

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

September 1, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Madam Chairman Anderson, Commissioners Burianek, Skorheim and Wild. Commissioner Barta attended via telephone.

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

**Motion by Burianek to approve the August 18, 2020 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and additions of vehicle policy, right of way, Abstract/title insurance, article, NDCCA update and JDA appointment.** Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta asked if we were going to enforce the vehicle policy. Will contact Brent to put it on the department head meeting agenda.

Commissioner Skorheim asked if Walsh County does title insurance versus an abstract. No one knew and thought that it would be a recorder question. However, she is not in today.

**Motion by Dennis Skorheim to appoint Lucas Kelley to the Walsh County JDA Board as the City of Minto representative.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Concerns the North Dakota County Commissioners Association will bring to the legislative session include social services indirect expenses, mental health, DOCR, Prairie Dog losses and renewable fuels. The annual convention will be held on-line/virtually this year.

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, and Ron Jurgens, Sheriff appeared to discuss some additional Covid fund information. The formula was based off of law enforcement salaries and benefits but the funds are intended for Covid expenses, to replace revenue and provide tax relief. However, the City of Park River pays for two deputies whose salaries are included in the formula. There are still five towns in Walsh County that pay for contract policing. There are other counties that are giving reimbursements or a percentage of dollars back to cities in their county.

Brent Nelson also discussed the following:

- Do to some work Polar Communications is already doing in Grafton we were able to cut \$17,000 in network costs for the SIRN project. The new total redundant network costs will be \$39,250.00 for installation.
- Discussed Viper verses Vesta State Wide radio new 911 equipment and 2 verses 3 stations. **Motion by Wild to move forward with the Vesta State-wide System for 2 stations at \$26,442 with a monthly fee of \$1988.69.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Brent is struggling to get some of the vendors to understand the county share and state share of the newly approved 911 fees. He has drawn up a resolution he would like approved. **Motion by Barta to accept the Resolution effective January 1, 2021.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

**WALSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA  
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INCREASING THE  
EXISTING EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS (9-1-1) FEE**

WHEREAS, the voters of Walsh County during the June 9, 2020 Primary Election, approved Walsh County Measure #1 that proposed an increase of the local emergency services communication (9-1-1) fee from the current \$1.00 per month to a maximum (not to exceed) collection of \$1.50 per month per communication connections; and

WHEREAS, the final vote total was 1,378 "Yes" votes and 1,199 "No" votes; and

WHEREAS, the additional funds are needed to support the funding of the Walsh County Communication Center (9-1-1) system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walsh County Board of Commissioners approves an increase of the local share of the emergency services communications (9-1-1) fee from the current \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month per communication connection applied to all assessed communication services and that the increased fee become effective January 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fee shall be collected by the assessed communications service providers and paid to the County within thirty (30) days after collection from the subscriber or customer unless the provider has fewer than ten subscribers or customers in the jurisdiction, in which case the provider may pay the proceeds quarterly. An assessed communication service provider may retain the actual costs of administration in collection of the fee, not to exceed five percent of the fee collected.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2020.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Molde, Walsh County Auditor

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Anderson, Chair  
Walsh County Commission

**Motion by Burianek to appoint Sarah Hultin to the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Barta to approve the drainage permit for Brad Narloch, County Road 8, Section 22, Ops Township.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Burianek to approve the flowage easement for Tim Hurtt, County Road 1, Section 4, Dundee Township.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Skorheim to approve the utility permit for Polar Communication, County Road 11 to install a fiber optic connection for the 911 center.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Got an estimate for the courthouse and Chase Building steps, which came in at \$100,000. They would have to be repaired in phases and would require multiple trips. It appear the chlorinated salt that is used in the winter is part of the problem. We will move to non-chlorinated salt moving forward.
- The new bridge foreman did not show up for his first day of work. Will wait to advertise after harvest.
- Kelley Cole reached out to Aaron Birst of the Association of Counties to provide assistance with the right-of-way issue. He does right of way presentations at conferences and other events. Pictures have been provided to Birst. He is still working on it, reviewing case law and has not forgot about us. Barta will update Gudajtes.

Commissioner Wild addressed reporter Todd Morgan about his editorial in the Grafton Record. After some discussion, Chair Anderson thanked Morgan for is accurate reporting and moved on.

The meeting with the water board and county officials has not happened yet.

Report of county offices for fees collected during **August**: County Recorder \$6,450.90 and Sheriff fees \$**1,745.42**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Karen A Anderson, Madam Chairman

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor