

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MAY 5, 2020**

May 5, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. Commissioners met in the Farmers Room.

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

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

Motion by Burianek to approve the April 20, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, Valley Snowdrifters gaming site permit and JR's Gaming Permit and an agenda addition of US Census. Second by Wild. Motion carried.

Joel Hylden is willing to serve on the park board. **Motion by Wild to appoint Joel Hylden to the Walsh County Park Board.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wild asked if we would be opening up the county park. It opened May 1st. Caretaker Susanne Blaire has been in contact with Sharon and Karen. She is following CDC guidelines. The playground remains closed. Restrictions apply to the bathrooms.

Wanda Kratochvil, Health District Administrator, appeared to provide a COVID-19 update.

- She presented an outline of the court system plans on transitioning staff back to the work site in a deliberate manner.
- When we decide to open we need a plan.
- People are fatigued with the quarantine.
- There are 2 strains of COVID in the US, the Italian and Wuhan.
- There hasn't been any complaints from the public about the county buildings being closed or services not being provided. The system is working with the doors locked.
- **Motion by Skorheim for the county buildings to remain closed until the next meeting at which time the commissioners will re-evaluate.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- A committee will be put together and they will work on getting a plan in place for when the buildings open to the public.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented an abatement for Cenex Harvest States for 2018 & 2019. The parcel in question no longer exists. **Motion by Wild to approve the 2018 & 2019 abatements for Cenex Harvest States.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Would like to continue to prepare for county board on June 2nd. Has already sent out 150 notices of increase. Discussed how individuals could attend meeting. **Motion by Wild to continue with preparation for county board on June 2nd. Those wishing to appear should work with Ed by letter, phone, or if they want to appear personally they will wait in their cars, screen them and let in one at a time.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jill Denault, Human Service Director, attended via conference call. Twila Novak discussed a bid for new copier. They are having trouble with the current copier duplexing jobs, pulling paper and parts are no longer available for repairs. This is an indirect cost which the county is responsible for. Costs for copiers are included in their budget. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the purchase of the reconditioned copier for \$1300 and maintenance of \$30 a month.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jill Trenda, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the 1st quarter 2020 treasurer's report and provided comparison to 2019. **Motion by Wild to approve the 1st quarter treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report
1st Quarter 2020

Balance on hand as of January 1, 2020	\$ 10,282,236.84
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 14,641,007.44</u>
	\$ 24,923,244.28
Total Disbursements	<u>\$(13,733,627.85)</u>
Balance on hand as of March 31, 2020	\$ 11,189,616.43

- **Motion Burianek to approve the 1st quarter treasurer's checks as presented.** Second by Skorhiem. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- At convention last year treasurers were told that it is no longer a requirement for them to present Pledge of Assets to the board. The information is not current when she brings it to the commissioners. It is still her job and is reviewed by the state auditors to make sure we are in compliance. Walsh County has funds in most institutes in Walsh County.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented utility permits for Nodak Electric and Tri-County Water District. **Motion by Wild to approve the utility permits for Nodak Electric Cooperative, Section 7/18, Lampton Township and 4 permits for Tri County Water District, Section 22 & 27, Shepherd Township and Section 16, 21, 28 & 34, Sauter Township.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Skorheim to approve the drainage permit for Kevin Zikmund Section 20 in Ops Township.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. If the culvert is bad and Zikmund wants to replace with a 70 foot culvert the county would only pay for 40 feet.
- County Road 2 was heavily damaged in the 2020 Spring Flood. Appears that something has changed due to the volume of water and a request to check dikes has been made. Preliminary numbers need to be reported by Friday to see if a flood declaration will be made.
- Gowan Construction and Triple D Construction will be doing work on flood sites.
- County Road 15 and 19 are not eligible for FEMA. They are Federal Aid roads. Would like to take 2 miles of County Road 15 off of the Federal Aid list so they could be covered by FEMA.
- Kelley Cole is researching who is responsible for flood damage on a legal drain site.
- Susanne Blaire, Caretaker at Homme Dam would like to hire her husband on a part time basis to help with bigger projects and maintenance at the park. **Motion by Barta to allow hiring of her husband for part time help.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call

vote all voted yes. Motion carried. They hope to have the floating dock in by Memorial Day.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Provided a cost comparison for Viper Systems vs. Vesta System. Vesta provided new pricing which would be a cost savings of \$34,000 but are still in the negotiation stage. Will put the project with Viper on hold until we can get final numbers from Vesta.
- Will re-advertise for a dispatch position that was offered to a candidate and turned down.
- Overtime for exempt employees during a declared emergency was discussed. **Motion by Burianek to deny request for overtime pay for exempt employees.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- Current cost of expenses incurred due to COVID-19 for Walsh County are currently \$28,810.63.

Present for the discussion on the LEC Building Contract were Sheriff Ron Jurgens, Chief Deputy Richie Sherlock, Grafton City Administrator Nick Ziegelmann and Assistant Chief of Police Brian Erovick. The city was invited to express their concerns first hand. The current contract expires in June 2020 and the City of Grafton would like to reduce their contribution. The 2020 budget for the LEC is \$561,941. The county pays 2/3 and the city pays 1/3. Discussed incident reports and percentage of calls per entity. The city is not arguing about the LEC building expenses. The issue is the costs for dispatchers and the dispatch center. The City of Grafton feels they are paying for services twice. Alternative dispatch options such as using State Radio, joining other counties, changing to an automated system were discussed. Commissioner Wild stated that the LEC was an experiment back in the 70's and that it worked well for many years. The agencies need to work together to keep it going.

The public is reminded that it is important to participate in the census so that the county and cities don't lose federal dollars.

Report of county offices for fees collected during April: County Recorder \$5,444.20 and Sheriff fees \$1,514.45

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor