

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 3, 2023**

January 3, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

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

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the December 20, 2022 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of highway meeting, mileage, water board response from Kelley Cole and legislative wish list. Second by Suda. Motion carried.

Nick Ziegelmann City Administrator for the City of Grafton introduced Jennifer Dusek, the Community Development Director. They appeared to ask for a letter of support to extend the Grafton Renaissance Program for another 5 years to help revitalize the city. The program started in 2008 and has had 22 projects in the last 15 years. **Motion by Barta to send a letter of support for the 5-year extension of the Grafton Renaissance Program.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Informed the commissioners that the administrative assistant decided to retire and was done on December 27, 2022. Would like to advertise and fill the position. **Motion by Brintnell to advertise and fill the administrative position in the sheriff's department.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- Sandy Stark is willing to come in and help out as a part time temporary employee working less than 20 hours a week until the position is filled. Could possibly help with some training. **Motion by Anderson to hire Sandy Stark on a temporary part time basis.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- The Samuel Group is willing to attend the next commission meeting to discuss what services they can provide the county in regard to options for a new jail. They would like approximately an hour to present information. Commissioners decided to start the meeting at 4:30 p.m. to meet with the Samuel Group first. Jail committee will be notified as well as the other counties interested in utilizing the new jail.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented NDDOT bills for bridge inspections. Discussed the ongoing cost of bridge inspections, closing more bridges or putting in more culverts. **Motion by Suda to pay the bills for Project BRC-BRS-0099(011) and BRC-BRS0099(015) for a total of \$28,083.94.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all vote yes. Motion carried.
- The motor grader that was ordered last year was delivered last Friday, only 8 months behind schedule. At that time financing through First United was at 1.74%. CAT is currently offering 5.5%, CapFirst Equipment Finance was 4.25-5.25%. First United is offering 3.5% now. **Motion by Barta to go with First United at 3.5% financing**

for the \$194,000. Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

- With the commission meetings being switched to after hours security and locking doors was discussed. The south door is the only handicap door. It is also on a timer and automatically locks at 4:30. The west door will remain unlocked for commission meetings. A notice will be posted on the south door with phone numbers to call if access is needed. The building will be checked after the meeting to make sure everyone is out.
- Commissioner Barta gathered with the entire highway department. It's been a year since Jason took over the highway department and he just wanted to share concerns and see how things are going. Discussed wages, funding, flooding and why they didn't do more bridge repairs this year.

Briefly discussed snow removal, township and county roads and responsibilities. Narloch and the County are providing most of the snow removal accounting for 28 of the 36 townships since the last storm. Individuals must take some personal responsibility when living in the country.

Effective January 1, 2023 mileage reimbursement rates increased to 65.5¢.

Motion by Barta to reappoint Albin Jallo to another term on the Walsh County Water Board. Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barta talked to State's Attorney Cole in regard to the water board billing discussed at the last meeting. Her recommendation is to pay the \$239,791.36 that was agreed upon. Moving forward adjustments will have to be made. Will see what comes of the study and legislation. Will use Prairie Dog Funds when they become available in February or March.

Discussed portfolios and made some changes. Auditor will update list and bring to the next meeting.

Briefly mentioned wish list to take to the legislators. Increasing general mills and funding for jails were topics brought forward.

Auditor informed the commissioners that the 2021 audit is still not completed.

Report of county offices for fees collected during December: County Recorder \$4,866.26 and Sheriff fees \$872.40.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor

