

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 17, 2023**

January 17, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Skorheim, Commissioners Brintnell and Suda. Commissioners Anderson and Barta attended via Zoom.

At 4:30 p.m. Chairman Skorheim called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Also present were members of the Jail Committee and representatives from Traill and Cavalier County who introduced themselves.

Jennifer Guerndt, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for the Samuels Group, Sid Samuels, President of the Samuels Group and Scott Fettig Architect/President at Klein McCarthy Architects were present to provide information on the services their companies provide in regard to building a new jail. They specialize in government and justice construction and can provide services such as pre-construction, estimating, construction management and general contracting. They have worked on some of the jails that the jail committee has toured. They recommend starting with a study to determine the needs, ownership, staffing, funding and community outreach. Discussed some of the issues counties are having, funding, joint powers agreements, operational costs as well as looking at the Wells Fargo Building as part of the study. The project could take up to 4 years. The next step would be to conduct one study to include all the counties that are interested in participating in new jail.

After the Samuels Group presentation **Commissioner Brintnell moved to approve the January 3, 2023 regular meeting minutes and additions to the agenda of department head meeting update, audit, and extension office.** Second by Suda. Motion carried.

Chairman Skorheim asked if there was any more discussion about the Samuels Group Presentation. The group decided to have Tanya reach out to the other counties to see if they want to be included in the study and get an estimated cost for the study.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented a 2022 abatement for Walter Duff. **Motion by Suda to follow the recommendation of Hoople City and the tax director and approve the 2022 abatement for Walter Duff.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Walter Duff Hoople City 42-13158 2022 RET \$25,500

- Requested a budget amendment due to deputy's salary no longer being split with recorder's office. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 2022 budget amendment from \$105,844 to \$110,024.06.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried

Brent Nelson, Emergency Manager, appeared for the following:

- Presented abatements due to 2021 bills being received and paid until 2022. **Motion by Suda to amend the 911 land budget from \$98,012 to \$115,184.10 and the 911 cell budget from \$149,820 to \$150,946.50.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The dispatchers have been using EMD cards provided by the state for years. They are moving away from providing them. Presented bids for APCO which includes options for software, cards and training. Switching to the APCO system could take up to 6 months. Not looking for a decision tonight just looking for thoughts on it.
- Presented bids for a new pickup. There are no state bids for ½ ton pickups. Discussed state bids from other states and shopping local. Need to follow the same process as other offices for purchasing vehicles. Sheriff Jurgens will work with Brent and his connections to get some bids.
- Discussed a number of projects going on in his office, prioritizing and delegating.

Heidi Jensen, Agassiz Associates, presented data and a quarterly report on the mental health services provided to the inmates in the Walsh County Correction Center. Discussed goals, barriers and successes. Participation has increased since starting the program and it keeps growing. Inmates are expressing positive experiences and feel the program is helping them. Agassiz Associates has provided training to correction officers and intake has been streamlined.

Commissioner Barta left the meeting.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Presented an estimate to replace the transmission in one of his Tahoes. **Motion by Anderson to approve the repair and estimate from Mike's Repair for \$6,026.08.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Rollette County wants Walsh County to sign an agreement for housing prisoners. State's Attorney Cole reviewed the agreement and some changes were made. **Motion by Suda to sign the agreement with Rollette County on an as needed basis.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Presented budget amendments due to increase price of gas and car expenses. **Motion by Brintnell to amend the sheriff's budget from \$910,216.00 to \$928,923.47.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Present a bid for 3 new Tahoes at \$41,907 each. The bid is from Iowa but is a state bid. They do not take trade ins with the state bid process. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid of \$41,907 each for 3 Tahoes from Karl Chevrolet in Ankeny, IA.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Has 6 applications for the administrative assistance position and a jailer that had left came back to work at the correction center.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Read the Roadside Mowing Policy. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the second reading of the Roadside Mowing Policy.** Second by Anderson. Motion carried. We are now in full compliance.
- Has 3 applicants for the bridge foreman position and no applications for the part time janitor position.

- Presented budget amendments for Road and Bridge and County Road due to increased fuel prices and utilities. **Motion by Suda to amend the Road and Bridge Budget from \$618,852.34 to \$644,469.85 and the County Road from \$291,500.00 to \$318,867.38.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The 2017 FEMA Flood has been closed out.

The updated portfolio list was updated and reviewed. It will be sent out to employees and boards.

Auditor presented several budget amendments for county general accounts and the extension office. **Motion by Anderson to approve the following budget amendments.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Treasurers Budget from \$126,166.00 to \$126,852.54 for paid out vacation time
Utilities from \$49,600.00 to \$51,989.03 due to increase in utilities
Miscellaneous from 200,950.00 to \$407,406.45 Paid \$200,000 for SIRN Project to be paid back over 4 years by EM (\$50,000/year)
Misc. - Snow from \$8,000.00 to \$18,295.00 bill from 2021 paid in 2022
Misc.-Audit from \$22,000.00 to \$36,500.00 had to reopen 2020/audit & increase in price
Health Insurance Benefits \$380,000.00 to \$404,011.28 higher increase then expected
Extension Office \$163,263.00 from \$178,286.32 New furnaces for Extension Building

Reviewed the updated portfolio list. Auditor will make 1 correction and send out to employees and boards.

Chairman Skorheim informed the commissioners that Brad Brummond has \$20,000 in a pesticide fund that he would like to use for updating the bathrooms.

The state auditors reached out to Chairman Skorheim. The 2020 audit has been completed.

Commissioners Brintnell gave an update on the department head meeting. Evaluations were discussed. If portfolios are changed the old and new commissioner should perform the evaluation together. Was looking for clarification about the handling of the Zoom meetings. Wondering if the county should purchase an Owl for recording of county meetings. Auditor will check into purchasing an Owl. Mentioned legislative bills that could change the NDPERS plan. Department heads feel it will have a negative impact to the county for recruiting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chairman

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor

