

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 4, 2021**

May 4, 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.

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

**Commissioner Burianek moved to approve the April 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and gaming permit for Valley Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club and additions of paving contract, Domestic Violence, Legislative Wrap-up, right of way and administrator position.** Second by Barta. Motion carried.

Tracy Laaveg, Walsh County Historic Preservation President, appeared for approval of the WCHPC 2021 contract. **Motion by Barta to sign the Walsh County Historic Preservation Contract.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. The committee also has 2 open positions. Judge Geiger and Bergit Sobak are willing to serve on the board. **Motion by Anderson to appoint Judge Geiger and Bergit Sobak to the Walsh County Historic Preservation Committee.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Legislative Wrap-up is May 10<sup>th</sup> and can be attended in-person or on-line. For those unable to attend a tape recording of the event can be requested.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the Fricke abatements. It was discovered that an assessor put a structure value on the parcel several years ago. While working on the farm exempt process for this parcel it was discovered that there is no structure. The structure was removed and an abatement filed. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Glenwood Township and the tax director to approve the Fricke abatement for 2019 and 2020.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- John Tweten, owner and Nick Ziegelmann, City Assessor, were present for the Tweten abatement. A physical inspection was done as well as using the Vanguard Approach and the cost approach. Discussed the average sales per square foot. Tweten discussed the current sale prices of property on Main Street and provided a list of current taxes for other downtown businesses. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Grafton City and the tax director to deny the Tweten abatement for 2019 and 2020.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Kenneth & Marilyn Fricke	Glenwood Twp	16-4267	2019 RET	\$267,016
Kenneth & Marilyn Fricke	Glenwood Twp	16-4267	2020 RET	\$273,275
John Tweten	Grafton City	37-10187	2019 RET	Denied

Assessing at the local level is done. We will see if they did enough to meet the requirements. County Board will meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Katie Thompson, 4-H Youth Development/Family and Community Wellness Agent, from the extension office appeared for the following:

- The ground is sloping on the west side of the building and should be built up to prevent any water issues or damage to the building. She has requested bids but has not received anything back yet. It was suggested that maybe the highway department could do the job when time allows.
- The area director would like to see updates to the interior of the extension office as wall paper is peeling and it is outdated. Katie is willing to do the painting and provided an estimate of cost for paint and supplies of approximately \$800.00. **Motion by Burianek to approve the painting project at the extension office.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Wanda Kratochvil, Health District Administrator, appeared to give a Covid update which is more about the vaccine. North Dakota is about 50% vaccinated. For herd immunity the state needs to be at 70%. In Walsh County 8,107 people have been vaccinated which is 53.7% of the population. It is possible that the Pfizer vaccine will be approved for kids 12-16 years old, possibly in the next week. The UK and California variant have been identified in Walsh County. There are 10 sites in Walsh County offering the vaccine. Discussed a resolution. **Motion by Brintnell to sign a resolution to encourage and support vaccination of all eligible citizens.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote Barta, Brintnell, Burianek and Skorheim voted yes. Anderson voted no. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, Walsh County has 53.71% of its citizens vaccinated for COVID-19 which is below the 70% needed for herd immunity, and

WHEREAS, Walsh County continues to have active COVID 19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, and

WHEREAS, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) advises that the benefit of vaccination far outweighs the risks of vaccination, and

WHEREAS, Walsh County businesses and economy will benefit from a 70%+ COVID 19 vaccination rate that allows for more normalized business activity.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Walsh County Board of Commissioners that on behalf of the citizens of Walsh County COVID 19 Vaccination by all eligible citizens is encouraged and supported.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2021.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chairman-Walsh County Commissioners

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 1st quarter treasurer's report. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2021 1st quarter treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report  
1st Quarter 2021

Balance on hand as of January 1, 2021	\$ 12,302,713.10
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 14,690,874.69</u>
	\$ 26,993,587.79
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (13,353,936.17)</u>
Balance on hand as of March 31, 2021	\$ 13,639,651.62

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

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Burianek to approve the utility permit for Polar Communications to install fiber optics in Section 5 of Adams Township and Sections 3/10 of Golden Township.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permit for John Beneda to clean out silt in Section 25, Vesta Township and a drainage permit for Polar Communications in Section 21, Kensington Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permit for Polar Communications in Section 21, Kensington Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Anderson to approve the flowage easement for Polar Communications in Section 21, Kensington Township.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed the boiler inspection and the recharge tank rusting out around the valve. It is a safety issue as if it leaked or burst that would be extremely hot water coming out of it. Custom Aire provided a cost of \$48,880 to replace it. That doesn't include the electrical work. Also discussed an automatic feeder for chemicals and sampling water. **Motion by Anderson to have Custom Aire replace the tank at a cost of \$48,880 with funds for payment to be determined at a later date.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed railroad projects and how they are funded. Discussed whether or not to cost share a 1/3 with the City of Grafton on the 5th Street crossing that's eligible to be replaced. It was decided to wait and see if the full city council approves 100% of the cost share. The contract, more than likely, will need to be in the county's name as the city is not eligible for federal aid due to their population.
- **Motion by Barta to sign the Paving Contract SC-5022-(087) from Forest River to interstate.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented a sample of the maintenance agreement that the county signs for federal aid projects every year which states that we will comply with right of way regulations. It is not fair to those that comply with the ordinance and we have been

fighting this for years. Sharon and State's Attorney Kelley Cole will draft a letter to enforce policy.

The park board will hold their annual meeting at Homme Dam May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Discussed the email from Twila in regard to the bathroom/breakroom flooring on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Chase Building. Commissioners Barta and Skorheim will go and take a look at it.

An updated Covid funds wish list was discussed. Some of the items do not have prices/cost on them and the commissioners would like an estimate. Auditor will send out the new list and request dollar amounts.

Discussed the administrator position briefly.

Report of county offices for fees collected during April: County Recorder \$8,644.70 and Sheriff fees \$2,188.80.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor