

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 18, 2022**

January 18, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the January 4, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of Jackson Hankey, BTAG and evaluations. Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta commended Jackson Hankey who played for the NDSU Bison for the last 5 years and was a part of winning 3 titles.

Commissioner Anderson gave a brief update on BTAG who was down at the water board this morning.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following abatements:

- Presented an abatement for Lee & Heidi Gudajtes as they feel that they qualify for the farm residence exemption. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Minto City and the tax director to approve the Lee & Heidi Gudajtes abatement for \$15,790 for the 2021 tax year.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, Anderson, Barta, Brintnell and Skorheim voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.
- Presented an abatement for John Gudajtes as he feels that he qualifies for the farm residence exemption. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Minto City and the tax director and approve the John Gudajtes abatement for \$10,530 for 2021.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, Anderson, Barta, Brintnell and Skorheim voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.
- Presented an abatement for Mary Lizakowski who feels that she qualifies for the farm exemption. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Prairie Centre Township and the tax director to approve the Mary Lizakowski abatement for \$203,131 for 2021.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented an abatement for Wayne & Robin Feltman as they feel they qualify for the farm residence exemption as a retired farmer. **Motion by Skorheim to follow the recommendation of Pulaski Township and the tax director to approve the Feltman abatement for \$2,100 for 2021.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented an abatement for Leanne Knutson for the poor condition of the property. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Grafton City and the tax**

director to approve the Knutson abatement for \$14,500 for 2020 & 2021. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Lee & Heidi Gudajtes	Minto City	39-12680-040	2021 RET	\$15,790
John Gudajtes	Minto City	39-12680-060	2021 RET	\$10,530
Mary J Lizakowski	Prairie Centre Twp	14-3610	2021 RET	\$203,131
Wayne & Robin Feltman	Pulaski Twp	2-344-010	2021 RET	\$2,100
Leann Knutson	Grafton City	37-10428-250	2020 RET	\$14,500
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Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to discuss where the funds for the SIRN bill he recently received should come from. Previously the commissioners had decided that it didn't make sense to borrow money when the county has funds available and that he could reimburse the county. **Motion by Barta to pay \$200,000 from County General to be repaid in 4 payments of \$50,000 a year beginning in 2023.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

Kelley Cole, States Attorney, presented a preliminary resolution to designate the Walsh County Treasurer's position to an appointed position. Discussed the resolution and the process that would still need to be followed. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the preliminary resolution as presented to designate the treasurer's office to an appointed position.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Should be able to complete the process and provide a final resolution by the end of February or the first part of March.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the Federal Aid Contract for the Fordville Bridge and KLJ engineering agreement. Also discussed using the same engineering firm throughout a project. **Motion by Anderson to sign the Federal Aid Contract for Project BRO-0050(055) with Swingen Construction and the KLJ Agreement.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried.
- No update on the Walsh Rural Water Utility Permit.
- Discussed selling a tractor out right instead of trading in and whether it had to be sold on the county auction or if he could put it on another auction. Commissioners recommended not getting rid of it until the new one is in.
- Will lease 2 tractors on the NDACo contract with True North.
- Presented a bid for a remote kit for \$15,200.14 for the sign truck. Commissioners feel it would be cheaper and safer to have 2 people out there than purchasing a kit.
- Asked about the different people in charge of different building on campus. Suggested that it would easier for 1 person to be in charge of all the buildings and getting better deals on projects. **Motion by Anderson to make Jason the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor of all 4 buildings on campus.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed renovations and repairs and would like to get a drone to check buildings for heat lose and roof leaks. Mentioned outdated carpet and renovations needed at the LEC Building.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the highway budget amendments for 2021 as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Misc. Rd/Bond Fund - Original budget of \$300,000 amended to \$495,278.52.
Farm to Market – Original budget of \$1,431,676.34 amended to \$1,544,250.84 for asphalt construction, chip seal maintenance, engineering fees, fuel, new equipment loan and equipment repairs.

Commissioner Brintnell asked to discuss the Tyler Payroll Software again. Sondra Richardson, Deputy Auditor/Payroll was also present and explained the current paper/archaic system. Discussed timekeeping, up to date annual and sick leave, protection for employer and employees. It would be a one-time investment and then an annual maintenance fee. Ed will talk to the Tyler Project Manager and set up a demo for the department heads and commissioners.

Dawn Mandt and Stacie Sevigny, Red River Regional Council; Nick Ziegelmann, Grafton City Administrator; Chris West, Grafton City Mayor; Angelle French, Walsh County JDA Director; Mike Hanson, Director of NVCTC and Amy Suda, Grafton Business Owner were present to ask for support and discuss the funding for the incubator project presented to the commissioners at the last meeting. They would like to see the JDA and/or Walsh County contribute \$150,000. The deadline for the grant is January 31st and would cover 80% of the cost. Topics included who would use space, remote workers, community meeting space, the vision, goals and opportunities, fostering new entrepreneurs and students. **Motion by Barta to support the JDA in investing the full \$150,000 with the commissioners willing to review the JDA mills at budget time.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried.

Effective January 1, 2022 the mileage rate increased to .585¢.

Motion by Brintnell to approve the 2021 budget amendments for the county audit and the Veterans Service budget as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

County Audit - Original budget of \$20,000 amended to \$24,750 due to the single audit on CARES Funds. Veterans Service – Original budget \$69,988.00 amend to \$70,607.25 due to 2 salaries being paid out in December.

Due to the weather portfolios will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor