

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 21, 2022**

June 21, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

Commissioner Skorheim moved to approve the June 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of safety initiative, donating blood, voting delegate, jail tour and County Road 2 Study. Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

In the past employees were allowed to donate blood on county time. The health department was considering doing a blood drive as a monthly wellness event and wanted to confirm that donating blood was still allowed on county time. None of the commissioner objected and encourage it. It was suggested that it be added to the policy book allowing employee up to an hour to donate blood.

Discussed the voting delegate for the annual conference. Commissioner Anderson has held the position for the past few years. Commissioner Brintnell offered to be the voting delegate for the 2022 annual conference.

Brad Brummond, County Agent, presented bids for new furnaces for the extension building. Bids were reviewed and discussed. CL Linfoot has currently been servicing the system and is familiar with it. The building has 3 furnaces, 1 furnace has been condemned and 1 is on its way out according to CL Linfoot. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid from CL Linfoot for \$27,297.00 with the Ruud System.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Brad will sign the quote and work with Linfoot. They are looking at an install date of August or September.

The previous highway superintendent left information on the County Road 2 Study. Still waiting to see what we have spent on County Road 2 over the years.

Canvassing will take place on June 27th in the commission room at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Brintnell will serve on the canvassing board as the chairman and all the other commissioners are on the ballot.

The Commissioners re-convened as the County Tax Equalization Board at 9:30 a.m. Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented the 2021 sales ratio with residential being at 84.9% and commercial at 100%. The average value per acre for agricultural land in Walsh County is \$941.55 which is up .07% from last year. Total true and full valuation for 2022 is \$1,196,286,02. An increase of \$31,035,970. Each township and city assessment sheet were reviewed for increases or decreases in local assessments. Many of the townships had changes to residential property with many farm exemptions coming off. With the tax

director's office continuing to review farm exemptions 12 new exemptions were filed and 42 came off the farm exemption. The tax director was able to meet with Mr. Shutt from the previous equalization meeting and adjusted the value of his property as there are no longer any structures on the parcel. Many of the townships saw an increase in residential values. Vernon Township has requested that all residential parcels be reviewed in their township. Walsh County is within tolerance and met the state requirements so no recommendations were made. With the increase in valuations the county mill will be worth approximately \$1,500 more per mill. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2022 County Tax Equalization assessments as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented a license agreement for the City of Grafton to get remote access to the Vanguard Program under the County. There would be a 1-time fee of \$500 plus \$275 for maintenance. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the contract for the City of Grafton.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The go live date for the Tyler Software has been pushed back and the maintenance fee on the contract has been removed for this year.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff appeared for the following:

- A deputy has resigned and he would like to fill the position. **Motion by Skorheim to advertise and fill the position.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Provided 2 more bids for ballistic helmets. The current helmets have reached their expiration date and he would like to replace them. **Motion by Skorheim to accept the bid from Hard Head Veterans for \$6,006 to replace the ballistic helmets.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Gave an update on the jail tour in Valley City at the Barnes County Jail which has 47 beds. Commissioner Skorheim, Tanya Wieler, Jason Johnston and Allen Anderson also toured the jail with Sheriff Jurgens. The jail took less than a year to build and has been open since September of 2021. It is a modular design with poly pods. There are no blinds spots in the jail. The maintenance person plays a big role in the jail. It has a kitchen and the cook is contracted. The plumbing is designed so that the cells can't be flooded. It was financed with bonds and cost just short of \$15,000,000.
- The jail had an inspection last week. There were deficiencies in the lighting and plumbing. Knowing that we are exploring other options they will allow us to continue as is.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- The county share for the Homme Dam shelter has been dropped to 7% which would be \$9,773.82. We will never get this kind of offer again. KLJ was contacted to get an approximate cost of a Level 3 study. If we move forward, we will need to secure three quotes before selecting a vendor for the study. Discussed lead paint test and asbestos removal. The County would have until July of 2024 to complete the project. Will get more bids and bring back to the next meeting.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Wade from KLJ gave a Prairie Dog update. We could see funds this biennium. When both buckets are full the county would receive \$4,739,000.
- Discussed Matejek Dam and who is responsible for taking care of it.
- **Motion by Barta to sign the final billing for Project BRR-BRO-0054.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed the courthouse air conditioning, rusted out pipes and the hard well water.
- The county has a parcel in Park River that the county owns. Park River City reached out to the county to say that if we don't mow it they will mow it and the county will be billed. The highway department did mow it. Will see if any of the adjacent landowners would be interested in it.
- Jason will be out of the office from June 29th until July 11th.

Kelly Lessard, Safety Director, informed the commissioners that we received 2 checks for 5% premium discount for 100% participation in the LMS training and premium savings discount. Funds will be deposited into the safety account and used for safety grants. Also discussed that sometimes as many as 5 reminders go out to employees to get the LMS training done. Kelly should report to department heads if there is an issue with employees not getting the training completed. If it is a supervisor that is not completing the training than the portfolio holder should be notified.

Will inform HR to update the pay scale with a step increase and a 4% COLA so that we can start working on budgets.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde