

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

October 19, 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 Brintnell moved to approve the October 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of Employee Appreciation Party, Lankin Shop and Vernon Township Bridge. Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

The County will have an Employee Appreciation Party on December 17th at the Alexander House in Park River. Angelle French, Val Dalbey, Ed Sevigny and Mickey Demester volunteered to plan the party this year.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared during employee time to ask about advertising an old generator and old dispatch furniture for sale. He will advertise for bids on the items. Just filled one dispatch position and now another dispatcher has resigned. Briefly discussed burn ban. **Motion by Barta to cancel the burn ban.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Discussed the drainage permit for Mark A. Novak where the drain tile would run in the right of way. If utility companies called 811 for a located the drain tile won't be located. **Motion by Burianek to table the permit until conditions are meet on previous drainage permits.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- The bundled bridge projects have been updated. County Road 9 is designed ready to be completed if funds become available. **Motion by Anderson to approve the 2022 Federal Aid Program as presented.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Should work on adding the next road project after #9. UGPTI is a great resource for road assessments.
- **Motion by Barta to sign the Annual Maintenance Certification for County Federal Aid Project as presented.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed closing out the 2019 and 2020 flood projects. **Motion by Anderson to approve the transfer of \$78,890.79 from the Emergency Fund to the 2019 and 2020 flood projects to clear out the accounts for eligible expenses.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The transitional plan for the highway department was discussed. Stuart Swartz, Ryan Kalbrener and Kelly Lessard all have areas of expertise. Ryan will handle culverts and bridges. Stuart will handle equipment. Kelly will handle office items. For HR issues Kelly will reach out to Ernie and then HR if needed. **Motion by Brintnell to have**

Stuart Swartz, Ryan Kalbrener and Kelly Lessard as interim highway superintendents. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried. There is a process in place for Mud on Roadway which Tami and Kelly have handled and will continue to handle. Ryan and Stuart will work on snow removal.

- Kelley Cole is Risk Management which handles liability issues. The Safety Director manages workers compensation claims. Kelly has attend all the safety training with Sharon and helps with claims. **Motion by Barta to name Kelly Lessard as Safety Director.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Mickey Demester, Janitor, has been cleaning at the LEC Building so that she can train the new part time person. Sheriff, Ron Jurgens, said that Mickey is doing a great job over at the LEC Building. Discussed the new hire taking over cleaning at the Chase Building. Mickey is currently cleaning the commons area in the Chase Building. **Motion by Anderson to put Mickey in charge of Buildings and Grounds as a supervisor.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote Anderson and Burianek voted yes. Brintnell, Barta and Skorheim voted no. Motion failed. Kelly and Mickey have been handling most of it and will continue too. More discussions need to be had and changes can be made down the road.
- Discussed non-highway events going to the emergency manager. Currently Sharon is the applicant agent for townships which requires processing their paperwork.
- County Roads 12B and 19 still need to be signed for right of way.
- The Homme Dam Shelter needs to be tested for asbestos and the soil sampled. The grant does not cover these expenses. The project will hopefully be completed next spring or summer. **Motion by Anderson to approve the \$1000 cost for the asbestos study.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The Gudajtes Trial is December 3rd.
- Concrete at Gudajtes Bridge and Fordville Bridge are not complete yet. Sharon has been working with the contractor to try get it done this fall.
- The materials for the Shop 4 roof should be in any day. Pastorek Construction is ready to work on it as soon as the materials arrive. They will do half the roof at a time.
- Will need to send funds back to FEMA for fraudulent claims by a Harriston Township officer who claimed to do work as a contractor. Supervisor for the township want the money sent back.
- Mentioned the Vernon Township Bridge. It is recommended that the County follow the bridge policy.
- Commissioners thanked Sharon and wished her good luck.
- Wade from KLJ Engineering handed out his business card to the commissioners and has worked with Sharon to wrap up several projects and is available in the interim to help in any way he can.

No one appeared for the Tax List Objection Hearing. Two parcels have been added to the list for NSF payment of the 2018 taxes. A parcel in Minto that is in the County's name was also added.

Jill Trendera, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented the 3rd quarter treasurer's report. Compared revenue and disbursements. **Motion by Burianek to approve the 3rd quarter treasurer's report as presented.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report
3rd Quarter 2021

Balance on hand as of July 1, 2021	\$11,902,857.91
Total Receipts	\$ 3,145,097.92
	\$15,047,955.83
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,573,820.55)</u>
Balance on hand as of September 30, 2021	\$11,474,135.28

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

Katie Thompson, 4-H & FCW Agent for the Extension Office, appeared for the following:

- Discussed a bid from Samson's Electric for LED lighting in the extension office which could be paid in part by a grant. **Motion by Brintnell to move forward with grant and replace the lights in the extension office with LED lighting.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Mentioned installing electronic handicap doors.
- Provided pictures of the bathrooms which are probably all original. Discussed making them ADA compliant. Katie will get bids for remodeling the bathrooms.
- Recommended Jon Beneda as the fair delegate. **Motion by Anderson to appoint Jon Beneda as the Walsh County State Fair Delegate.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed request for letter of support from Red River Regional Council.

Tanya Weiler, HR Director, stopped in at the commission meeting as they are conducting 2 interviews for the Veterans Service Officer position. Tanya also explained the Indeed job posting process which was used for the highway superintendent position. So far there are only 2 applications for the highway superintendent position with the deadline of this Friday, October 22nd. **Motion by Anderson to allow extending advertising of the highway superintendent position if necessary until the position is filled.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. Discussed hiring process, interviewing committee and incorporating some different and creative steps to the interviewing process. Tanya also reminded the commissioner that until they have final candidates for the position the candidate names are not open to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor