

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 2, 2022**

May 2, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Barta moved to approve the April 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, Valley Snowdrifters Gaming Site Authorization and additions of COLA, health insurance, JDA & RRRC funding, drain tile pumps, thank you, job description and fair board update.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Sheriff Ron Jurgens appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that Correction Officers Baker and Hardy passed the corporal exam and have been promoted to Corporal Baker and Hardy. A ceremony was held yesterday to honor them. With the increase in correction officer salaries they have received some applications and will be interviewing this week for the current vacancies.

Another fair board meeting was held. The hockey association would like to see the arena and fair building stay together. Jon Markusen has a plan he would like to present to the board but wasn't available for this meeting. Another meeting will be held in the near future.

With the current flooding in Walsh County, running drain tile pumps became an issue. Policy states that "pumps cannot be used during high flows in the spring and the pump must be turned off during heavy summer rains. If a gravity outlet, a control structure must be installed so outlet can be closed during high flows." Any violation of any of the conditions in this permit will void the permit and no further activities of this permit may continue. This is all part of the Flowage Easement Application.

The Job Development Authority recently provided loans to four local businesses. Red River Regional Council also gave out catalyst funds to four businesses.

Sherry O'Toole, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 1st quarter 2022 treasurer's report. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the 1st quarter 2022 treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report  
1st Quarter 2022

Balance on hand as of January 1, 2022	\$ 14,972,193.50
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 17,015,370.12</u>

	\$ 31,987,563.62
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>(14,411,486.57)</u>
Balance on hand as of March 31, 2022	\$ 17,576,077.05

- **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 1st quarter treasurer’s checks as presented.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to get the full board to adopt the Disaster Declaration that was signed on April 26, 2022 by Chairman Burianek. **Motion by Barta to approve the Disaster Declaration from April 26, 2022.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

WALSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA  
DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Walsh County has the extensive damage to roads, bridges, culverts, farmlands, homes, businesses and other public facilities from overland flooding and flooding of its rivers as they reach or exceed flood stage; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) flood forecast is for the potential for significant river, tributary and overland spring flooding to continue with near record flood levels on the Red River; and

WHEREAS, the County currently has major flooding on the Red River, moderate on Forest River and significant flooding on the Park River, with extensive overland flooding; and

WHEREAS, the potential for additional precipitation during the ongoing event will significantly increase the threat within the watersheds and will increase the damage throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages threaten the health, well-being and public safety of the citizens of Walsh County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of preparedness, clean-up, repair, and replacement of such damaged facilities is far in excess of County resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walsh County Board of Commissioners declares a disaster and orders the activation and utilization of the Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of the emergency upon the citizens of Walsh County.

DATED at Grafton, North Dakota, this 26th day of April 2022.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Kris Molde, Auditor  
Walsh County

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Lawrence Burianek, Chairman  
Walsh County Commission

Chairman Burianek received a phone call from Katie Thompson, 4-H & FCW Agent, in regard to opening up the Fair Building as a shelter for animals and pets from Pembina County should the need arise. The County will allow the Fair Building to be used for shelter for animals during the current flooding.

Commissioner Anderson asked Nelson about the Emergency Operation Plan during the recent flooding in Walsh County. Discussed response and recovery mode, working from home versus being out and about, contact with other agencies and individuals fighting the flood and having a sand bag central station. Recommendations were made for training with cities and training dispatchers in reading a plat map/book.

It was mentioned that the Nelson County pump was running during the flooding. It took NRCS to finally get the pump shut down.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- His meeting with the water board has been rescheduled for their next meeting.
- Gave a flood update. Seven loads of debris have been removed from underneath bridges. Forty seven loads of sand have been delivered and one load of clay. Six bridges have erosion issues, one bridge is washed out and culverts have been washed out too. There is not a road closed sign available in the county. Tickets have gone out for going around a road closed sign. The signs are posted to prevent an accident or death and for the safety of the public. Commissioner Barta thanked Jason and the highway department for their hard work and long hours during the flooding.
- Interviewed KLJ and Houston Engineering for Project BRP-5000(015). KLJ already has hydraulics on 2 of the bridges. **Motion by Barta to approve KLJ for the engineering contract for Project BRP-5000-(015).** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- Informed the commissioners that Brent Nelson would be taking care of FEMA paperwork.

Commissioner Skorheim mentioned that COLA was still around 8-10% and was wondering about giving a 4 or 5% increase now. County does not have to give the whole 8 or 10%, it is up to the commissioner's discretion. Will request that Tanya provide what a 3, 4, and 5% COLA would cost the county.

Commissioners also have been discussing the possibility of increasing the county's share of the BC/BS premium. Sondra Richardson, Deputy Auditor/Payroll, provided data on what it would cost to cover 90% and 100% of the county's health insurance premium. Three employees still receive the \$350 in lieu of health insurance. Discussed increase in salary versus benefits. Also mentioned other measures to attract employees such as sign on bonuses.

There is be no change to the meeting dates for July. They are July 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Report of county offices for fees collected during April: County Recorder \$7,058.06 and Sheriff fees \$1,003.20.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde