

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 7, 2020**

July 7, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Wild to approve the June 16, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and agenda additions of budget questions, Meadow Bridge, Wayne's bill and County Road 15. Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

Introduced Angelle French the new deputy in the auditor's office.

Ron Jurgens introduced Adam Trahan the new Chief Corrections Officer.

Casey Buchman appeared via telephone to express his concern about the 1.25 billion stimulus package. He is concerned that not all of the legislators were involved in deciding how the funds would be allocated. He encouraged commissioners to reach out to their legislators.

Motion by Barta to accept the resignation of Jeff Narloch from the Grafton Planning and Zoning Committee on behalf of the County. Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, appeared to discuss the following:

- Was looking for direction for salaries and the pay plan. The department heads, at this time, were advised to go with a 1 step increase for employees. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is currently at a negative number. However we need to keep the pay plan from falling behind. If there is no COLA there are a few employees that are at step 20 who will not get any increase in salary next year.
- The Health Insurance Committee met recently. They don't have any new details on health insurance plans yet but NDIRF is hoping to have some information out around July 15th. The committee would like the commissioner to "pencil in" an increase in the amount the county contributes toward the health insurance premium. The committee compared the county policy to some of our employment competitors. The County policy offers the least amount of coverage at 70-30. Walsh County also has the highest premium rate for employees at \$508 for a family plan. There are 57 full time employees with 53 taking some sort of health insurance policy. **Motion by Barta to pencil in 100% of BC/BS premium for budgets.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote Barta, Skorheim, Wild and Anderson voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried. **Motion by Burianek to follow the pay plan and give employees a step increase with no COLA.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call voted all voted yes. Motion carried. Tanya will prepare a spreadsheet with increases so the commissioners have an idea of what the total cost would be.

JR Steele, Assistant State's Attorney, appeared to discuss a court contract with the City of Park River. Park River no longer has a municipal judge and they would like it to fall under the district court. The state's attorney's office is still waiting to receive and review the ordinances from Park River. We don't know that the District Court will accept all of the ordinances. The agreement is similar to what a lot of other cities use. The State would get 60% of all amounts collected and the County would get 40% of all amounts collected. However, since the ordinances have not been

reviewed by the state to be entered into the State's system there is the potential for some ordinances to not be enforced in the future the way they have been in the past. **Motion by Skorheim to sign the court service contract with Park River City for 1 year.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Lipsh asked the commissioners for guidance in how to proceed with her budget being the cost share for Drain 87 went from an estimated \$276,000 to \$500,000. In the past Lipsh would review drain project plans and sometimes would ask the engineers to make changes to boxes or culverts which would result in cost savings to the taxpayers. In the past, the Highway Department would pay for 40% of the cost of the centerline culverts after the State Water Commission's share. There seems to be issues working together and communicating now. The water board received a letter from their attorney on February 18th but the highway department didn't receive a copy until April 27th. Then the Water Board wanted to meet the next day. The State's Attorney informed Lipsh to not meet until she had time to review the document. On June 19th Lipsh asked for the dollar amounts for budgeting and received the \$500,000 amount. She requested supporting documents and that is when she was informed the Water Board is requesting the Highway Department pay 40% of the cost of culverts and boxes, installation, engineering and etc. If the County is responsible for the \$500,000 there won't be any highway projects done next year. Sharon has reached out to the state's attorney's office but they have not had time to review the documents. It appears that there are contradicting century codes in regard to the matter that may need to be addressed by the legislature and/or the attorney general. **Motion by Barta pay the original agreement amount.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- In looking for low water crossing options for the Meadow Bridge, it is common to use a 2 year event to determine pipe size. It was determined that 2 8' pipes would meet the 2-year event. The township would pay 50% of all materials. Will proceed with the 8' pipes to come up with a cost estimate.
- A culvert went down in Norton Township. Lipsh is working on a remedy/replacement.
- Received a letter from NDDOT approving our request to remove the 2 miles of CMC 5018.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permits for Evergreen Farms/Dave Osowski in Martin Township, Section 27 and Ernie Dusek in Prairie Centre Township, Section 2.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the flowage easement for Kyle Nice in Walshville Township, Section 33.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed Co Rd 15 Right of Way. Aaron Birst from the Association of Counties is reviewing along with the State's Attorney.

Report of county offices for fees collected during June: County Recorder \$7,350.20 and Sheriff fees \$981.50.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor