

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 19, 2020

May 19, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Madam Chairman Anderson, Commissioners Burianek, Skorheim and Wild. Commissioner Barta attend via conference call.

Madam Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wild to approve the May 5, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

During employee time Commissioner Barta mentioned that he and Tanya had met with Tax Director Ed Sevigny to evaluate his 80% status as his anniversary date was May 8th. He is over the 80% status by 79 hours but all were happy with the current contract and will continue with the 80% employee status.

Ron Jurgens appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that he has hired a Chief Corrections Officer. Adam Trahan will be coming here from Louisiana with 10 years of experience. His duties will be more administrative, working with DOCR, polices, safety and overseeing the jailers.

Wanda Kratochvil, Health District Administrator, appeared to discuss re-opening of the county buildings. Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager and Kris Molde, Auditor met with Wanda to review several documents and work on a draft to summarize and bring to the department heads. Wanda reached out to Sharon Lipsh and Tanya Wieler for assistance with concerns about cleaning and cleaning supplies as well as leave time. Getting cleaning supplies is a challenge. They could be available but it could be 2 weeks or 2 months to get them. A large order of cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer has been placed. Discussed employees cleaning their own office space but wondering who will clean public areas such as bathrooms, door knobs, handrails and water fountains?

There was a lengthy discussion about time off relating to COVID-19. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Act requires payment of up to 14 days of leave for 6 different qualifying reasons, but how will the county handle time off if an employee needs additional time off due to an extended quarantine period. The FFCRA is effective until December 31, 2020. After 14 days will the County require employees to use sick leave, vacation, unpaid time off or allow for additional paid time off? Through workers comp there is a possible option with a positive test result but is very limited. Primary concern is that we do not want employees coming to work if they are ill or are considered a close contact.

There are 10 cases of COVID-19 in Walsh County most have been cleared. There is no court until June. All the services are being provided to the public. **Motion by Skorheim to extend the closing of the county buildings until the next commission meeting, June**

2nd at which time it will be revisited. Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote Skorheim, Wild, Burianek and Wild voted yes. Anderson voted no. Motion carried.

The bottom floor of the courthouse as well as the Administrative Building is wide open with no protection from the public. The first floor offices have Plexiglas to cover their windows and the 2nd floor employees are secure behind locked doors. Mentioned what if a whole office is exposed and need to be quarantined and the office closed. **Motion by Wild to follow the FFCRA guidelines and extend the FFCRA paid leave time provisions for an additional 14 days, for a total of 28 days paid leave time for the qualifying reasons specified by the Act.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. This is a starting point for now. In order to receive this leave employees must meet one of the qualifying reasons to be quarantined under the Act.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, reminded the group that all COVID-19 leave should be reported to her so that all cases are handled the same and follow the guidelines setup by Walsh County Employee Statement Regarding COVID-19 from March 17, 2020.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, informed the commissioners that there was no federal declaration for the spring flood. The damage to County Road 2 and County Road 15 would be 100% county expenses. **Motion by Burianek to remove 2 miles of County Road 15 off of the Federal Aid list and use the Emergency Fund for repairing flood damage to County Road 2.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried. County Road 2 is passable.

Commissioner Wild gave an update on the variances that the Planning & Zoning Board approved at their meeting. Following the meeting was a hearing for the Resolution to Amend Building permit Fees. No one from the public requested to attend the meeting or appeared via conference call. **Motion by Wild to adopt the proposed Resolution to Amend Building Permit fees and continue with the process set forth in the century code.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager and Ron Jurgens, Sheriff appeared to discuss the LEC agreement between Walsh County and the City of Grafton that expires on June 8th. The city would like to continue negotiations and extend the current terms of the agreement. The city's offer is \$0 for the dispatch center. Zero is not an option that the County will consider. **Motion by Barta to send a letter and numbers to the city council members and to come back and negotiate in good faith by the June 16th meeting.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried. The numbers support raising the cost not reducing it. It may be time to get another opinion from the state's attorney or the attorney general. There are expenses that are not passed on to the city such as snow removal.

Commissioner Barta left the meeting at 10:50 AM.

The group also discussed who is responsible for inmates, types of charges, orders to appear, and possible charging for paperwork services when you walk through the jail doors.

Motion by Skorheim to reappoint Jeff Narloch to the city Planning and Zoning Commission for another term. Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The June 2018 Primary Election had a total of 2493 votes. The auditor's office has already received 2755 applications for ballots for the 2020 Primary Election and 955 ballots have already been returned.

The IVN has been installed in the LEC courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor