

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

February 7, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Members present: Chairman Skorheim, Commissioners Barta, Brintnell and Suda. Commissioners Anderson participated via zoom at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Commissioner Barta moved to approve the January 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of zone board member, Deputy Auditor I, EM vehicle, water board update, Ramsey County, water ditching and county delinquent buildings.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried.

Sherry O'Toole, Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- Presented 2022 4<sup>th</sup> quarter treasurers checks and treasurer's report. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 4th quarter 2022 treasurer's checks and quarterly report as presented.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report  
4th Quarter 2022

Balance on hand as of October 1, 2022	\$ 14,985,251.95
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 3,968,740.12</u>
	\$ 18,953,992.07
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (3,895,506.06)</u>
Balance on hand as of December 31, 2022	\$ 15,058,486.01

Angelle French, JDA Director, presented a year in review for the Walsh County JDA which included the JDA history and mission, board of directors, loan portfolio, PACE Loans, grants and allocated funds. She also informed the commissioners that this would be her last meeting as she took a position as the Pembina County JDA Director. The commissioners thanked her and enjoyed watching her and the office expand and grow.

Angelle also discussed the domain name for the county website, an administrator for the website and a job description and compensation for someone if they are to take on the IT duties. **Motion by Barta to release the domain name co.walsh.nd.us.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Tracy Laaveg attended via Zoom to present the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application and gave some history. There is no cost to the county. **Motion by Anderson to sign the Walsh County Historic Preservation Grant Application.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Board members for the historic commission were also discussed. **Motion by Suda to reappoint Dennis Markusen, M Richard Geiger and Bergit Sobak to another term on the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission and to appoint Gary Seboe and Denise Bata.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, presented an abatement for Mitchell & Jill Sanderson. They were never notified of an increase in assessments. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Kensington Township and the tax director to approve the Sanderson abatement for 2022.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Mitchell & Jill Sanderson Kensington Twp 19-4836 2022 RET \$105,000

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Wade Thompson from KLJ was present to discuss the Fordville Bridge Project. The project will require a bypass near the project site. The detour that was previously discussed is a safety risk. Also mentioned that concrete box culverts have almost tripled in price. Aluminum box culverts are cheaper and should last 75 years.
- The Fricke Bridge has been posted at 3 tons due to an issue on the south abutment.
- Presented a contract for approval. **Motion by Barta to sign the Contract for Project BRJ-0050(058).** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented two more bills for bridge inspections. **Motion by Brintnell to pay BRC-BRS-0099(011) and BRC-BRS-099(015) for a total of \$30,075.90.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes, except Barta voted no. Motion carried.
- Submitted information for snow removal bill. Only 7 counties qualified.
- Hired Logan Misialek for the bridge foreman position. He comes with experience from Swingen Construction. The part time janitor position is still open
- Discussed the renting of shops and how it doesn't pay to rent them out. It disrupts the crew and creates downtime which isn't worth what we charge. **Motion by Barta to discontinue the rental of the shops.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- There is a man-made channel on the south branch of the Park River. There is a county bridge that goes over it. Wondering who is responsible for it.
- The Homme Dam Storm Shelter had the asbestos removed last week. Now a cultural analysis is needed and will cost \$1500. Discussed the cost of the project and maybe it time to scrap it. It's the gift that keeps on giving. **Motion by Barta to scrap the Homme Dam Storm Shelter Project.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. Jason would like to schedule a park board meeting with one of the next commission meetings.
- Discussed ditching and subgrade issues. Do we encourage farmers to do ditching which could save county tax dollars? Need to be careful for what you wish for.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, informed the commissions that the jail committee reviewed the Samuels Group Agreement and is recommending that the county move forward. States Attorney, Kelley Cole also reviewed it with Ron and some changes were made. Discussed the costs, other county's portion of billing, Samuels Group 100% success rate and exhibits A & B. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the Samuels Group Proposal for the Exhibit A portion of \$38,450.00 which may change depending on participation. The cost will be**

**paid out of the ARPA Funds.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. All 5 counties that expressed an interest in the project will be contacted. It was determined by Cole that an RFP was not needed for the Samuels Group Agreement.

The weed board portfolio usually goes with the emergency management portfolio. Chairman Skorheim will keep the weed board portfolio. Discussed restructuring the board as board members terms expire. They have had 1 open position for several years now.

**Motion by Anderson to reappoint Ann West to the Northern Valley Human Service Zone Board for another 3-year term.** Second by Suda. Upon role call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Brintnell to fill the Deputy Auditor I position in the auditor's office due to a resignation.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote, all vote yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brintnell has some concerns about the emergency manager/weed vehicle. The vehicle is used to drive back and forth to work putting an additional 20 miles on the vehicle daily. The gas is paid for by the county. After a lengthy discussion about what other counties do, logging miles, GPS, reimbursing mileage, highway superintendents' vehicle, and liability issue **Commissioner Brintnell moved to have the county vehicle that is used for emergency management/weed stay at the county parking lot after hours and that the emergency manager would drive his personal vehicle to and from work effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes, except Skorheim voted no. Motion carried. Commissioner Barta would like to reach out to other counties to see how they handle the highway superintendent's vehicle. Sheriff's vehicles are logged and the highway vehicles have GPS.

Commissioner Barta gave a water board update.

The City of Adams is wondering what the county plans to do with the building that they took possession of for back taxes. It needs to come down and a controlled burn is not allowed. Further research will need to be done.

Report of county offices for fees collected during January: County Recorder \$4,184.52 and Sheriff fees \$3,193.59.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

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Kris Molde, Auditor