

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

September 3, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.

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

Motion by Anderson to approve the August 15, 2019 Presidents' Tour Minutes, August 20, 2019 regular meeting minutes with correction, monthly bills, and additions of auditors update, Opioid Litigation, appreciation party and JDA budget. Second by Skorheim. Motion carried.

Kris Molde, Auditor, informed the commissioners of the following:

- A new media recorder has been ordered for the commission chambers. Cost is \$199 plus shipping.
- Deputy Auditor, Sondra Richardson, will be the secretary for the September 17, 2019 commission meeting as the Auditor, will be at election training for the new election equipment.

Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, appeared for several policy book updates. Most of the updates were minor changes to better clarify the policy or to follow changes to Century Code. Chairman Barta brought up the Dress Code Policy 2.9 and mentioned that the commissioners as well as all county employees should be dressed appropriately for work. There was some discussion on the storm policy and paying for lodging. At this time no changes will be made to that policy. It was suggested that Section 4.7 Leave without Pay go to the department heads for input.

Motion by Skorheim to approve the first reading of all of the updates and removal of 4.15 to the policy book as presented except Section 4.7 which will go to the department heads for recommendations. Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.

2.3 Hiring Procedures, 2.3 B Veteran's Preference, 2.5 Introductory Period, 2.6 Political Activity, 3.1 Work Week, 3.3 Classification & Compensation Plan, 3.4 Compensatory Time & Overtime Pay, 4.1 Annual Leave, 4.6 Jury & Witness Duty, 4.8 Holidays, 4.14 Life Insurance, 5.2 Termination or Discipline, 6.1 Confidentiality and 6.3 County Vehicle Operation.

Larry Tanke, Albin Jallo, Daryl Campbell and Jennifer Lindenberger from the Water Board appeared to give an update on the drain projects. Drain 30-2 is complete. Phase 1 on Drain 87 is finishing up with some repairs to a sloughing area. Phase 2 of Drain 87 has started on the McLeod portion of the drain. There was some discussion about Drain 98 and the possibility of lowering some culverts on County Road 15. Drain 4 was due to be done on August 15th. The contractor's equipment was still in Jamestown on August 13th. The contractor was hoping the water board would work with them.

Twila Novak, Social Service Director, appeared to discuss the Social Service Zone Agreement in which the County has to agree to the terms. **Motion by Anderson to approve the following for the Human Service Zone Agreement:**

- **That Walsh, Pembina and Cavalier will combine their social service agencies to form a Human Service Zone.**
- **The name will be Northern Valley Human Service Zone.**
- **That Cavalier County will serve as the Host County.**
- **The following will serve as board members: Representing Cavalier County will be Stanley Dick, David Zeis and Amy Kram. Walsh County members will be Karen Anderson and Ann West. Pembina County members will be Manny Doyle and Debra Fraser. Janna Myrdal will be the legislative representative.**
- **Rate of compensation for the zone board will be \$50 per meeting plus mileage.**
- **Stanley Dick will be the interim Human Service Zone Director.**

Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Cavalier County is looking at hiring a part-time instead of a full-time employee to help with the additional work load of the zone. The costs would be shared 1/3 Pembina County and 2/3 Walsh County. **Motion by Anderson to approve the administration expenses of \$14,405.02 which Walsh County will be responsible for.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

The Appreciation Party has been set for January 4, 2020 at the Frosty Fox.

Sharon Lipsh, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- **Motion by Burianek to approve the drainage permit for James Langerud, Section 31 & 32, Kensington Township.** Second by Wild. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- **Motion by Burianek to approve the flowage easement for Brad Narloch, Section 20, Forest River.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The NDDOT meeting for Walsh County is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8th at 7:30 a.m. during the NDACo annual conference.
- **Motion by Skorheim to advertise and fill the truck driver position in Adams.** Second by Burianek. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed County Road 15 culvert request, letter from Don Fischer and plans. The request was tabled and the County will request that KLJ take a look at it.
- North Dakota was awarded 6.5 million to replace bridges across the state with Walsh County being part of the Bridge Bundling Award. Project start dates would be in 2020 or 2021.

- The Bridge Replacement List was reviewed. Structurally deficient bridges are automatically eligible while functional obsolete bridges must also have a low tonnage rating. A few of the bridges on the list were questioned. The list is part of developing a long term plan for bridges in Walsh County. Inspections will continue to be done on the bridges. There are 13 eligible bridges in the county. We should have a bridge in mind and be ready if funding becomes available. The commissioners will go on a bridge tour on September 17th.

Kelley Cole, State's Attorney, appeared to discuss an email that was received in regard to the opioid litigation that Walsh County is a part of. They have now requested information from Walsh County. Initially we were told that providing discovery would be minimal and they would send someone to help compile the data. They are requesting 10 years' worth of some information. Wanda Kratochvil from the health department may need to be involved also. Kelley will reach out to the law firm to see if they will send someone to provide assistance.

At this time Karen will be the only commissioner attending the NDACo Conference in October.

Julie Campbell, JDA Director, appeared to discuss the 2019 JDA budget. The JDA requested 2.5 mills for the 2019 budget. It was on the requested budget but the commissioners never approved the increase in mills. The budget request with the 2.5 mills on top was signed by the chairman at that time which led her to believe that 2.5 was approved. The JDA is currently deficit spending. Julie stated that it has taken 30 years to build up the funds and asked "how far do you want me to bring down?" The difference of a ¼ of a mill is less than \$14,000. At this time there is nothing that can be done about the 2019 budget and the commissioners approved the 2020 at the same 2.25 mills.

Report of county offices for fees collected during August: County Recorder \$7,057.00 and Sheriff fees \$2,295.70.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Ernie Barta, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor