

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 02, 2020**

November 2, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Barta to approve the October 20, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and addition of township bridge. Second by Barta. Motion carried.

Motion by Skorheim to approve the Northern Valley Human Service Zone Plan as presented. Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared via telephone to present the Application for Abatement for a farm residence exemption for Dennis and Marlene Kovarik L-E. **Motion by Wild to follow the recommendation of the Latona Township and the tax director to approve the Kovarik abatement for 2020.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Dennis & Marlene Kovarik L-E Latona Twp 30-7275 2020 RET \$71,553

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared via telephone for the following:

- Jill Trendera, Treasurer, was also present to follow-up on the flood transfers which were approved at the last meeting. Managing the accounts on paper are different than when dealing with actual bank accounts. Can't have the FEMA bank account with a negative balance. FEMA accounts can't earn interest. Those funds necessary to cover the transfers will need to come out of county general. The transfer will be made and the bond/misc. road fund will be made whole.
- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permits for Steve Johnson, Farmington Township, Section 30; Cameron Bina, Cleveland Township, Section 18; Greg Feltman, Acton Township, Section 11; Brad Narloch, Grafton Township, Section 1; Evergreen Farms, Acton Township, Section 24; Nick Desautel, Martin Township, Section 30; Nick Desautel, Farmington Township, Section 26 & 35;** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Burianek to approve the utility permit for Polar Communications, Prairie Centre, Section 28 & 29.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Barta to sign the Advanced Assistance grant agreement for the study of County Road 2.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Townships are ok with the agreement and all interested parties have been a part of the conversation.
- There are funds left over in the Federal Aid Program that is available to counties. We have designs ready for County Road 9 & 19. Should the county look at borrowing ahead 3-4 years? We could look at County Road 19 from Forest River to Interstate and accept bids in February and pave it in the summer. We would need to cover 20% cost share. It could save us money in the long run. **Motion by Barta to move forward and look for funding for the County Road 19 project.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes motion carried.

- The Widdell Bridge is closed due to rotted stingers. It will be repaired with used beams in the county stockpile and rated for cars and pickups only. No trucks.
- The bridge on County Road 2 south of County Road 15 has a rotten pile in the north abutment. Swinger will provide a bid to drive the pile.
- Soft spot repair started today by Forest River and should take about a week and a half. It is experimental. Only expense is labor and equipment.
- John Maxwell will be retiring at the end of the year. Sharon will look at other options such as contracting out mowing, snow removal and or cleaning and bring back some suggestions to the commissioners.
- The court security committee recommended applying for the court facility grant for automatic locks/bullet resistance on the judge's chambers and the front doors. Sharon will work on getting some bids for the proposed project.
- Sharon was asked to look into the culverts on a township road in Ops Township. Looks like culverts are too high. Commissioner Barta got a call from Grabanski's but they had not reached out to Sharon.

Motion by Wild for the county commission to pass a non-binding resolution strongly encouraging people to wear their masks, practice good social distancing and be very cognizant of their fellow man as we are all in this together. Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote Barta, Burianek, Skorheim and Wild voted yes. Chair Anderson voted no.

Report of county offices for fees collected during October: County Recorder \$6,621.00 and Sheriff fees \$1,201.61.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor