

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 20, 2020**

October 20, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Burianek to approve the October 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes and agenda additions of lockdown policy and Valley Snowdrifters Gaming Site Authorization for electronic pull tab devices. Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Motion by Barta to approve the bid for \$2,200, gold metallic vinyl, to update the Chase Building sign from Social Services to Northern Valley Human Service Zone. Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed writing a letter in support of filling the Judgeship No. 5 vacancy. State's Attorney Cole will draft a letter for the commissioners.

Ballots sent out to date are 4,022 with 2,373 ballots returned. Ads will be ran in the paper, on the radio and on the Channel 3/Chamber and Polar Channels.

Commissioners reviewed the 2020 Tax Appraisal List. Sale price is 3 years back taxes plus an estimated 2020 taxes and specials and a \$20 recording fee. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2020 Appraisal List as presented.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta and Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, will postpone looking at gravel pits until next spring.

Jill Trendera, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 3rd quarter treasurer's report. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the 3rd quarter treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report
3rd Quarter 2020

Balance on hand as of July 1, 2020	\$10,043,317.47
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,874,979.31</u>
	\$11,918,296.78
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,036,805.91)</u>
Balance on hand as of September 30, 2020	\$ 8,881,490.87

- **Motion by Burianek to approve the 3rd quarter treasurer's checks as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, appeared for the following:

- Sheriff, Ron Jurgens would like the County to enroll in the NDPERS Public Safety Retirement Plan for deputies, certified corrections officers and all eligible employees. The Public Safety Plan has a rate of 16.45% which is 1.19% higher than the regular plan which is at 15.26%. Employees can retire at age 55 or Rule of 85. Eligible employees would rollover in the new plan. It would also be a good recruitment and retention tool for the sheriff's office as several applicants have asked if the County is enrolled in it. Currently there are 39 cities and counties participating in the Public Safety Plan. The additional cost could be picked up by the county, the employee or could be divided between the two. It is a 2 month process. **Motion by Barta to approve joining the NDPERS Public Safety Defined Benefit Plan with the additional 1.19% being paid 50% by the county and 50% by the employee.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- The 360 Evaluation Process is ready to go and Tanya would like to send it to the commissioners for feedback. Portfolio holders and one commissioner could evaluate department heads. Department heads would evaluate their own employees. Co-workers could evaluate on attitude, response time and other general questions but should skip what they don't have knowledge of. The evaluations are not meant to cause trouble. It should be done with an open mind and without finger pointing.
- Job descriptions for the court security officer and the jail nurse have been created but Tanya would like to get some input from Wanda at the health department.

Pursuant to NDCC 57-28-11 the public Tax Appraisal Hearing was held. No one from any city or township appeared for the hearing. Minimum sales prices will remain as presented.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Barta to approve the Dan & Ernie Dusek Drainage permit in Walsh Centre Township, NE1/4 in Section 6.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted us. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Skorheim to approve the Drainage Permit for Mark A Novak, Prairie Centre, Section 25 & 26.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Burianek to approve the utility permit for Nodak Electric Section 13/18, Township 156 Range 51/52.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Skorheim to sign the annual Maintenance Certification for county federal aid projects.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- When the bridge crew needs a concrete saw they have been borrowing one. Acme electric has a Hasquarna FS 309 on sale for \$1863. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the purchase of the Hasquarna FS 309 for \$1863 from Acme Electric.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The sign truck is currently listed on Public Surplus online auction.
- Bond/Misc. highway money is being used to cover flood expenses. In the past we have ran the flood accounts in the red until reimbursed from FEMA arrive. Covid expenses have also been spent out of that fund and need to be reimbursed. The highway department is losing money on the interest in that account. Plus, the County is required to pay 15% cost share on the FEMA projects which is \$85,086.30 for the 2019 spring flood. **Motion by Barta to transfer \$85,086.30 from the Emergency Fund to the Bond/Misc. Road Fund and to reimburse the Bond/Misc. Road Fund the borrowed funds and go back to running the flood accounts in the negative until the FEMA money comes in.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

- The NDDOT Local Government Summit is October 29th from 9:00 to 4:00.
- There was a joint meeting with Walsh, Pembina and Cavalier Counties and American Crystal Sugar. These are the only counties not following Grand Forks County overweight permit. Pre-pile is an issue. The loads are legal by axle weight. American Crystal would like the County to approve the overweight permit of 129,000 starting early August. **Motion by Barta to change the stating date to August 1st for the overweight permit of 129,000.** Motion failed for lack of second.
- DJ Gosselin has been promoted to the Bridge Foreman and there may be another individual possibly moving into the Sign Foremen position. That would leave a truck driver position open.
- Discussed the incident from last week and the Armed or Violent Person (Active Shooter /Lockdown Policy). There were things that went right and things that went wrong. The south door wouldn't lock and the power had to be shut off to it in order to get it to lock. We need one person in charge during these types of incidents to answer employee questions and relay information. We need a campus wide approach. There is a court security meeting tomorrow and Sharon would like to send an email to employees for their input so the employee's issues can be addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor