

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 16, 2024

January 16, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Anderson, Commissioners Barta, Suda, and Skorheim.
Present via Zoom: Commissioner Brintnell

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 January 2, 2024 minutes with corrections and monthly bills, seconded by Skorheim. All voted in favor.

Auditor Quibell introduced her new Deputy I Auditor, Kelsee Street, who started on January 3rd, 2024.

Ron Jurgens appeared for the following:

- Ron informed the commissioners that they let a jailer go and now there is an opening in the jail. Ron reported that they would be fully staffed once the position was filled. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the hiring of the vacant position in the jail, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Ron informed the commissioners that with the help of Heidi at Agassiz Associates, he applied for a Law Enforcement Resiliency Grant through the State of North Dakota. The grant is to provide mental health and wellness support to current and retired correctional officers and law enforcement personnel. The grant was a 1-year formula grant process and Walsh County was awarded \$50,320.98. The grant will work in conjunction with Agassiz Associates and will ensure support is received within 72 hours.

Jason Johnston appeared for the following:

- Jason presented a drainage application permit for 2 crossings on County 4 for Jay Gudajtes. Jay requested a start date of June 1st to ensure all spring planting is done beforehand. **Barta made a motion to approve the drainage application for Jay Gudajtes, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Jason informed the commissioners that the asbestos has been removed from the Adams Store. Jason has not heard back from the City of Adams on purchasing the property. Jason stated that the county has spent approximately \$5,000 and would like to see any sale proceeds returned to the Buildings and Grounds budget.
- Jason informed the commissioners that the salt supply has been depleted. He stated that the size of the salt shed doesn't allow enough storage space for the amount of salt that is needed. He is looking into a cost share with the City of

Park River to build a facility large enough for the demands. Jason stated that the price of salt has increased by \$47.50, to \$253/ton, and they are putting less salt on than they have in the past so it goes further. Jason is concerned that if the county continues to supply salt to other agencies the county could run out of salt during a weather event. He is looking into the possibility of modifications to the county's current salt shed to increase the capacity.

- Jason stated that the bridge project that should have been bid out at the end of January had to be pushed out to April, due to the delay in funding for DOT. Jason stated that he is concerned that the funding delays will continue to push back other bridge projects.
- Jason informed the commissioners that after the last meeting he did some additional research on the St Andrews crossing issue. Jason stated that he found documentation from May 7, 2018 where the commissioners voted to fix the crossing one last time with 2017 flood money. Jason stated that the crossing is passable at this time and the highway department will continue to monitor it, with the possibility of it being permanently closed in the future.
- The highway department is working on creating a preliminary schedule of projects to be presented to the commissioners. Jason informed them that he is working with Wade from KLJ to come up with a 5 year plan for the county.

The Northern Valley Human Service Zone vacancy was then discussed. **Brintnell made a motion to appoint Chair Anderson for the 1-year term, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Auditor Quibell went over the options that are available to assist her in cleaning up the general ledger. Tyler Technologies does not do on-site training but assistance is provided virtually at \$120/hour. The other option is for the auditor from Stutsman County to come for a week to work with the county for \$60/hour, plus travel compensation. A discussion was had on the possibility of needing assistance from both Tyler Technologies and Stutsman County due to the uniqueness of the situation. **Suda made a motion to approve Tyler Technologies at \$120/hour and Stutsman County's assistance at \$60/hour, plus travel compensation, as needed, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Chair Anderson informed the commissioners that Tina Anderson would be interested in filling the County's vacancy on the Carnegie Regional Library board. **Barta made a motion to appoint Tina Anderson for the Carnegie Regional Library board; seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Barta stated that he would like to work with the Grafton High School to get high school students involved in county government by inviting them to join the meetings.

Commissioner Skorheim informed the commissioners that the fair board had a structural engineer evaluate the fair building. Skorheim reported that the engineer felt that the structure was salvageable. The engineer felt that the biggest concern was ventilating the building when the ice is melting. The engineer felt that there wasn't anything that could

not be fixed structurally and thought that mudjacking the east wall would increase the longevity of the building.

Chair Anderson reminded the group to get the employee evaluations completed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor