

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 21, 2020**

January 21, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Barta to approve the January 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes and addition of pipeline update. Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Commissioner Skorheim gave an update on the pipeline situation. They may be done hauling dirt by January 31st except for the topsoil. It has been helpful having the roads closed.

The Auditor's Office will be closed on January 29th so that the auditor and deputy auditor can attend Poll Pad and E Pulse Solution training in Grand Forks for the new electronic poll books. The election conference and training for the new election equipment with ES & S & KNOWiNK is March 4 & 5th in Bismarck. Regional training is March 11th. The auditor and deputy will both be attending these sessions but the auditor's office should be covered on those days.

Stacie Sevigny, Red River Regional Council, presented the guidelines and requests for the 2019 Self Help Program funds. Eight applications were submitted. The program is to promote development within the Walsh County communities. **Motion by Barta to award up to \$750 per city.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Skorheim to increase the flex spending contribution amount to \$2750 for the 2020 plan year. Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Randall Baker has been hired to fill the Park River Deputy position. Jordan Hofer will fill the road deputy position. Both will start on February 3rd.
- Amanda Hofer and Charlie Hardy have been hired to fill the 2 jailer positions. They will attend training in Grand Forks mid-February.
- Informed the commissioners that Andy Alt is now a fulltime county employee. The County had billed Grafton City in November for vacation and comp time that was accrued while he was a 50/50 employee of the city and county last year. The city did not pay for the accrued vacation and comp time while he was a shared employee. Alt earns comp time on the weekends for care of the K-9 he is responsible for.
- The sheriff's office received a grant from TC Energy for 11 new portable radios which are compatible with the new system.

- Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented an abatement for Gilbert Gravelin Rev. Living Trust. **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the tax director and Acton Township and approve the Gravelin abatement for 2019.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call voted all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert Gravelin Rev. Liv. Tr. Acton Twp 03-776 2019 RET \$9100

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the Bridge Inspection Agreement. NDDOT will no longer be doing the inspections. They will be done by engineering firms hired by DOT. There will be guidelines for all engineering contractors to follow. **Motion by Wild to sign the Bridge Inspection Agreement as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The County was denied any money from the Special Road Fund for the Homme Dam Paving Project.
- Provided a document of cost per hour for motor graders which includes supplies, utilities, operator salary & benefits to determine cost per hour. The average cost is \$180. We are currently at \$130. The county does snow removal for a handful of townships but the impact to them should be minimal. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the new rates as presented.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Bids for plasma cutter and oil pump were discussed. Commissioners would like to keep it local if it is within \$100 to \$200. **Motion by Barta to take the local lowest bids for the equipment.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Next meeting we should have bids for the pickups.
- Sara from the soil conservation office talked to Sharon about the \$2066.25 bill from the county to the soil conservation district for rent of the county tractor. The county is charging a minimal fee of around \$35. We do all the maintenance on the tractor. They put gas in it. The bill will stay as is.
- The blade operator position has been filled. He will start on February 3rd. Sharon will bring him in to meet the commissioners at the February 4th meeting.

Commissioners were reminded of some ILG classes coming up that would be good for meeting requirements or just a refresher course.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Karen Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor