

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

March 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 present via Zoom.

At 6:00 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting began after resolving technical issues with the Zoom setup.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the March 7, 2023 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of water board lawyer, Minto overpass, Housing Authority Board Member, snag and clearing, ND Soybean Council, legislative bills, timesheet, performance reviews, Tyler/CPA and Red River Regional bill. Second by Barta. Motion carried.

Brent Nelson presented a final bill from Red River Regional Council for the Homme Dam Shelter Project that was scrapped. **Motion by Barta to pay the bill out of the Homme Dam budget.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call all voted yes. Motion carried.

Stacie Sevigny, Red River Regional Council, presented the guidelines and requests for the 2022 Self Help Program funds. Nine applications were submitted. The program is to promote community betterment projects within the Walsh County communities. Requests cannot exceed one-half of the total project cost, nor can the request exceed \$1,500. **Motion by Brintnell to award up to \$1,000 per city for the Self-Help Program.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared via Zoom.

- Byron Fuchs also appeared via Zoom to answer question in regard to bridge inspections. Discussed the inspection ratings dropping on bridges, the frequency of inspections, billing costs, travel expenses and hiring a local company to inspect bridges. In 2021 and 2022 there were load ratings, now in 2023 the cost of inspections should be less.
- Snow update. Crews are out trying to make space for the coming snow.
- Kringstad Ironworks quoted 1 reclaimer at \$20,407. The Reclaimer saves on gravel and allows to cover more ground faster. Commissioners requested that Jason try and find a video to share with commissioners to see how it works. He has fund to purchase and the highway employees are in favor of the purchase. Townships have also asked to use/rent it. Jason will try bring a video to the next meeting.
- The inspection on the courthouse boiler showed that some components failed. It would need to be drained to repair. Work will be done in the future after the boiler is shut off.
- Had a resignation from an employee who will be done March 31st. **Motion by Brintnell to advertise and fill the Tech II position.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

- Discussed the projector in the Farmers Room which they haven't been able to fix. Will get rid of projector, projector screen and look for a 75 or 80" TV with HDMI port. Also discussed a TV for the commissioner's room. Will look at the one in the LEC courtroom to see if it would work in the commissioner's room.
- Discussed prep work for flooding.
- Discussed sewer gas smell and getting a 2nd opinion form Custom Aire.
- Discussed the DOT meeting in regard to the Minto/Ardoch bypass.

Tanya Wieler, HR Director, appeared to discuss the following:

- Presented a draft for an Administrator position which would include the duties of the auditor and a proposed pay plan. The job description and salary were discussed. This person could delegate tasks to different departments. Commissioners would still hold portfolios. Would improve efficiency. Information was pulled from the state labor market from the eastern region to come up with a salary. **Motion by Barta to move forward with the position and job description for an Administrator.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Discussed where to advertise the position. Advertising the position needs to get out there. We can't afford to wait. Will set deadline for April 14th.
- Commissioner Brintnell asked about performance evaluation. There are about 10 that need to be completed. Tanya will print out the remaining evaluations and send out to departments.
- Was asked about the standardized timesheet. An Excel timesheet has been created and included formulas. It needs to be slightly modified for law enforcement and their 28-day work cycle. It will be ready for use in April.

Taxes for Keystone Pipeline were paid and a breakdown was provided for several townships, fire districts and schools as well as the County. The payment was up \$38,621 from last year. This year's payment was \$535,897.

Courtesy delinquent tax notes went out in February. There were 276 notices that went out. If they are not paid on or before April 21st an additional \$50 will be added for additional services.

Commissioner Brintnell took part in a Tyler meeting. Tyler has some concerns about the fund numbers that Walsh County is using and they suggested that we might want to hire a CPA to review the information. The state auditors haven't had any issues with our annual audits. Auditor will reach out to Heath Erickson at the state auditor's office for an opinion.

The water board will hold a public meeting in regard to the snag and clearing on April 4th at 4:00 p.m.

The Housing Authority is looking a board member for the Edinburg, Hoople, Park River area to replace Leah Skjerven

The North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) is providing grants, up to \$1,000 per organization, for the purchase of Goodyear soy-based tires for first responders across the state. The board wants to give back to their communities, while also supporting the various

uses for soybeans. For more information and to apply for the grant, please contact NDSC Outreach & Education Coordinator Shireen Alemadi at salemadi@ndsoybean.org.

Discussed legislative bills such as NDPERS bill and the Legacy Fund. The County feels that the NDPERS Retirement Plan is a good recruiting tool and would hate to lose it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

Kris Molde, Auditor