

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 5, 2022**

October 5, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Burianek, Commissioners Anderson, Barta, Brintnell and Skorheim.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

At 9:00 a.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Skorhiem moved to approve the September 20, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of legislative update and Park River Tax Exempt Letter.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Sherry O'Toole, Treasurer, appeared during employee time to inform the commissioners that Debbie French, Deputy Treasurer, plans to retire January 1<sup>st</sup>. Her last day will be December 9<sup>th</sup>. She will use vacation time for the rest of the month. **Motion by Brintnell to advertise and fill the position with the understanding that this person could also possibly be used as a float.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented the Sidwell Contract due for renewal at \$3990. Sidwell is used for land use maintenance and calculating values. There is also a one-time fee of \$1750 for a soils type update which is done about every 3 years. **Motion by Barta to sign the Sidwell Contract.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burianek received a letter from the City of Park River for a 5-year tax exemption for Toews Property. They are building a shop and office. **Motion by Anderson to approve the 5-year exemption for Toews.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissioners that a correction officer has resigned. **Motion by Skorheim to advertise and fill the position.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a bill for more bridge inspections. **Motion by Skorheim to sign and approve the NDDOT bill for \$21,477.85.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Gave a FEMA update. All paperwork has been submitted. FEMA is questioning some of the sites so they are trying to get someone up here to inspect them.
- Discussed sign order. **Motion by Barta to accept the sign bid from Newman Signs for \$52,237.18.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. It will be paid out of the HB 1505 funds.

- Highway department is on top of roadside mowing. Doesn't look like the county will have mowing to bill out this year.
- Is looking into an AutoCAD program. It could be used to help design the jail and reduce architect cost. He would need a new computer as his won't handle the program. Waiting on a cost from NRG. Barnes County will share their plans from their jail.
- Will be attending the Regional Local Road Conference in Rapid City October 18-20, 2022.

Commission Skorheim stated that the jail committee is basically at a place where we need to make a decision if we are going to move forward with the jail because they are at a place where they will need to start spending some money. He was wondering if the vote should be postponed because there could possibly be 3 new commissioners in December. Kelley Cole informed the commissioners that the county can bond 5% of the county's valuation which is 3 mills. It can go to a vote of the people but that only allows up to an additional 3 mills. Mentioned other funding options such as Bank of North Dakota and USDA Rural Development. **Motion by Barta to continue to move forward with the plan to build a new jail.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried. The jail committee has another meeting scheduled for next Friday.

Commissioner Barta gave an update on the NDPERS Study and tax relief proposal for the upcoming 2023 legislative session.

Kris Molde, Auditor, informed the commissioners that the expenses for the county general fund are too high. Discussed individual budgets, potential places to cut and revenue. Will reach out to Tanya for numbers to see if changing the 4% cost of living increase to 2% would have much of an impact on the budget. Asked Sheriff Jurgens and Highway Superintendent to sharpen their pencils and try to reduce their budgets. Auditor will also look at budgets and revenue again. Commissioners will meet again on Monday at 8:30 to finalize the budget.

Report of county offices for fees collected during September; County Recorder \$7,067.30 and Sheriff fees \$1,948.02.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

---

Lawrence Burianek, Chairman

Attest:

---

Kris Molde