

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

October 15, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Motion by Anderson to approve the October 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes and additions of appointment to Walsh County Historical Preservation Commission, lodging rates, Audubon Program, disaster declaration, county park update, County Road 12B, prisoners/jail and planning & zoning update. Second by Wild. Motion carried.

Motion by Wild to reappoint Jon McMillan and Dennis Markusen for 3 year terms on the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission. Second by BuriANEK. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Effective October 1, 2019 the in-state lodging rate for North Dakota has increased to \$86.40.

Discussed a letter to the commissioners from the Audubon Society asking for letter of support for their grant proposal. Tabled until a copy of the proposal and more information is obtained.

Motion by Anderson to declare a Disaster Declaration for Walsh County due to the recent rains, snow, saturation and flooding. Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

**WALSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
DISASTER DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, Walsh County has had damage to roads, bridges, culvers, farmlands, agricultural crops, homes, businesses and other public facilities from excessive fall rainfall, fall blizzard, overland flooding and flooding of its rivers as they reach and exceed flood stage; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) flood outlooks indicate the potential for significant tributary flooding with major flooding on the Red River currently occurring within the county, and

WHEREAS, the county has received record rainfall, followed by a record fall blizzard, which has led to record flooding along the Red River, for this time of year; and

WHEREAS, the potential for additional precipitation during the fall will significantly increase the threat within the watersheds and will increase the risk throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages threaten the health, economic welfare, well-being and public safety of the citizens of Walsh County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of preparedness, clean-up, agricultural loss, facility repair, and replacement of such damaged facilities is far in excess of County resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walsh County Board of Commissioners declares an disaster and orders the activation and utilization of the Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of the emergency upon the citizens of Walsh County.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Burianek to approve a one-time fee of \$540 for Sidwell to create a GIS layer for the 10% Red River area adjustments and incorporate this into the annual FARMS calculation of Ag land values.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed the Vanguard network license which would cost \$3,850 and could be installed now and billed after January 1, 2020. The service contract would be for 4 years at \$1,825 per year. Both were budgeted for in the 2020 budget. **Motion by Wild to sign the Vanguard License agreement and service contract.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- During a recent fire drill it was discovered that the lower level of the Chase Building was not getting notifications. **Motion by Wild to install speakers in the lower level of the Chase Building at an estimated cost of \$1368.50.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- With the recent weather delay and working on the county fair, the mobile homes the County has taken have not been removed yet. The mobile homes in Park River will be taken care of first.
- Gave a flood update. County Road 15 may close today.
- County Road 12B needs some sun and time to setup. They will try work it again on Thursday or Friday.
- The cut on County Road 6 from Drain 87 was not done right. Sharon provided some advice to the engineer to correct the issue.
- The commissioners complimented Sharon and the highway crew for being prepared for the weekend storm and their hard work.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared to discuss the following:

- They would like to have an active shooter training on November 8th at 3:30 p.m. including all the county building on campus. **Motion by Anderson to close the county buildings on campus at 3:30 on November 8th for an active shooter training.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Number of prisoners are down allowing for maintenance in the jail cells. Exit signs have been installed.
- A Park River deputy has resigned. **Motion by Anderson to advertise to fill the position.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed truck regulatory deputy and overloads which would have been covered if they had applied for an overweight permit. Also discussed the road hazard while weighing trucks.

Motion by Skorheim to approve the second reading of all of the updates and removal of 4.15 to the policy book as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

2.3 Hiring Procedures, 2.3 B Veteran's Preference, 2.5 Introductory Period, 2.6 Political Activity, 3.1 Work Week, 3.3 Classification & Compensation Plan, 3.4 Compensatory Time & Overtime Pay, 4.1 Annual Leave, 4.6 Jury & Witness Duty, 4.8 Holidays, 4.14 Life Insurance, 5.2 Termination or Discipline, 6.1 Confidentiality and 6.3 County Vehicle Operation.

It is the opinion of the Assistant State's Attorney, JR Steele, that a resolution is needed for the Planning & Zoning Committee to update their rates for building permits and fees. Commissioner Wild will work on a resolution and a letter to the cities to formalize what the County is doing and to have it in place by January 1, 2020.

Susan Blair was interviewed on October 4th and has been hired as the new County Park Caretaker.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor