

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

November 16, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Skorheim, Commissioners Anderson, Barta, and Burianek. Commissioner Brintnell attended via telephone.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the November 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of flex spending increase, highway superintendent, equipment rental, vehicle policy, mowing policy, food box and department head meeting. Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

For the tax year 2022 the maximum flex spending contributions will increase from \$2,750 to \$2,850.

Chairman Skorheim informed the commissioners that a food box was installed by the Administrative Building. Choice Financial was looking for a secure location to install it. Choice will also be responsible for stocking the food box. It is there for the public to utilize.

Commissioners would like to see a department head meeting held sometime in December once the new highway superintendent and veterans officer are on board.

Discussed increasing the cost of mowing ditches from \$100 to \$500. Discussed deadlines and the cost to the county for mowing ditches. **Motion by Burianek to increase the fee for mowing weeds from \$100 to \$500 and to move the deadline to October 15th.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta asked if we should be renting out major equipment such as the dozer, cat and trucks and if others should be operating our equipment. Some of the equipment is older and finding replacement pieces could be difficult. **Motion by Barta not to rent major equipment such as the cat, dozer and trucks unless our employees are running the equipment.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, presented a bid for 2 Ford Interceptors, for 2022. Dealerships are recommending ordering as soon as possible as wait times can be up to a year. **Motion by Barta to approve the bid and order 2 Ford Interceptors for 2022 from Nelson Auto Center for \$81,897.24.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. They will sell the vehicles out right. There will be an additional cost of \$12,000-\$15,000 for items such as radios, lights and sirens.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented an abatement for Linette Kratochvil. The request was to reduce the true and full value to \$17,600. Using the cost approach method a true and full value of \$20,500 was recommended. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Lankin City and the tax director to approve the Kratochvil abatement for \$20,500 for all 3 years.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Linette Kratochvil	Lankin City	47-14104	2019 RET	\$20,500
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- With the help of Val Demester, Deputy Tax Director and Officer Graham the current process for mobile home taxes has been working well and all mobile home taxes are paid up.
- A new home was constructed without a building permit. Discussed the building permit process. The auditor and tax director will look at process and bring recommendation to the planning and zoning board next time they meet. Will request a building permit from Pesek.

Commissioner Barta announced that Jason Johnston was hired as the new highway superintendent. He will start on December 1st.

Kelly Desautel Lessard, Interim Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented two utility permits for Polar Communication to move fiber optic lines to the east side of the road. Previously, the line was put in erroneously on the west side and hit drain tile. **Motion by Anderson to approve both of the utility permits for Polar Communication on County Road 8, Section 22, 27, 34 and County Road 15, Section 23 & 26, Prairie Township.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Mark A. Novak reapplied for a flowage easement. Present for the Novak flowage easement were Mark A Novak and his Attorney Zenas Baer. Zenas discussed the policy issue and it being a private issue with Polar Communications. Was appreciative that Polar Communication took responsibility and is correcting it. **Motion by Burianek to approve the flowage easement for Mark A Novak, Section 27, Prairie Centre Township.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The Mark A. Novak permit was withdrawn.

Pursuant to public advertisement, the sale of real estate forfeited to Walsh County for delinquent taxes was held at 10:00 a.m.

The following parcels were sold:

39-12630	Lots 8 & 9 Bk 8 Gillespies Addition, Minto	Chris Lizakowski	\$3,600.00
39-12646	Tr in NE1/4SE1/4 .5A 31-156-52 UCL, Minto	Brenda Lunski	\$ 88.35
47-14108	Lots 3 & 4, Bk 17 OT, Lankin	John Shirek	\$ 918.01
48-14301	Lot 19 & 20 Bk 13 OT, Adams	Merle Larson	\$ 760.09
49-14543	Lot 8 Bk 11 OT, Fairdale	Tim Bradford	\$ 280.47

The remaining parcels will be offered to the respective cities for sale.

The County Vehicle Policy was discussed. The policy states that County-owned vehicles cannot be used for personal use. Discussed whether county vehicles should be left on campus at night or allowed to be driven home. The highway department logo will be added to the highway superintendent's pickup and under no circumstances should the GPS ever be shut off on any county vehicle. County vehicles cannot be used for personal use and the policy will be enforced going forward.

The Lankin Shop roof is on hold due to the weather.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor