

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 6, 2021**

October 6, 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 Anderson moved to approve the September 21, 2021 regular meeting minutes, September 27, 2021 special meeting minutes, monthly bills, veteran's service position, lawsuit updates, LEC cleaning, Lankin Shop, Kjelland Bridge and DOT funds. Second by Burianek. Motion carried.

The County will have an Employee Appreciation Party this year. The Alexander House in Park River asked to be put on the rotation for the appreciation party. The auditor will reach out to see if they can accommodate our group all in one room as we have a program and hand out awards. An email will be sent out for volunteers to organize the event.

Katrina Hodny, Veterans Service Officer, appeared to discuss the Memo of Understanding with Pembina County. The purpose of the memo is to define the agreement for cost sharing the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program when Walsh County Veterans utilize the service. The fees would come out of the Veterans Service Budget and would never be more than \$100 a week. **Motion by Anderson to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Pembina and Walsh County.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Walsh County needs to appoint a Delegate to the North Dakota State Fair Board. Chairman Skorheim will reach out to the fair board for a recommendation.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared to discuss the burning ban. The fire departments that responded to Brent's email were in favor of keeping the burning ban on. It has been working and most counties still have one in place. Walsh County will keep the burn ban in place for now.

The auditor presented the 2021 Tax Appraisal List and explained the process. The commissioners reviewed the 22 parcels, 2 of which are carried over from previous years. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2021 Tax Appraisal List.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Sarah Johnston, District Manager, Jarod Matzke, Assistant Manager and Brent Risky, Soil Conservation Board Member appeared to request ARPA funds. Sarah provided charts for the loss of revenue. They had a loss of revenue and need to make improvements to the building. They had a loss of sales as people were not stopping in during Covid. They are capped at 2.5 mills and are looking for ways to stabilize their revenue.

The Soil Conservation District facility is in need of renovation. Sarah also provided a document with a list of issues and some pictures. The mouse infestation is the biggest issue.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Reviewed bids from Butler and RDO Equipment for the new motor grader. The 772G on the bid list does not meet the specs requirement. Discussed buyback, net bid and loan value. Could get a loan from First United Bank with an interest rate of 1.74%. Hopefully the new motor grader will be here in April or May. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid from Butler for the 160M3 with a guaranteed buyback of \$145,000 Net bid of \$49,000 and a loan value of \$194,000.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Received 2 bids for gravel. Strata was \$5.57 per cubic yard, \$1,114,000. Gowan was \$7.35 per cubic yard, \$1,470,000. Stock pile should last 5-6 years. The gravel is independently tested. The stockpile will be paid for over the course of 5 years. **Motion by Brintnell to accept the bid from Strata Corporation for \$1,114,000.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Advertised for snow removal bids and only received one bid from TR Farms. **Motion by Burianek to accept the bid from TR Farms.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented two drainage permits. **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permits for the Walsh County Water Resource District, Section 13/24 Harriston Twp and Section 19 Pulaski Twp and Justin and Krystal Melland, Section 9, Kensington Township.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented utility permits. **Motion by Anderson to approve the utilities permits for Nodak Electric, Section 22/27 Vernon Township and Polar Communications Section 13, Harriston Township.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Commissioners are invited to an end of the season BBQ at Homme Dam on Monday, October 18th at noon.
- Sharon, Ron Jurgens, Sheriff and Michelle Demester, Janitor will be interviewing two candidates for the LEC janitor position. The individual will not work more than 20 hours per week but it could be as little as 5 hours a week. Could possibly work into cleaning the Chase Building and other tasks.
- Gave an update on the Lankin Shop roof.
- Will send a letter in regard to the Kjelland Bridge costs as soon as she has solid bid.
- Gave an update on the current lawsuits.
- Gave an update on DOT meeting.
- Will provide guidance to the commissioners in regards to unfinished projects going forward.
- County roads 12B and 19 need to be signed for right of way.

Tanya Weiler, HR Director, appeared to discuss staffing for the Veterans Service Officer position. She visited with Bryan Watters from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He said that Walsh County is a bright spot. There is a program called VetraSpec that Walsh County is not utilizing and should be. It tells us what we bring in dollars back to the county. The new hire will be required to use the program.

Tanya also informed the commissioners that the highway superintendent position has been posted. The closing date is October 22nd and has been posted with the county newspaper, Inforum, Indeed, NDACo and the county website. Will get it on Job Service as well.

Reviewed the budget. **Motion by Barta to approve the 2022 budget at 115 mills, with the county general mills reduced to 55 mills; County Agent to half a mill and JDA to 1 mill.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Report of county offices for fees collected during September: County Recorder \$5,708.80 and Sheriff fees \$1,461.60.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor