

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 7, 2019**

May 7, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

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

**Motion by Wild to approve the April 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, Valley Snowdrifters gaming site authorization and agenda additions of request for signs, Conway Bridge, and auditor's update.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

Brad Brummond, County Agent, appeared for the following:

- The 4-H computer is approximately 10 years old and needs to be replaced. A new laptop and docking station would be \$1,125. The extension office is getting 3 new computers through NDSU and the pesticide funds. They can't justify using pesticide funds for a computer for the fair. **Motion by Anderson to allow the purchase of a laptop and docking station using 25% of the funds from the fair budget and the remaining 75% from the extension budget.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Looks like the funds that were lost last year during legislative session will be restored.
- Julie Zikmund has worked with the county fair in the past and is willing to help since the home economists position hasn't been filled yet and there is no indication when it will be filled. **Motion by Anderson to hire Julie Zikmund part time to assist with the fair.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Brad will be inducted into the National County Agents Hall of Fame on September 11<sup>th</sup> at the National County Agents Meeting in Ft Wayne, IN. No one from ND has ever received this award.
- Provided a bid from Park River Contracting for \$9,545.00 to install wash stalls and fix some safety issues. It is in the fair budget. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the wash stalls and concrete repairs.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Provided information on the Larry Lewis & Donah Kval abatement. Larry Lewis was present. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the 2018 abatement.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Larry Lewis & Donah Kval Kensington Twp 19-4771 2018 RET \$58,112

- Discussed the land use change for the Eugene & Barbara Kachena Trust abatement. Eugene Kachena was present and asked "where did my rocks go in 2018?" Discussed that the detailed soils went into effect in 2018 and that no one got any adjustments. In 2019 anyone can apply for an adjustment due to rocks and that the soils are a work in progress. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the 2018 abatement.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote Skorheim and Wild voted no, Anderson, Burianek and Barta voted yes. Motion carried.

Eugene & Barbara Kachena Trust Rushford Twp 18-4609 2018 RET \$65,528

- Reviewed the second abatement for land use change for Eugene & Barbara Kachena. **Motion by Burianek to follow the recommendation of the tax director and approve the 2018 abatement.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote Skorheim and Wild voted no, Anderson, Burianek and Barta voted yes. Motion carried.

Eugene & Barbara Kachena L-E Rushford Twp 18-4629 2018 RET \$89,093

- The other two 2018 abatements for Kachena which were filed due to the rocks will be denied to follow the protocol already established by the soils committee. Mr. Kachena stated that Ed Sevigny was very accommodating and he appreciated working with him.
- Candidates for the open soils committee position are Stacey Loftsgard, Aaron Kjelland and Darryl Borgeson. Stacey Loftsgard was present. Letters of recommendations were provided. After some discussion Chairman Barta ask for a verbal recommendation with Anderson, Skorheim and Wild supporting Aaron Kjelland. Burianek and Barta supported Stacey Loftsgard. **Motion by Skorheim to appoint Aaron Kjelland to the soils committee.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, Skorheim, Anderson and Wild voted yes. Burianek and Barta voted no. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Gave a flood update. There are 152 flood sites in Walsh County submitted as part of the Preliminary Damage Assessment. This may change as the water continue to recede. None of the cities reported damage at this time.
- The Park River Channel doesn't qualify for any Corps assistance. Individuals can work with NRCS to restore river banks.
- 911 signs were discussed. The concern is to replace missing signs within the county and not to add a sign at every mile. Missing signs on County Road 7 will be replaced. The sign foremen will be made aware to watch for missing signs or posts without signs.
- Provided some information on what other counties have for phone systems, whether they buy or lease and costs. Moving towards IP system is the way of the future but there are some issues with state employees, dispatch and the unknown of social services. **Motion by Skorheim to upgrade the current system with an estimated cost of \$48,044.97.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The SIRN Bill 1435 will not allow for state funds to be used for dispatch centers. The funds can be used for core equipment, towers and cost share on emergency responder radios. Current estimate to replace the radio consoles in dispatch for the new system will cost around \$250,000.00. There will also most likely be additional costs for networking and maintenance. These costs have not been determined yet. The 911 equipment is also in need of being updated or replaced next year and will cost approximately \$110,000 to \$135,000. Nelson was advised not to solicit donations or grants for private or local business, but can apply for state of federal grants if available.
- A new computer for the LEC door access system was added to the NRG order for this year. This would update the computer to Windows 10 which would require updating the door software and programing at a cost of about \$6,000.00 which wasn't

included in this year's budget. Discussed adding two doors at the Courthouse to the system. A second option would be moving to a cloud based system with an annual fee of \$10/door. No action was taken as the security committee has been discussing secure doors with card access. Brent and Sharon will work together on this.

- Brent is the new chairman for the department head meetings and asked the commissioners for guidance at budget time. Auditor will share with department heads the email they received from Tanya just before the meeting. Burianek reminded the group that county general is capped out at 60 mills. The sheriff's department is struggling to keep employees and we need to stay competitive.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent appeared for the following:

- Jay Gudajtes was present for the discussion about the incident where a Gudajtes employee struck a bridge causing damages of \$17,171.43. Gudajtes will no longer honor the offer of paying the county \$16,000. Gudajtes feels it is a signing issue and is looking for damages to harvester. In the past the county has always recouped the costs. Gudajtes insurance won't process the claim without approval from them. **Motion by Wild to start the legal process to recoup cost of damages.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Jay asked why go to Jamestown for contractor? Why not go local? Sharon informed him that there is possible litigation with On the Level and that the Jamestown firm is very knowledgeable in this type of repair and that if it isn't done right there could be future damage to the bridge. Bridges are inspected every 2 years.
- **Motion by Burianek to sign the 2 FEMA agreements presented.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Will be going out at 1:30 today for FEMA assessments. Current flood damage estimates are \$934,199.25. Explained flood procedures, mitigation options and plans for debris cleanup. They have been allowed to make County Road 2 passable at this time.
- Talked to mobile park owners and bill has been rescinded. There were some issues that prevented them from being moved last year. Sharon has been in touch with another individual that is interested in them. She will be in touch with him and they will be removed as soon as possible.
- Discussed commissioners visiting shops and employees then questioning direction of department heads.
- EWP Program will work on Park River Channel because it is an emergency situation. It would be an 80/20 grant.
- Presented new brochures for Homme Dam that were printed through a grant from the health department. Work is being done on the volleyball area and the beach shelters. The dock was ordered and should be installed prior to Memorial Day. Sharon is working on a grant for the dock.
- Load limits have lowered to 5 ton on County Road 15 due to soft road. Lauren Wild left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.
- Skorheim requested trucks entered signs for County Road 11.
- Conway Bridge was brought up again but we are waiting for farmers or townships to come forward and possible help with costs.
- County Road 12B project is scheduled for mid-summer.

**Motion by Anderson to accept and participate in the watershed planning.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Wild absent for vote.

There were no applicants for the planning and zoning position that is open and was advertised. Meeting to be determined at a later date.

There are 171 parcels on the delinquent tax list. Approximately 400 certified letters will go out later this week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Molde, Auditor