

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 19, 2022**

July 19, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Burianek, Commissioners Anderson, Barta, and Skorheim. Commissioner Brintnell appeared via telephone.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

Commissioner Barta moved to approve the July 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of jail tour, water board tour, state fair board and crop board. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Ed, Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that 3 candidates were interviewed for the deputy tax director position. Isaiah Hylden has accepted the position and will start August 1st.

The Jail Committee recently toured the Rolette and Bottineau jails. The Barnes County Jail would be the model which the Jail Committee would like to follow. Sheriff Jurgens would recommend that the commissioners tour the Barnes County Jail. The committee would recommend that if we move forward with building a new jail the sheriff's office be housed in it. We are really limited in our options as Grand Forks County won't take our prisoners.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commission that a corrections officer resigned. **Motion by Anderson to approve the advertising and rehiring of a corrections officer.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Still waiting on numbers for the asbestos and lead paint cost for the county to remove the old school house from the county park. There will be no funding from the Corps. We will wait for numbers before moving forward.
- A presidential disaster declaration for severe spring storms and flooding for the period of April 22 through May 25th has been granted. The County must sign a Request for Assistance. Highway Superintendent, Jason Johnson will be the applicant agent with Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, as the alternate. There will be no one touring flood sites this year so pictures are more important than ever.
- Presented some options for alternate notification systems. Apparently, some messages are not going through to first responders. Had a Walsh County EMS Council meeting last night. With the apps you can confirm that the message was received. With fewer people volunteering to be first responders and them being on call 24/7 we need to make it as easy as possible for them. Brent will do some more research on the Apps and will visit with the fire chiefs at the fire department meeting.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Added drainage permits, DOT bill and bridge estimates that all came in after the agenda went out.
- Johnson Control out of Fargo is willing to come out and go through the courthouse to get a true cost of what it would cost to replace the air conditioning in the building. They said we are sitting on a time bomb. Jason will sign the Memo of Understanding and they will come out and give the county a cost of replacing the A/C at no charge.
- Presented drainage, utility and flowage permits. **Motion by Barta to approve the following permits pending approval from the water board.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
 - Josh Bennington, SE1/4, Section 27, Rushford Township;
 - Evergreen Farms, Between SE1/4 Section 35 and SW1/4 36, Marin Township
 - Timothy Hurtt, Section 15, Dundee Township
 - Walsh Rural Water District, Section 13, Tiber Township
 - LeClerc Farms, Section 16, Acton Township
 - Ross Hagen, Section 23, Vernon Township
- Attended a legislative Study in Devils Lake. To maintain the county bridges, paved and gravel roads for the next 20 years it will cost 346 million dollars or 17 million per year. Walsh County currently has 47 bridges rated poor.
- Presented bridge project applications and funding estimates for 5 bridges projects.
- The Lankin Shop roof has been repaired and came in under the estimate. **Motion by Barta to pay the Pastorek Construction bill for \$144,399.97 for the Lankin Shop roof repair from the CARES funds.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, appeared to discuss the 2023 market review, pay plan and salaries which the commissioners reviewed at the last budget meeting when Tanya was unable to attend. She explained that market is the average rate of pay for a position. The NDACo survey also has years of service included in the survey to provide a better picture of the market. Statewide the COLA is 4-5% with some as high as 8%, 4% being the most common. Discussed differential pay for working nights and weekends which Tanya will look into.

Discussed the 5 employees that are under the 95% market that the County has been trying to maintain. The scale could be adjusted as we did for the tax director, then the employees would move down the steps. Tanya will adjust those under market and provide the information to all.

The commissioners okayed an Employee Appreciation Party for this year.

Motion by Anderson to accept the resignation of Katie Thompson, NDSU FCW Agent with regrets and fill the position. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Barta was absent. Katie has offered to still help with the fair.

Crop Tour is July 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Water Board Tour was today.

Arden Bell has resigned from the ND State Fair Delegate. Sherry Amundson Norman is interested in the position.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde