

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 19, 2024

March 19, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Vice-Chair Brintnell, Commissioner Barta, Suda, and Skorheim
Absent Chair Anderson

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

Barta moved to approve the March 5, 2024 minutes and monthly bills, seconded by Suda. All voted in favor.

Barta congratulated the Grafton boys basketball team for placing 3rd at State, Kruiser Burns for winning the Class B state title, and Bill Gallaway for being inducted into the North Dakota Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Barta reported that the Grand Forks Herald had an article about texting at open meetings. Barta stated that the texts can be requested by open records.

Suda reported that an interview for the county agent was held and there will be another interview scheduled at a later date.

Skorheim reported that Katie Thompson requested the locks be changed on the fair building. He informed the commissioners that the fair association would be covering the costs. A discussion was had and it was decided that Katie would be in charge of the keys once they have been replaced.

Auditor Quibell informed the commissioners that the new Deputy Auditor, Whitney Weisenberger, will be starting on March 20, 2024.

Skorheim updated the commissioners that the preliminary floorplan for the jail has been completed by Elevatus. He anticipates preliminary numbers in the coming weeks and at that time they intend on cutting it down to meet the needs of the county. Ron Jurgens will reach out to Elevatus and Samuels Group regarding public meetings. Barta intends on reaching out to David Monson to see if there is any funding available from the state level.

Sherry O'Toole, Treasurer, joined the meeting to get approval to open up a new bank account at Choice Bank for the Treasurer's Office to write their treasurer checks. Prior to the software change the checks were processed separately but are now being written out of the same account as the warrants. Sherry explained that if they were written out of a separate account, they would not show up on the bill reports submitted for review.
Skorheim made a motion to approve Sherry to open a new checking account at

Choice Bank for Treasurers Checks, seconded by Suda. All voted in favor; motion approved.

Stacie Sevigny joined the meeting to give the commissioners an update on the childcare project. Stacie reported that they are hopeful that the center will be completed in the fall. A discussion was had on the need for a daycare center in the county. Stacie informed the commissioners that the Park River School District is working on securing funding to create an early learning center for 4- and 5-year-olds. Stacie also gave the commissioners an overview of the rural housing study that Walsh County is participating in, along with Pembina County, Nelson County, and Grand Forks County.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Ed presented an abatement application to the commissioners for Richard Kringstad for a home in Hoople, ND for the tax years 2022 and 2023. Mr. Kringstad is requesting that the value be reduced to \$0 due to the condition of the property. Ed went over the details of the abatement application with the commissioners and stated that the City of Hoople reduced the True & Full Value on this property to \$2,000. It was Ed's recommendation to reduce the value of the parcel to a True & Full Value of \$2,000. **Suda made a motion to approve the \$2,000 True and Full Value of Richard Kringstad's parcel, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, appeared for the following:

- Ron reported that he feels there is a need for a sergeant on the night shift. Ron felt it would be important to have senior leadership for the young crew working the night shift. Ron asked for permission to promote two people to night sergeants. **Skorheim made a motion to allow Ron to promote two people to night sergeants, seconded by Barta.** Ron reported that there would be a pay increase and it would be funded through his budget. All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Ron reported that load restrictions are now in place.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Bill Jasmer's retirement party will be held on Friday of this week. Jason reported that he has had 2 outside applicants and no internal ones at this time. Bob Rostvet has been training in for the time being.
- Jason gave an update on the highway department equipment. The bridge truck and skid steer are back and fixed. He reported that the payloader is in need of repairs. He anticipates the two new motor graders to be delivered next Wednesday.
- Jason updated the commissioners on the Adams Store project, which should be completed by next week.
- Jason presented the commissioners with the 2024 gravel bids. There was a discussion on the bids and it was Jason's recommendation to accept the bids from Lakeside Construction and G&T Trucking for the 2024 year. **Barta made a motion to approve the bids for Lakeside Construction and G&T**

Trucking for the 2024 year, seconded by Suda. All voted in favor, motion approved.

- Jason reported that he is still waiting to hear on the Flex Funds Program.
- Suda asked for an update on Homme Dam for the upcoming year. Jason reported that he has been in contact with Susanne Blair regarding the changes that will be made. He intends on having specific timecards for Homme Dam and reported that there will not be any overtime granted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Kristi Brintnell, Vice-Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor