

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 1, 2019**

October 1, 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 Skorheim to approve the September 17, 2019 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of Veseleyville, planning & zoning, state's attorney grant and Bylin Dam.** Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

Commissioner Skorheim will check with the water board on the status of the manure and equipment on public property.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Wild to allow the tax director to approve abatements in the office based upon already approved Ag land adjustments going forward. Anything questionable would be brought before the Commission for approval.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Gave a soils committee update. The soils committee approved 2 adjustments. The first was to increase the PI reduction for 33 ridge soil types to 15% for 2020. The other adjustment was for frequent flooding in a designated area along the Red River. This is a 10% reduction to productive Ag land acre values. There would need to be about a 1% increase overall to the entire soil valuation schedule to offset these approved adjustments. **Motion by Skorheim to approve the recommendation of the soils committee to adjust the 33 ridge area soil type PI's to a 15% reduction and the 10% frequent flooding reduction in the designated area along the Red River to productive Ag land acre values.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Anderson to accept the quote from Sidwell for \$770 to get the data needed to properly update the 2020 Ag land valuation schedule.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Would like to send the Deputy Tax Director to training in Bismarck for Class II Assessor Certification. The recorder's office would be closed for 2 days as the training falls on the same days that the recorder has already scheduled annual leave. The recorder's office will post closing on county calendar and use other media to notify the public.
- **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of the tax director and decrease the structure value to \$5000.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Had a conversation with the water board about drainage permits. The board does not want to sign off on drainage permits for general maintenance any more. **Motion by Burianek to approve the drainage permits for James Aasand, Farmington Twp; Aaron Kjelland, Vesta Twp and Walsh County Water Resource District, Walshville Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed the bridges that they recently visited on the bridge tour and the order in which they would like to prioritize them. Bridge 150-19 S of Warsaw would be added to the replacement list, 144-31 the Ardoch bypass might be replaced if the Forest River diversion occurs. The county will need to decide what to do with it in the future. 140-22.1 NE of Forest River will be closed when it is no longer safe. 129-19 by Zikmunds could more than likely be replaced with culverts when the time comes. Bridge 126-24 SE of Fordville will be #1 on the replacement list due to the lack of crossings for the Forest River in the area. Bridge 134-12 is just west of the start of Drain 87. This structure will more than likely need to be replaced with a box when the time comes. . Until we know who is responsible for bridges over legal drain we will hold off on those bridges. The list can be adjusted if something comes up. **Motion by Anderson to approve the Federal Aid Program for 2020 as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Sign truck seems to be running fine now. Should still be on the lookout for a truck if one becomes available.
- Discussed a letter received from Grant Shaft in regard to returning old right of way along State Highway #32 to Bina's. **Motion by Anderson to sell back the abandon right of way for \$1.00 and follow previous practice of returning it to the adjacent landowner.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Sharon and Kelley recently attended safety training. We can expect to see Work Force Safety policy changes coming in regards to drug testing and requiring high visibility clothing to be worn in certain circumstances.
- **Motion by Burianek to approve the annual maintenance certification.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The mobile homes haven't been removed yet so the highway department will start working on removing them.
- Have only had 3 applications for the truck driver position.
- There will be some ditching and cleaning out on the culvert on County Road #8 near Vesleyville.

Kelley Cole, State's Attorney, appeared to discuss the opioid litigation in light of some new information. When she contacted the lawyer to request being dropped from the ligation they said they didn't need all the information. Kelley reached out to

Commissioners Anderson and Barta and it was decided that the County should send what they can. The fact sheet, 5 years of budgets and the certification were submitted. State's Attorney Cole asked the commissioners if they want to withdraw from the litigation or let it play out. **Motion by Anderson not to withdraw from litigation and move forward with it.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared to discuss the County Coroner position. Information from Aaron Birst, legal counsel of the NDACo, was presented to the commissioners. In some counties the county coroner may be a funeral directors, sheriff or other law enforcement, doctors or other medical personnel. Century Code sets out responsibilities and guidelines for the position. The County should have a contract for the position. In the past the on call doctor at Unity Medical Center or First Care Health Center would handle the duties. Ron will reach out to the hospitals to see if some type of agreement can be made.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Presented a bid from Tecta American for LEC roof repair. **Motion by Wild to accept the bid from Tecta America to repair the LEC roof for \$10,640.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote Wild, Skorheim, Anderson and Barta voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.
- Discussed the door access for the LEC and admin building which needs to be updated. Stone's Security has been maintaining the system since it was installed. Stone's is a cloud based service and there would be no need for a new computer or software. Windows 10 is not compatible with the system. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid from Stone's Security for \$5,105.70 to update the LEC/admin building door access.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote Wild, Skorheim, Anderson and Barta voted yes. Burianek voted no. Motion carried.

The purchasing of vehicles was discussed. A policy isn't necessary as it was the consensus of the board that state bids should be used for purchasing of county vehicles.

**Motion by Burianek to reappoint Allen Ruzicka as a state fair delegate as he is willing to continue to serve on it.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Anderson to approve the 2020 budget as presented with no mill increases. The Park River and Forest River Joint Water mills will drop to zero. The County Library will receive \$110,000 of the 2.5 mills designated for library.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wild is checking with the State's Attorney's office to see if a new ordinance or resolution is needed to implement new permit fees and fines for planning & zoning. The Planning & Zoning Committee is short 2 members now.

Chris Ferguson in the State's Attorney Office received a grant for \$500 to purchase a new desk.

Report of county offices for fees collected during September: County Recorder \$5,836.00 and Sheriff fees \$2,168.18.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor