

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 6, 2024

February 6, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

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

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Skorheim moved to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes and monthly bills, seconded by Suda. All voted in favor.

Josh Anderson and Brandon Mathiason from WC Soil Conservation District updated the commissioners that they have been working with the State on the protection of source water.

Commissioner Suda informed the commissioners that the Minto Community Center is available on December 6, 2024 for the employee appreciation party. Suda stated that a deposit would be needed to reserve the date. A discussion was had on the food vendor and it was suggested to keep the business within the county.

Commissioner Barta informed the commissioners that the health board raised the septic inspection fee from \$200 to \$250. The grant that was applied for to pay for the Agassiz Associates was not granted. Barta stated that the health department purchased a 2024 Ford Escape. The vacant nurse position has not been filled yet.

Auditor Quibell informed the commissioners that there is mandatory election training March 6 – 8, 2024 in Bismarck that she will be attending with her deputy auditor. It was decided to check on the options that are available to keep the office open.

Walsh County Water Resource District joined the meeting. Larry Tanke went over, in detail, the accounting of projects with the county. After a lengthy discussion, **Barta made a motion to pay the bills using Prairie Dog funds, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried. Commissioner Brintnell asked that future bills are presented in a timely manner going forward.

Ed Sevigny informed the commissioners that the grant that he applied for to get the assessing and GIS information online has been approved. He then presented the commissioners with an estimate from Vanguard Appraisals Inc. Ed stated that it is a 5-year contract with the first year, and initial set-up fee, being covered by the grant. He did state there is a possibility that the second year could be covered by the grant. **Suda made a motion to approve the 5-year service contract with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Stacie Sevigny appeared for the following:

- Stacie gave an update on the Walsh County Self-Help Program for 2023. Stacie informed the commissioners that WC received nine requests for projects totaling over \$50,000. **Brintnell made a motion to approve \$1,000 to be awarded to the cities through the Self-Help Program, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Stacie gave an update on the Walsh County Career Builders program. Stacie stated that there have been 23 job placements, which ranks WC fourth in the state in gaining employees to fill in-demand jobs.

Brent Nelson appeared for the following:

- Brent presented the commissioners with prices of used vehicles from D&B Motors. A discussion was had and it was decided that Brent should reach out to Hanson's for another bid and to also look into what the trade-in value of the current pickup would be with D&B Motors.
- Brent then presented the commissioners with a letter from the Clerk of District Court regarding quarterly security training. A discussion was had on the expectations that the commissioners have regarding employee training. Brent will hold quarterly safety trainings going forward.
- Brent presented the commissioners with a 1-year and 3-year quote from Everbridge, which is the notification system that the county uses. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the 3-year contract with Everbridge, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- A brief discussion was had on an email that Brent received regarding a low interest hazard mitigation loan through ND Department of Emergency Services. At this time a notice of interest has not been submitted but he wanted the commissioners to be aware of it.
- Brent presented the commissioners with a quote from Marco for a replacement plotter, which is a large-scale printer. Brent stated that there is a grant available through the weed program that would cover 75% of the cost of the new printer, which would leave a balance due of \$1,185 for the county. The plotter would replace the existing printer that has been giving Brent issues. After a discussion was had, **Barta made a motion to approve the purchase of the printer due to the grant, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Jason Johnston appeared for the following:

- Jason presented three utility permits for Polar Communications for fiber optic cables under County Rd 15, County Rd 19, and County Rd 4. **Suda made a motion to approve the three utility permits for Polar Communications, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Jason presented the commissioners a bid from Demester Cleaning Service in the amount of \$6,600 to strip and wax the floors on the 1st floor for 2024. **Brintnell made a motion to accept the bid from Demester Cleaning Service, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

- Jason informed the commissioners that the bidding for the bridge project was now pushed to December 13, 2024 due to funding. Jason reported that there will be 4 projects that will need to be bid at that time.
- Jason gave an update on the projects that the highway crew has been working on.
- Jason presented the commissioners with the annual Miscellaneous Professional Services Agreement with KLJ. The agreement is a blanket agreement that will allow KLJ to perform miscellaneous engineering tasks, not to exceed \$10,000. **Barta made a motion to approve the contract with KLJ, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Leanna Emmers from LTAP joined the meeting to recognize the WC Highway Department for being the 2023 Innovation Champions for their “asphalt crevice blaster”. The tool was created to clean out the cracks in the asphalt so that the sealant can adhere to it longer. Jerry Hodny and Dean Thompson were present to accept the plaque.

Auditor Quibell informed the commissioners that the Deputy Auditor II position will be posted in the coming days.

Auditor Quibell reported that the W-2’s and 1099’s were completed but Legacy CPA filed the 1099’s for the county. Quibell reported some year-end findings that were discovered while W-2’s were being prepared and three of the county’s quarterly 941 reports will have to be corrected.

Chair Anderson informed the commissioners that she attended a meeting in Devils Lake and they are also looking to build a new jail. Anderson reported that she attended a Zoom meeting with Elevatus recently regarding the proposal. Ron Jurgens joined the meeting to discuss the proposal from Elevatus. Ron reported that the fee for Phase I was \$15,000 which would provide the county with a plan in the near future. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the fee proposal of \$15,000, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Barta moved to reappoint Albin Jallo to a three-year term (2024, 2025, 2026) and Daryl Campbell to a 2-year term (2024, 2025) on the Water Resource District Board; second by Suda. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor