

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

November 2, 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 Barta moved to approve the October 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, BTAG, LEC Janitor/Buildings and Grounds, Administrator position, appreciation party and Planning & Zoning. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

The Employee Appreciation Party Committee asked if the County would consider giving a day off as a prize. Commissioners would prefer to keep prizes to donated items.

Commissioner Barta asked about moving forward with the county administrator position. He doesn't want to put any more time into it if the commissioners are not on board. Chairman Skorheim and Commissioner Barta talked to the Grafton City Administrator about the position. Feels we are missing out on money from grants the county isn't aware of. Discussed combining positions. **Motion by Brintnell to pursue the county administrator position.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote Anderson, Barta, Brintnell and Skorheim voted yes. Commissioner Burianek voted no. Motion approved.

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

- Introduced the new part time janitor for the LEC Building Gary Quiring.
- Present were members from Border Township Associative Group (BTAG) Gary Babinski, Derek Gowan, George Wosick and James Bergman. They are looking for funds to keep going. Gary provided some background on the project. Discussed the funding needs, 317-17 area and how it would help County Road 2. **Motion by Anderson to support BTAG with the request for \$3849 from the highway department funds.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented drainage permits. **Motion by Anderson to approve the drainage permits for the Hankey Farm, Section 26, Prairie Centre; Jared Gowan, Gowan Construction, Section 35, Walshville Township; 2 permits for Cyril Suda and Sons, Section 13 & 23, Acton Township.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Travis Bell permit is denied as he is in violation of the right of way on County Road 19. He may resubmit the permit when the bales are removed from the right of way.
- After a lengthy discussion about the Mark A. Novak permits, grass planting and right of way issues **Anderson made a motion to approve the drainage permit and flowage easement and deny the utility permit for Mark A. Novak, Section 27, Prairie Centre Township.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes.

Motion carried. Grass will need to be planted after the project is completed and it will have to shift the project away from Walsh Water.

- **Motion by Barta to amend the motion and request a new flowage easement application from Mark A. Novak instead of signing the one with wording stricken out.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Dean Thompson and Eric Abrahamson designed and fabricated a Guardrail Maintainer to remove snow from the guardrails. They received Regional and State awards at the conference in Sioux Falls, SD. Their Guardrail Maintainer will move on to the national level of competition.
- Discussed the new LEC janitor position as some clarification was needed. When discussing filling the position it was determined that it could be as little as 5 hours a week and that the individual had to stay under 20 hours a week as it is a non-benefited position. Previous conversations indicated it could possibly work into cleaning the Chase Building and other tasks. The interim highway superintendent will create some check lists for each building and continue to supervise the janitor. Kelly asked for a month to work out schedules in which time she would report her findings.

Commissioner Burianek informed the commissioners that David Vaughn has been hired to fill the Veterans Service Officer position. He will start on December 1st. Katrina will train him for 2 weeks and will be done on December 15th.

Reviewed the CARES Fund wish list and the balance which is approximately \$516,000. Safety is a big concern. Auditor will get an updated bid for front door auto locks and for siding the Administrative Building. Discussed the ARPA Funds and loss of revenue.

Discussed a building permit or lack of one, the resolution and timeframes.

Report of county offices for fees collected during October: County Recorder \$5,502.82 and Sheriff fees \$1,255.00.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor