

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

September 15, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

**Motion by Barta to approve the September 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes and agenda additions of audit, Resolution Committee update, overweight permits, Association of Counties Convention and hearing reminder.** Second by Wild. Motion carried.

The public hearing for the Walsh County budget is at 5:30 p.m. in the Farmers Room tonight.

Commissioner Barta asked if they were going to discuss the annual audit. There wasn't anything that really stood out just that they always seem to find some small stuff to ding us for.

Katie Thompson, from the NDSU Extension Office, appeared to discuss and ask for direction on the building and grounds for the extension office. Brad has asked her to start taking over the building and grounds. She is a proud Walsh County employee and resident and would like the facility to reflect the same image. The building is in need of paint. There is bare wood showing on the building, leaking faucets and the wallpaper is peeling in the meeting room. Katie and Amy would be willing to paint the building and an estimate of costs was presented. Commissioners advised her that simple things like faucets can be replaced or repaired. **Motion by Burianek to follow the proposal and paint/update the extension building.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

The Association of Counties Convention is October 12-14, 2020. The fees cover 2 attendees. The Region 4 Caucus meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10AM which Chair Anderson will be attending.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, informed the commissioners that the County was approved for the HMGP Advanced Assistance Program for County Road 2. It is a Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program with an 85/15 share. KLJ will be completing the engineering with Houston Engineering running hydraulics. They will utilize the BTAG Report as much as possible to cut down on costs.

Commissioner Barta asked if weight permits are being requested. Permits are being purchased and they are using stickers in the window this year instead of sheets of paper.

Commissioner Barta has been participating in Resolution Committee meetings and provided proposed amendments which included Transportation Funding, Legacy Fund, Prisoner Population Management and Jail Standards. New resolutions included Water Management, Federal Permitting of Road Projects, Wetland Mitigation and County Road Levies. In 2024 several funds will need to go to the vote of the people if some changes aren't made. Walsh County has the potential to lose 30 mills for road infrastructure. The Association of Counties is working with counties on these resolutions and are willing to answer any questions we may have.

None of the close contacts within the courthouse have developed COVID 19 and no new cases have been identified therefore, it is considered a reasonable approach to open the courthouse back up to the public. **Motion by Barta to reopen the courthouse to the public tomorrow, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes motion carried.

Commissioner Barta stated in regards to wearing masks he felt it is something we should all try to do when entering the courthouse. If we are going to require the public to wear masks then we should set the example and wear them also when we come into the building.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor