

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 3, 2020**

March 3, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Commissioners Barta, Burianek, Skorheim and Wild. Absent Commissioner Anderson.

Vice Chairman Skorheim called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Anderson joined the meeting via telephone.

**Motion by Barta to approve the February 18, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and agenda additions of load restrictions and meeting notices. Removed Ed Sevigny from agenda.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

**Motion by Burianek to appoint Heather Szklarski to the Carnegie Regional Library Board.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Barta to reappoint Jeane Flaten, Leah Skjerven, Matt Beneda and Stanley Miller to the JDA Board to all serve another 3 year term.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

On March 6, 2020 at 9:00 AM there will be a public meeting at the Minto Community Center in regard to the Fordville Dam Rehabilitation. Following that meeting, at 11:00 AM there will be a public meeting in regard to the Bylin Dam Rehabilitation. The Annual Township Meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Park River City Hall.

Tyler Technology will present their software program to the Auditor, Treasurer, Tax Director and Recorder's office on March 19th. It is scheduled to be a full day of presentations. The offices would like to advertise as being closed so that they can participate in the whole presentation. It will be put on the county website, radio and paper.

Representative Wayne Trottier, Representative Gary Paur and Senator Robert Fors were present to answer questions and provide a legislative update. Also present were Twila Novak from the NVHS Zone, Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager and Ann Stroh, Administrative Assist for the sheriff's office.

- Now that the DOCR is seeing progress in the jail they are now working better with the sheriff's department. DOCR seems pleased with current efforts made by the jail and staff. The DOCR should be leading, helping, training and working with county jails not using heavy-handed approach and taking corrective action not destructive action. Appears Director Leann Bertsch is overriding state's attorneys and judges.
- Also discussed the new "zones" which are a work in progress. Indirect costs such as postage, telephones, utilities, vehicle insurance are still the responsibility of the county at a cost of \$118,000. There needs to be more guidance and direction. We shouldn't have to reinvent the wheel. State is moving too fast and needs to be more transparent.
- Discussed the Legacy Fund and grants available to the County.
- The SORN 2020 State radio is an expensive investment and we are not convinced the system will be any better. Can't use 911 funds to pay for system.

- The firm awarded the contract for bridge inspections is a national firm. Highway department will have to scan in plans so that they can be shared with the inspection firm.
- Commissioners feel like it's the big counties against small counties.
- Legislators would like to visit with the County quarterly.
- Commissioners thanked the legislators for coming.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Wild to approve the utility permit for Polar Communications in Adams Township.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- Judge Olson presided over the Ferguson Hearing which took about 20 minutes. The county has gotten back what we spent but the public is not whole as they still don't have a bridge.
- Bridge plans need to be scanned in. Will need to rent or buy scanner for plans larger than 11x17 paper. If a scanner is rented everything will be scanned in.
- Federal mandates require more work and cost for highway department for drug and alcohol testing.
- A park board meeting is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers. This will allow time for new material to be printed should they decide to increase rates.
- Load restrictions were discussed. They are the same as 2019 and all elevators are accessible. **Motion by Anderson to approve the load restrictions as presented.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The 2 new trucks are in Fargo.

The County received a letter from NDIRF reminding them that North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund does not provide flood coverage in the Fire and Tornado Fund policy.

**Motion by Burianek to sign the Anhydrous Ammonia License Application for Farmers Union Oil in Lankin.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Anderson left the meeting by ending the call.

Received an invitation to participate in the Middle-South Branch Fordville Dam Rehabilitation Assessment. **Motion by Barta to encourage the water board to participate.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried. Absent Commissioner Anderson.

Report of county offices for fees collected during February: County Recorder \$4,583.50 and Sheriff fees \$3,543.60.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Vice Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor