

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 15, 2022**

March 15, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Burianek, Commissioners Skorheim, Anderson and Barta. Commissioner Brintnell called in at 9:00 a.m. and participated via telephone.

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 March 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of wages and benefits, computer replacements, sewer board update, treasurer's position and girls' basketball team. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Walsh County Commissioners, Commissioner Anderson would like to congratulate the Grafton Girls Basketball Team and Coach Sieben on their second place standing in the Class B Tournament.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, presented her letter of resignation during employee time. **Commissioner Barta moved to accept her resignation with regrets.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta announced that Sherry O'Toole has accepted the position of Walsh County Treasurer.

The guidelines for sewer systems will remain the same until at least the fall.

Shirley Burns, Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce, appeared to discuss the 2nd Annual Beer and Bacon Bash which is similar to a wine walk. Participating businesses provide a small sample of beer and a bacon inspired appetizer. The purpose of the event is to get folks to visit area businesses, shop and learn about what the businesses have to offer. The Summer Kitchen has signed up to participate but they are located outside of city limits so they don't fall under the city application. **Motion by Barta to allow The Summer Kitchen to participate in the Beer and Bacon Bash.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

The Chamber is holding a community wide Easter Egg Hunt on April 16th. They will also be taking training in May to provide additional motor vehicle services.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 4th quarter 2021 treasurer's report. **Motion by Anderson to approve the 4th quarter 2021 treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report
4th Quarter 2021

Balance on hand as of October 1, 2021	\$ 11,474,135.28
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 7,114,278.25</u>
	\$ 18,588,413.53
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,616,220.03)</u>
Balance on hand as of December 31, 2021	\$ 14,972,193.50

- **Motion by Anderson to approve the 4th quarter treasurer's checks as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Provided a 6 month comparison from 7-1-2020 to 12-31-2020 with 7-1-2021 to 12-21-2021 for informational purposes only. ARPA funds were receipted on 8-26-2021 so they are included on the report.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Provided an update on Spring Flood potential: Currently the NWS is forecasting a 50% chance of minor flooding along the Park and Forest Rivers in Walsh County. The current forecast is a 75% chance of major flooding along the Red River at Oslo. The Corp. of Engineers began their draw down of Homme Dam today, March 15 to increase storage capacity for the spring runoff. Brent will check on sandbags and will work with the city of Grafton on additional bags or order if needed. The Commission agreed to continue to provide sand and bags to rural residents, as needed for flood protection. Brent will work in conjunction with the Hwy Dept. for flood preparation and response.
- There are no state bids for Chevy pickups. His current vehicle is a 2013 and needs new tires and the engine light keeps going on. Discussed putting money into current vehicle, buying used or holding off on purchase of a new vehicle. After some discussions it was decided to put some money into current vehicle and wait to purchase a new pickup.
- No one is interested in the old dispatch furniture. There are no plans to have a county auction this year so he will take furniture to Russ' for scrap metal.
- Discussed testing the LEC generator. Need to coordinate with Grafton City and Samson's to shut power down and test to make sure it is functioning properly.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Ron Jurgens was present to discuss the jail pipes. Roto-Rooter Sewer-Drain Service did some cleaning of the pipes in the jail but can't find another company or person to do small pipes so Jason bought a camera. Can't go more than 6 feet without camera being covered in scaling and rust. Jason's recommendation is to hire an architect. Discussed options for the LEC Building again. Commissioner Anderson will coordinate a WCCC Population Control Committee to continue the discussion on the current conditions of the jail and possible solutions to move forward.
- The language on the 2008 ballot was presented to the commissioners. Discussed the expiring FMA and County Road mills. We can also put a measure on the ballot for

Capital Project mills. Capital projects mills can now be used for road and bridge projects. Need to work on language for ballot and then sell it to the public.

- Presented a bid for \$6,600 to wax first floor, steps and landing. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid from Demester Cleaning for \$6,600 to wax first, floor, steps and landing.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Would like to put County Road 9 on hold and possibly use some alternate products to extend the life of the road. Could possibly set up demo of products and Mastic equipment in June.
- Butler in Hoople will no longer be servicing our trucks. Would like to purchase an engine diagnostic computer so that we can test and repair our own trucks. With the amount of down time and getting trucks to Grand Forks, purchasing the equipment would pay for itself in a short time. Stuart is confident that he can do most of those repairs. **Motion by Anderson to approve the purchase of the diagnostic computer from Diesel Laptops for \$4,595.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Gave a DOT update.
- Chairman Burianek requested an updated culvert price list.

Kris Molde, Auditor, has had a requested for laptops instead of desktops for some computers on the computer rotation for this year's budget. Budget was for desktops. If you allow one office to purchase laptops where do you start and stop with all the departments? Commissioners felt that department heads could have laptops but supporting office staff should have desktops. Will follow through with the computer rotation list and replace desktops with desktops.

Mentioned the need to review wages and benefits again. Currently looking at almost an 8% COLA increase right now. NDACo salary survey should be ready in late April early May.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor