If we drop below 90% the state will mandate an across the board increase to agricultural values to reach 93%. **Motion by Anderson to increase agricultural valuation by 1%.** Second by Wild. All voted yes, except Skorheim. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Burianek to allow Sidwell to update a soils survey at a cost of \$1,500.** Second by Wild. Motion carried. Will contact Soils Committee in regard to data update.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented end of year balances and amendments. **Motion by Anderson to approve the following budget amendments for 2018.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.
  - Bond Account - Original budget of \$225,000 amended to \$420,364.43 for 2017 Flood Project expenses & Homme Grant.
  - 2017 Flood – Original Budget \$.00 amended to \$338,906.87 for flood expenses.
  - Buildings & Grounds – Original budget of \$121,660.79 amended to \$214,161.05 for paving & striping parking lot, sewer line and generator at Admin Building.
  - Homme Dam – Original budget of \$86,428.00 amended to \$90,151.59 for utilities, cell phone and benefits.
- **Motion by Anderson to approve the bid from Samson Electric for new lighting at the Lankin Shop for \$615 and the bid from 2C Plumbing & Drain Cleaning for \$975 to install hot & cold water lines at the Lankin Shop.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.
- Reviewed the proposed 129,000 overweight permit. Most of the changes were to the terms and conditions. Would be good only from December 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Followed the state rates. **Motion by Wild to move forward with the Walsh County Overweight 129,000 lb. Permit.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

- There will be active shooter training on January 24 & 25. **Motion by Anderson to make it mandatory training for all employees.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.
- Cleveland Township will hold a special meeting on January 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Lankin American Legion in regard to a request to close a road. A farmer wants to farm it. Discussed that a section line can't be closed.
- Commissioners have been invited to attend a Butler Factory Tour.
- Discussed County Road 10 which the county maintains.

**Motion by Wild to approve the following budget amendment for 2018.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

County General Misc. - Original budget of \$230,196.51 amended to \$272,756.94 for Court Facilitator Grant.

**Motion by Anderson to transfer \$11,787.36 from County General to Chase Fund to cover 2018 expenses.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.

The commissioners were made aware that the county social service employees would not be able to switch out Martin Luther King Day for the Friday after Thanksgiving. Social Service employees must follow state admin rule for holidays. Discussed options for the holiday and frustrations with social services being county employees but must follow state guidelines, getting the best of both worlds again. **Motion by Wild that Social Service Office will be closed on Martin Luther King Day. Social Service Office and employees will be required to work on the Friday after Thanksgiving. If they want the day off they will need to use a vacation day and the office/department must be open. All other county offices will be open on Martin Luther King Day and will have the Friday after Thanksgiving off.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor