

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 7, 2022**

June 7, 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 Barta moved to approve the May 17, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of ditch right of way, load limits, portfolios, Tyler Software, County Road 2 and jail committee. Second by Skorhiem. Motion carried.

Load limits are off with the exception of County Road 15 from Warsaw to Interstate.

Commissioner Barta talked to 3 individuals about grass seeding the right of way. They don't have the means to do it. The county can do it and bill them.

Commissioner Brintnell feels that there is a disconnect with department heads and was wondering about portfolios and department head meeting. It was explained that department head meetings are scheduled when topics arise, sometimes annually and at one time probably quarterly. Commissioner Brintnell will take on the department head portfolio.

There will be more discussion about the Tyler payroll software before bringing it to the department heads.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resources, referred to the memo from the last meeting in regard to the COLA. Discussed options, creating a policy that states no more than 4% no less than 2%, implanting COLA in July and step increase the first of the year. **Motion by Skorhiem to implement a 4% cost of living increase effective July 1st and revisit at budget time.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote Anderson, Brintnell and Burianek voted no. Skorhiem and Barta voted yes. Motion failed.

Pursuant to NDCC 57-12-01 the County Commissioners met as the County Tax Equalization Board at 9:30 a.m.

Present were Ed Sevigny, Tax Director and Arthur Shutt, Harriston Township. Ed is also the assessor for Harriston Township. Mr. Shutt missed the township meeting but said that the taxes keep going up on this parcel but there is no benefit to the land and it has no residential structure. Ed will work with Mr. Shutt to review the valuation.

The 2021 commercial sales median ratio came in at 100.0%. The 2021 residential median ratio is at 84.9%. After all the assessments approved at the local boards of equalization, we are within the 0-10% tolerance and are in compliance with the State for both commercial and residential property. Grafton sales are separate from the County's. Ed commended the

local assessors. The residential market has exploded and we have seen about a 27 million dollar increase in residential assessments county-wide.

Cleveland Township has not had any increases for some time and Ed brought 3 parcels to the commissioner's attention that he felt were inequitable. Pictures and data were provided. They are parcels 25-6184-010, 25-6196 & 25-6262-010. As tax director, Ed recommended to increase the value of these parcels by at least 50% of the difference between their current values and what he feels they would be valued at in other neighboring townships. **Motion by Barta to increase the value of the 3 parcels by 75% of that difference to make those parcels more equitable with the rest of the townships.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes except Chairman Burianek voted no. Motion carried. Ed will bring the full report back to the commissioners in 2 weeks for final approval.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Gave a flood update. The period for eligible flood expenses is April 22nd to May 25th. The presidential request should come out in the next week or two. Of the 36 townships 5 have reported to Brent and 3 have talked to him. Most of the farmers who are also township officers are focused on farming right now. A potential concern is collection the required data for reimbursement which falls on the townships and county now. FEMA no longer sends out a team to assist. Briefly discussed Lankin City which had snow melt and a plugged drain which caused water to flow through the city causing damage worth \$3000-\$4000.
- Presented a bid for 6 radios, 2 portables and 1 mobile radio for emergency management for \$37,443.36. **Motion by Brintnell to approve 4 radios, plus the mobile and 2 portables to be paid for with CARES funds.** Second by Skorhiem. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. There is a \$1500 refund per radio. When the refunds come in those dollars need to go back to the CARES Funds.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the Ardoch Beet Piler Bridge. **Motion by Barta to split the Houston Engineering bill for engineering cost for the Ardoch Bridge with the water board.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Received another bill for \$7,931.81 for additional bridge inspections. **Motion by Brintnell to pay the NDDOT bill for bridge inspections.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a Miscellaneous Professional Services Agreement for \$10,000 with KLJ for miscellaneous engineering tasks requested by the highway superintendent during the year. **Motion by Anderson to accept the agreement with KLJ.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed changing the process with summer help. Would like to purchase 3 pieces of equipment which could be pulled with pickups and wouldn't require a CDL license eliminating pulling staff off of trucks or away from other projects. Presented quotes for air compressor, mastic mixer for fixing pot holes and a crack sealer for \$119,300. The summer help would be under the supervision of Jerry Hodny. **Motion by Barta to purchase the 3 items with the highway department paying for 50% of the cost from items previous budgets but not purchased and the other half coming from**

COVID funds. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

- Discussed County Road 2 and possibly putting in a Texas Crossing.

Commissioner Barta gave an update on the Enterprise Drain and provided a status report for it. Daryl Campbell, Albin Jallo and Larry Tanke from the water board were also present. Discussed no assistance from Nancy Marquart from Nelson County, sunset clause that is expired, no pumping after 1336' and this has to stop or we will have to take it a step further.

Motion by Skorhiem to re-appoint Brian Thompson to Grafton City Planning & Zoning Committee. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

June 29, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. NDACo and NDCCA will be in Walsh County for the County Tour.

The county received a letter for a major rehab project on Highway 17 which the county has no concerns with.

Val Dalbey, deputy tax director/recorder, resigned and the position is being reevaluated. Discussed making the position a full-time deputy tax director but they would also be a backup for the recorder when she is out of the office. Also discussed training, GIS and number of townships the county already assesses for, passport and marriage licenses. **Motion by Brintnell to fill the position as deputy tax director with the understanding that they will be backup for the recorder office.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. The position will be advertised once the job description is fine tuned.

The jail committee is still trying to set a date for their next meeting.

Report of county offices for fees collected during May: County Recorder \$5,506.13 and Sheriff fees \$2,620.40.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde