

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 5, 2023

December 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

At 9:00 am the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Commissioner Suda moved to approve the corrected November 21, 2023 minutes and monthly bills, seconded by Brintnell. All voted in favor.

The auditor asked for a motion for the Chair. **Motion by Barta to cast a ballot for Kristi Brintnell as Chairman. Motion by Suda to cast a ballot for Karen Anderson as Chairman.** After a discussion was held Kristi Brintnell declined the nomination. All voted in favor.

Motion by Suda to cast a ballot for Kristi Brintnell as Vice Chair. All voted in favor.

Sherry O'Toole, Treasurer, presented the 3rd Quarter financials to the commissioners. Sherry reviewed the financials in detail with the commissioners. Barta requested that going forward the county's investment accounts are listed on the quarterly financials. After a discussion **Brintnell made a motion to approve the 3rd quarter financials, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Ed presented an abatement application to the commissioners for Bradley V and Amy J Carroll on their property in Tiber Township. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the abatement application for Bradley V and Amy J Carroll, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Ed informed the commissioners that 100% of mobile home taxes have been collected. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to all employees involved in that process.
- Ed informed the commissioners that he anticipates the county is 15-25% below market value for real estate. He anticipates an increase in real estate and ag land values county wide for 2024.

Chair Anderson presented the commissioners with the 2024 contract for the continuation of contracted per diem services between Grand Forks County and Walsh County. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the 2024 contract with Grand Forks County Correctional Center, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Herb Winzer joined the meeting to inform the commissioners on his findings regarding the fire inspection discussed at the November 21st meeting. Herb stated that he spoke with the State Fire Marshall and it was suggested that the Walsh County Commissioners speak to the fire chief and request a fire inspection on the property in Veseleyville. Herb informed the commissioners that the property owner would have to agree to the fire inspection. If that

inspection is not granted an administrative warrant through the court could be an option which would include the Walsh County Commissioners, State Fire Marshall, and the fire chief. After a discussion, Anderson stated that she would look into requesting a fire inspection with the fire chief for that fire district. Anderson will also reach out to the Assistant States Attorney to update the Planning and Zoning Plan.

Tanya Wieler appeared for the following:

- Tanya reported that she did get confirmation that ARPA funds would be available to use for overtime compensation. Tanya stated that she felt that Kristi Quibell would qualify due to the number of hours that she is putting in. After a discussion, it was Tanya's recommendation that 75% of the auditor's overtime hours be paid with ARPA funds. Tanya stated that this would be temporary but she would like to see it stay in place while all of the extra projects are going on. Tanya expressed that she would like to monitor the number of hours to ensure the percentage is correct. **Brintnell made a motion to approve paying the auditor 75% of the overtime hours with ARPA funds, backdating it to when the Tyler issues started, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Tanya informed the commissioners that she is in the process of posting a temporary paid internship through the accounting department at UND. The position would be funded by the auditor's budget. **Suda made a motion to approve hiring an internship, funded by the auditor's budget, through the accounting department at UND, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Tanya stated that Performance Evaluations will be due January 31st. Tanya will email the paperwork to all involved.

Kristi Quibell informed the commissioners that a decision has been made for the Deputy Auditor I position. Kelsee Street has accepted the position and will start on January 3rd.

Commissioner Barta informed the commissioners that the highway department has received 3 applications for the sign foreman position that is open, with 1 of them being an internal application.

Commissioner Suda gave an update on the Walsh County Advisory 4H Council. Katie re-established the council to review the extension programs, allow input on the progress, and to serve as oversight on how things are going. They will be conducting 1 or 2 interviews for the Extension Agent on December 22nd. Suda also stated that 677 tickets were sold for the rodeo this fall. Suda updated the commissioners on the fair building. They had a structural engineer evaluate the building and felt that there was hope to revamp the existing building instead of having to build a new one.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor