

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MAY 17, 2022**

May 17, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

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

State Representative David Monson from District 19 was also present to take questions if anyone had any.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the May 2, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, JR's Gaming Permit and additions of Greicar donation, Babinski Variance, congratulations, Tyler update, department head transfer of duties and drain tiles. Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

Chairman Burianek congratulated Brad Brummond and the Walsh County Land Judging Team who recently participated and placed in the land judging competition in Oklahoma.

Kris Molde, Auditor, introduced the new Deputy Auditor Savannah Suda.

Donald Greicar is donating a bench to the Homme Dam Park in memory of family members that had previously worked at the park for many years.

A variance came in after the planning and zoning meeting and the board was asked to review a variance for Gary Babinski. The road is affected by flooding and has issues with streambank erosion which the trees will help stabilize. The township road is a dead end. **Motion by Barta to approve the variance for Gary Babinski in the SW1/4SW1/4 of Pulaski Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brintnell gave an update on the Tyler payroll demo and discussed the time and attendance piece of it which would provide up to date sick leave and vacation time. The execute time part of it would allow for checking in and tracking jobs. Would be efficient, accurate and time saving. Cost is \$17,000 to 18,000. Would need to bring to a department head meeting and all departments would have to participate.

Leanna Emmer from the NDLTAP recognized Dean Thompson and Stuart Swartz for the Guardrail Maintainer designed and made by Dean Thompson and Eric Abrahamson. It removes gravel, debris, vegetation and snow from between guardrail posts. It took 1st place at State Innovation Champions and at the Regional level. It will be submitted for national competition by NDLTAP.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Gave an update on his meeting with the water board. Discussed the Ardoch Piler Bridge which American Crystal & Houston Engineering attended. American Crystal

would consider contributing to the project. Adding a culvert to the McCann Culvert would go against the state permit and can't be installed. The water should stay on the north side of the road. The Vernon Township Bridge at Section 4/6 will be replaced with culverts.

- Presented a utility permit for Evergreen Farms. **Motion by Anderson to approve the utility permit for Evergreen Farms Section 35/36 Martin Township.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented 3 utility permits for Nodak Electric. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 3 utility permits for Nodak Electric, County Road 12B Section 25/26 Medford Township.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a bill for bridge inspections. **Motion by Barta to pay the \$22,744.38 for bridge inspections and load rating.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Twenty one bridges received new load limits. Jason would like to ask Eden Township to remove bridge #50-131-21.0. We are paying to have it inspected and it is overgrown with vegetation and is seldom used. Martin Township would like to remove 2 bridges.
- They continue to work on flood recovery with getting county roads open taking pressure off township roads and getting farmers in their fields. Will hire out help as there are 26 flood sites to repair as of now.
- The state is offering another round of funding for bridges. Bridges over legal drains are the counties expense.

Commissioner Brintnell asked for some clarification in regard to a comment at the last meeting in regard to the transfer of duties and working with FEMA. Emergency Manager, Brent Nelson and Highway Superintendent, Jason Johnston will be working together on paperwork and working with FEMA for flooding. FEMA no longer assigns a team to the flood damaged entity. It is more virtual now a days. We want to make sure we don't lose any FEMA dollars.

Daryl Campbell and Albin Jallo from the water board appeared to give an update on flooding. Triple D is working on a washed out culvert a mile north of Barry Kingsbury's. Some roads are still closed. There is some erosion by Whitman and Matejcek Dam. Plugged drains have been an issue. Two years ago legislators took away any authority the water board had so there is no authority or penalty for drain pumps that aren't shut off during flooding. Pumps from the west are still going and there is no help from the state water commission to shut them down. Mentioned meeting with Nelson County Commissioners or reaching out to the state's attorney's office to take legal action.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager inform the commissioners that he has had 30 individuals report flood damage. They have given 40 cleanup kits out. Mentioned that shelterbelts, sloughs and wetlands are disappearing which used to help slow the flow the water down. Retention ponds were mentions as they are success in Minnesota.

Tanya Weiler, HR Director, appeared for the following:

- The Cost of Living Adjustment is currently at 8.2%. The consumer price index for food is 11.2%, energy prices have increased by 26.8% with other items averaging 6%. A 3% increase for all staff for the last 6 months of this year would cost \$49,027, 4% would be \$56,369 and a 5% would be \$81,712. No action was taken.

- The teleworking policy was discussed again. Teleworking is not available under all circumstances but could be used to return to work sooner after a medical situation. We work for the public and we should be visible. Laptops can be taken to a convention to help stay on top of emails and such. Tanya will update the policy and bring back to share with department heads and commissioners. It will follow the policy process and be added to the policy book.
- Briefly touched on evaluations and if they were all completed, reviewed and filed in the payroll files in the auditor's office. Tanya will follow up with evaluations and make sure the process has been completed by all departments.
- Will be on the next agenda to provide follow up on COLA and telework policy.

Will try to set a county park meeting after the next commission meeting as not all board members were notified and it wasn't posted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor