

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 2, 2023**

May 2, 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.

**Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the April 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills and additions of Water Board letter, JDA update and jail update.** Second by Brintnell. Motion carried.

Ed Sevigny introduced April Vaughn, who is the new Deputy Tax Director & Deputy Recorder.

Katie Thompson, Extension Agent gave an update for the NDSU Extension office in Park River:

- Due the recent vacancy from Brad Brummond's retirement, Katie is directing calls to other offices for requests and questions that are beyond her scope of work.
- Brad's job has been posted now.
- The support staff position has been filled; the new hire is scheduled to start on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Katie shared upcoming dates of office closures due to meetings. Closing dates will be posted and shared with the public.

Treasurer, Sherry O'Toole presented the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Treasurer's Report and Treasurer's Checks. **Motion by Brintnell to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Treasurer's Report and Treasurer's Checks as presented.** Second by Skorheim. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

O'Toole shared with the commissioners that in the current absence of an Auditor she could have Linda Farm, Deputy Treasurer added to sign the checks since she is already listed on the bank accounts. **Motion by Barta to approve Linda Farm as the co-signature for county checks until a new Auditor is hired.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax Director Ed Sevigny presented the following abatements:

- Luke & Alexa Holt abatements for 2021 and 2022. **Motion by Suda to follow the recommendation of Grafton Township and the Tax Director and approve the abatements for 2021 and 2022 for Luke & Alexa Holt.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Luke & Alexa Holt	Grafton Township	11-2695-010	2021RET	\$35,937
Luke & Alexa Holt	Grafton Township	11-2695-010	2022RET	\$41,328

- Steven George Rudnik abatements for 2021 and 2022. **Motion by Brintnell to follow the recommendation of Walsh Centre Township and the Tax Director and approve the abatements for 2021 and 2022 for Steven George Rudnik.** Second by Barta. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
  - Steven George Rudnik Walsh Centre Township 10-2339-020 2021RET \$65,000
  - Steven George Rudnik Walsh Centre Township 10-2339-020 2022RET \$71,500
- Abatement for John O and Thomas G Holm for 2022. **Motion by Barta to follow the recommendation of Dundee Township and the Tax Director and approve the abatement for 2022 for John O and Thomas G Holm.** Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
  - John O and Thomas G Holm Grafton Township 20-5116 2022RET \$119,000
- Abatements for Paul J & Sharon A O'Toole for 2021 and 2022. **Motion by Anderson to follow the recommendation of Lampton Township and the Tax Director and approve the abatements for 2021 and 2022 for Paul J & Sharon A O'Toole.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
  - Paul J & Sharon A O'Toole Lampton Township 24-6110 2021RET \$22,440
  - Paul J & Sharon A O'Toole Lampton Township 24-6110 2022RET \$22,440

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Only one bid was turned in for the cleaning and waxing of the second floor of the courthouse. **Motion by Anderson to accept the bid from Demester Cleaning for \$6,600 to clean and wax the second floor of the courthouse.** Second by Suda. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Shared concerns and problems as a result of individuals in the public that are doing their own excavating and dikes that are higher than the roads. He will be looking into these matters in order to prevent road damage from flooding.
- The truck position has been filled. There are still two positions available for summer help. The part time janitor position is vacant as well.
- Johnston shared replacement costs for the fuel pumps that have had some issues over the past year. The commission would like to see the fuel bid out and compare that to the cost of replacing the pumps.
- Two motor graders are due for replacement.
- The courthouse south door needs to be replaced.
- Talked briefly about the ongoing issues with the boiler.
- The Park Board meeting will be May 16<sup>th</sup> at Homme Dam shop at 1:00pm, pending scheduling with board members.
- Gave a jail update per the request of Commissioner Skorheim. Shared information of a second architect firm that has done other jails and federal prisons. Discussed the concept of looking at Federal contract for beds and heating options for the new jail.
- The Highway Department will be drafting a complaint letter regarding a dike in Forest River that is in the ROW. **Motion by Barta for the highway department to submit a complaint to the water board for the dike that is in the ROW. Second by Anderson.** Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Suda asked Johnston for a road closing update.
- Commissioner Brintnell asked Johnston to look into a solution for County Road 12B.

Brian Rielly, Walsh Rural Water District addressed the commission seeking a letter of support for an upcoming project, as part of the USDA Rural Development underwriting process. The project involves changing a pipe that will provide additional capacity while improving system pressures in service in the Lankin area. There is no cost to the county for the project. Motion by Barta to provide the letter of support to the Walsh Rural Water District for the Interconnect project. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion approved.

Upon the recent retirement of Kris Molde, an interim auditor needs to be appointed to carry out the functions of the auditor's office. **Motion by Suda to appoint Sondra Richardson, Deputy Auditor as Interim Auditor until the Auditor position is filled.** Second by Brintnell. Upon roll call vote all voted yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Suda shared that the JDA office will be conducting more interviews this week for the Walsh County Job Development Authority Executive Director position.

Commissioners were provided a copy of the April Financial Report.

Report of county offices for fees collected during April: County Recorder \$5,806.02 and Sheriff fees \$ 3,272.90.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Dennis Skorheim, Chair

Attest:

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Sondra Richardson  
Deputy Auditor / Interim Auditor