

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 2, 2021**

March 2, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed until 8:50 a.m.

Chairman Skorheim called the meeting back to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Burianek moved to approve the February 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of 90% of insurance premium, task force, and Keystone payment.** Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissioners that a jailer has resigned. **Motion by Anderson to advertise and fill the position.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The City Task Force Fund that was for a shared employee with Grafton City is still sitting with a negative fund balance. Grafton City was responsible for half of the expenses for the shared employee and refused to pay for the comp time and taxes paid out. They felt it was poor management on the county's part. **Motion by Anderson to transfer funds from County General Fund to the City Task Force Fund to zero out the account.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Taxes for Keystone Pipeline were paid and a breakdown was provided for several townships, fire districts and schools as well as the County. The payment was down \$84,164 from last year. This year's payment was \$463,206.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented tax abatements for Lee & Heidi Gudajtes and John Gudajtes. Gudajtes' bought a parcel of land together and crop share that parcel which then qualifies them for the farm exemption. The land wasn't platted into the City of Minto when it was developed but has city utilities and streets. The City of Minto, their school, fire and park district all stand to lose \$10,000 in tax dollars if the abatement is approved. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Minto City and the tax director to approve the Lee & Heidi Gudajtes abatement for 2020.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, Anderson, Barta and Brintnell voted yes. Commissioners Burianek and Skorheim voted no. Motion carried. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Minto City and the tax director to approve the John Gudajtes abatement for 2020.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Anderson, Barta and Brintnell voted yes. Commissioners Burianek and Skorheim voted no. Motion carried.

Lee & Heidi Gudajtes	Minto City	39-12680-040	2020 RET	\$15,790
John Gudajtes Revoc Liv Tr	Minto City	39-12680-060	2020 RET	\$10,530

- Ed will be going to Bismarck to testify against SB2041 relating to a commercial property tax exemption for grain elevator and potato warehouse property used for personal use. This bill would make them tax exempt. These structures were built within city limits to take advantage of roads, railway, utilities and other amenities not offered on a farm. The bill was poorly written and doesn't state how it will be enforced. Several cities and schools are against the bill. NDACo will be testifying against the bill along with the League of Cities, Grafton City and several others providing written testimony. Commissioners will send a letter for testimony as well and are encourage to send emails for a Do Not Pass SB 2041.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a 2021 load restriction map. Barry Kingsbury, Joe Sobolik, Richard Rutherford and Ryan Puppe were present to discuss road restrictions and effects on farmers and businesses such as paying more for freight or loss of transportation due to not being able to haul a full load. Ninety percent of product goes out during the load restrictions. The road condition hasn't changed since it was overlaid. Keeping water off of County Road #9 has helped maintain the road. **Motion by Burianek to change County Road #9 from County Road 8 to Highway 81 to be legal weight.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented the 2020 annual report. The Bond/Misc. Road Fund is like a savings account used for flood money, safety funds and interest earned. Discussed flood account balances. FEMA pays 85% and the county share is 15%. Reviewed income statement, accounts receivable, culvert, timber and GASB inventory, vendor list, equipment maintenance, payments and leases, custom work rates, road related, county wide and county shop expenses, culvert jobs, special projects crack filling and gravel summary.
- Will be going to Bismarck to testify on SB 2208.

Commissioner Burianek would like the health insurance premium reworked at 90% and presented at an upcoming meeting.

Report of county offices for fees collected during February: County Recorder \$9,004.41 and Sheriff fees \$1,963.47

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor