

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

February 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Members present: Chairman Skorheim, Commissioners Barta, Brintnell and Suda. Commissioner Anderson was absent.

At 5:30 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Commissioner Brintnell moved to approve the February 7, 2023 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of water board and audit** Second by Suda. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented several abatements for Daniel Thompson. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14269 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. **Motion by Suda to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14270 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14308 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14309 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. **Motion by Suda to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14310 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Adams City and the tax director to deny the Thompson abatement for parcel 48-14319 for 2021 and 2022.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14269	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14269	2022 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-12470	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-12470	2022 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14308	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14308	2022 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14309	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14309	2022 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14310	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14310	2022 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14319	2021 RET	Denied
Daniel Thompson	Adams City	48-14319	2022 RET	Denied

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, presented jail contracts. State's Attorney, Kelley Cole, has reviewed the proposed contracts. The cost for per day services is \$95. **Motion by Suda to approve**

**the inmate boarding jail contracts with Grafton City, Cavalier and Traill Counties.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens and Tanya Wieler from the jail committee gave a jail update. Discussed the needs assessment, interest from other counties and recouping costs if we just rent out beds. There are still a lot of questions. Jail committee will meet again on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, provided a job description and some data she collected on IT personnel in other counties. Tanya was looking for additional guidance on what the commissioners are looking for. Discussed contracted help, intern from the Voc School, and possible current staff. Tanya will reach out to department heads for input.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Provided a map of upcoming NDDOT road projects for Walsh County.
- Will be holding a special meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for input on the historic bridge renovation in Farmington Township.
- Presented a bid for Kringstad Ironworks to build to 2 ditch reclaimers. The county currently has one reclaimer. Commissioners request that he get a price for 1 reclaimer at the time.
- Presented a HVAC Plan from Johnson Controls for renovating/replacing the heating and cooling system in the courthouse along with some ADA compliant changes. The plan has an estimated cost of 4.8 to 5.5 million. Discussed options, structure, efficiency and cost.
- Presented chip sealing bids for Highway 19 which includes painting lines. Discussed bidding it out verses doing it ourselves. **Motion by Barta to award the bid to Morris Sealcoat for \$514,979.84.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried. The chip sealer that was sold still hasn't been picked up. If the contract says 90 days to pick up then we should keep it.
- Presented mill and overlay bids for Highway 9 which came in below the estimate. **Motion by Barta to award the bid to Mayo Construction for \$3,137,564,48.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- LTAP training was canceled due to the storm
- Presented hydraulic estimate for Highway 15. Should reach out to McCann to see if they will pay for it since they are the ones requesting the work.
- Commissioner Barta informed the commission that there will be additional irrigation systems coming out of Fordville and Matejcek Dam.

Commissioner Barta brought to the commissioners' attention that the state auditor's office has increased their prices significantly and that their budget has been in question.

Walsh County received a notice in regard to a new national opioid settlement against Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreen and Walmart. There are restrictions on how the funds can be used. **Motion by Suda to participate in the new opioid settlement and complete the paperwork.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

There have been several requests for the delinquent land sale. There are only 2 parcels on it. One in Adams and one in Fairdale. Both are available for sale.

ARPA funding is not required to be obligated until December 31, 2024 and we have until December 31, 2026 to fully expend the funds.

Some of the commissioners have had concerned citizens reach out to them in regards to night meetings and Commissioners Anderson absence.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor