

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 16, 2023

May 16, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed

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

At 9:00 a/m/ the Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Brintnell to approve the May 2, 2023 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of July meeting dates, information on surface green and Molde vacation payout.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a utility permit to be added to the agenda. **Motion by Anderson to approve the utility permit for Nodak Electric Second by Anderson.** Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Requested approval to purchase a remote control for the sign truck. This would allow Chad to work alone and would be more productive for the department as a whole. **Motion by Barta to purchase the remote control for \$16,660.73.** Second by Suda. All voted yes. Motion approved.
- Discussed reclassifications of bridges by the state, but no direction is being provided by the state to meet the new reclassifications.
- Working with KLJ to turn some smaller bridges into culverts to eliminate continuous maintenance.
- There are still two bridges in the county that are under water.
- The highway department received a couple of FEMA checks from the 2022 flood. FEMA is still doing inspections.
- There is a lot of gravel in the ditch on County Road 8. The road crew will reclaim the gravel as time allows.
- Load limits are still in place for another week or two.
- Presented invoices from the water board. After discussion the commission wanted State's Attorney Kelly Cole present for clarification before the new bills are paid.
- There are 15 bridge inspections waiting to be done.
- **Motion by Barta to sign and pay Collins Engineers \$176.82 for NE Region Bridge inspection load rating, BRC-BRS-0099(011).** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion passed.
- Briefly reviewed the annual report and the answered commissioners' questions. Brintnell asked to have Tami work with the Auditor's office to get numbers to match between the two departments. Johnston gave credit to Tami Mecham for all her work putting the annual report together.
- Johnston will write a letter to the state of ND and the water board about a surface drain permit.

Tanya Weiler, HR Director, appeared for the following:

- Auditor interviews were held May 15th. Kristi Quibell accepted the position and will start on Wednesday, June 7th.

- Due to Sondra Richardson's resignation, it was suggested to reclassify Angie Scherer from Deputy Auditor I to Deputy Auditor II. **Motion by Anderson to reclassify Angie Scherer to Deputy Auditor, effective immediately.** Second by Barta. All voted yes. Motion passed.
- Suggested to wait on filling the 3rd position in the Auditor's office until after the new Auditor starts.
- Notified the commission that the next jail meeting is set for June 6th at 8am in the Farmer's Room. Weiler will reach out to the Samuel's group.

In other business:

- Commissioners reviewed the "wish list".
- Motion by Barta to pay the bulk of the Tyler bills out of the ARPA funds. Second by Anderson. All voted yes. Motion carried. Work with Ed Sevigny to pay the invoices. He is tracking the costs and approving the invoices for payment as they come.
- Discussed the Furnace system, engineering, and a RFP. Put this on the wish list (could cost up to 5.5 mills). **Motion by Anderson for Johnston to get final cost for the system build from Johnson Controls and get the project out to bid.** Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Need to review Chase Building Leases.
- Motion by Anderson to pay out a balance of 32 vacation hours to Kris Molde. Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Set July Commission meeting dates for July 5th and July 18th.
- Barta stated that water tours are available and dates are on the state water board website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

Sondra Richardson, Interim Auditor