

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 16, 2020**

June 16, 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 Barta to approve the June 2, 2020 regular meeting minutes and agenda additions of courthouse steps, Park River Arena and Casey Buchmann.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that David Dvorak resigned and his last day is June 26. The highway department still has a truck driver position open. **Motion by Burianek to advertise and fill the position.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Nodak is in the area working so a utility permit was also discussed. **Motion by Barta to approve the utility permit for Nodak Electric to bore County Road 19 Section 33 of Walshville Township to service drain tile for Kyle Nice.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Skorheim asked about the courthouse steps. Lipsh has requested a bid from a local contractor 3 times but has never received one. Other contractors were recommended and she will reach out to them.

Commissioner Barta stated that Park River Mayor Dan Stenvold inquired about a water issue by the horse arena. Lipsh will check into it.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Appeared to discuss the SORN costs which need to be approved to move forward. It was budgeted for in 2020 but won't take place until 2021. Nelson would like to get the equipment installed and do some testing before everyone buys new radios. Consoles will need to be replaced in the next year or two anyway. **Motion by Wild to sign letter of intent to move forward with SORN system.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Nelson received a verbal notice that the County has been approved for the Mitigation grant to replace the generator in the Admin Building.
- The shelter at Homme Dam was not approved but can be resubmitted under a different grant.
- The Mitigation Plan will need to be redone.
- The 911 Measure on the ballot passed.

The Commissioners re-convened as the County Tax Equalization Board at 9:30 a.m.

Ed Sevigny presented the 2019 sales ratio. The average value per acre for agricultural land in Walsh County is \$921.83 which is up 1.32% from last year. Total true and full valuation for 2020

is \$1,127,843,708. An increase of \$30,692,055. With the approved Ag land increases Walsh County is now within tolerance of state requirements at 90.9%.

Reviewed each township and city assessment sheet and their increase or decrease in local assessments. Many of the townships had changes to residential property with many farm exemptions coming off. Ed sent out forms to 6 townships and Stacey Loftsgard sent out to 4 or 5 townships. He will continue to do several townships a year as time allows. Bjorn Flaten provided income for the Flaten farm exemption. **Motion by Barta to approve the Flaten Farm Exemption without verification for this year.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Gravel pits are assessed as commercial. Commissioner Barta and Ed hope to get out and assess some gravel pits in the near future. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2020 County Tax Equalization assessments as presented.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. Mary Wild will no longer be doing assessing. Scott Dalbey has taken the necessary classes and is now a Class 2 Assessor. A letter will go out to all the townships and cities that Wild was an assessor for with a list of assessors or they can contract through the county. This concludes the 2020 Walsh County Tax Equalization meeting.

**Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of the Housing Board and reappoint Judy Keeley as Chair and Charles Mielke as Vice Chair and to reappoint them both for another 3 year term.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

With the reopening of the courthouse there was some discussion about a drop box that could be used for tax payments, elections and other courthouse uses to reduce foot traffic. A drop box can vary in price from \$500 to \$4,000. A drop box into the courthouse would be ideal but limited in options. Will research the issue more.

The June 2020 Primary Election had 3,436 ballots requested with 2,713 being accepted and over 700 ballots not returned. Discussed the school elections and law suit in regard to rejecting mail-in ballots for mismatched signature and the extra steps to the election process. Sondra Richardson, Deputy Auditor, has accumulated 110 comp hours with the election and delinquent tax process over the past couple of months. Auditor requested that we pay out 82.5 hours to Richardson from the election fund as well as pay Tami Mechan for 7 hours of election work on a Saturday. **Motion by Skorheim to pay Richardson and Mecham out of the election fund for accumulated comp hours.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioners will meet for budgets the afternoon of July 7<sup>th</sup> and the mornings of July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> with the intention of having all meetings done by the end of the day on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Auditor will get budgets and letters out soon.

Casey Buchmann will attend the July 7<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor