

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 2, 2019**

January 2, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

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

Motion by Burianek to approve the December 18, 2018 regular meeting minutes, bills and agenda addition of grass seeder and soils concerns. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Jay Skorheim from Three Rivers Soil Conservation was present to discuss the possibility of purchasing a grass seeder with possible assistance from the county. Discussed that it must be cost effective and the need to research renting, hiring the work out or buying seeder. Jay will do some research, get prices for new and used equipment as well as rental costs.

Dawn Keeley, Red River Regional Council, appeared to discuss an agreement with the County for Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission. Red River has been handling it for many years with no official agreement in place. It would be audited under Red River Regional Council. **Motion by Wild to sign the sponsorship agreement with Red River Regional Council.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared to ask for permission to hire a new deputy. Discussed if salaries was the reason employees are moving on to other counties/entities, shift work, working nights, weekends, holidays and birthdays being undesirable and the number of applicants for a position has been greatly reduced over the years. **Motion by Burianek to allow advertising and hiring of a deputy.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Chairman Barta stated that he felt that they made the right decision closing the courthouse last week due to a blizzard warning and zero visibility in eastern Walsh County. The weather in the eastern part of Walsh County versus the western part of the county can be very different and safety of the employees as well as the taxpayers is important. If the courthouse is open the general public thinks it is ok to be traveling to do business putting them at risk as well.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- There was a request to remodel Shop 7 and build an office. Materials would be \$560 and the labor would come from the shop employees. Discussed if there was a real need, would it affect the county fair or other functions that might be held at the Fair Building? Chairman Barta asked for a motion in regard to the remodel project. Matter died due to lack of a motion.
- Will provide permit information at the next meeting.

Discussed a request to purchase a new/used vehicle for Social Services. It was not budgeted for in 2019. The budget year for 2018 is closed. With the possibility of the state going to Zones and the uncertainty that goes along with the possible changes that would come with zones is it possible the State would provide vehicles? Chairman Barta ask for a motion in regard to the purchase of a vehicle. Matter died due to lack of motion.

Discussed specials on a county parcel. **Motion by Wild to pay the \$403.68 for this year out of county general and budget for the balance during the next budget cycle.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

Due to the annual request for the Friday after Thanksgiving off the commissioner reviewed the holiday schedule, number of holidays other counties have off and request sheet for the day after Thanksgiving off present by Social Service employees. Wild suggested that the county give the day after Thanksgiving off. That would put Walsh County with the majority of what other counties allow for holidays. Other counties have traded Martin Luther King Day or Columbus Day for that Friday but we don't get Columbus Day off. **Motion by Anderson to switch/work Martin Luther King Day and close county offices the Friday after Thanksgiving. To take effect immediately.** Second by Burianek. Anderson, Skorheim, Burianek voted yes. Wild voted no because he didn't want employees to lose Martin Luther King Day as a day off. Motion carried. Will have policy book updated.

Mileage rate is 58 cents effective January 1, 2019.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, joined the meeting to discuss some soils concerns. Commissioner Skorheim asked about the adjustments available for rocks and saline and providing pictures. Saline is the biggest complaint in the western part of the county. There will be some changes in 2019 due to the 10% reduction to the Productivity Index of 33 soil types in Walsh County. No Soils Committee meeting is scheduled at this time as there have been minimal complaints at this point and time.

Report of county offices for fees collected during December: County Recorder \$6,204.33 and Sheriff fees \$2,530.43

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor