

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 7, 2024

May 7, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Anderson, Commissioner Brintnell, Suda, and Skorheim
Commissioner Barta arrived at 9:20 due to a water board meeting

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

The meeting was called to order and bills were reviewed.

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

Katie Thompson appeared to give an update to the commissioners on the extension office and fair building. Katie reported that an office window was broken and will return with an estimate. Katie reported that a structural engineer will be evaluating the fair building now that the ice is out.

Allen Anderson presented a proposal for a new county website from Revize LLC. The cost was \$8,300 with a \$2,000 annual maintenance fee. Allen reported that the Health Department will contribute \$2,500 to the initial cost. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the new website proposal, to be paid out of the Technology Fund or County General, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Brintnell gave an update on an NDPHIT meeting she attended. NDPHIT is expecting another high increase in rates for 2025. After a discussion it was determined that the Insurance Committee would meet to look at alternative plans.

Commissioner Barta joined the meeting.

Ed Sevigny presented the commissioners with a letter from the City of Park River regarding Walsh Grain Terminal, LLC. Walsh Grain Terminal, LLC was participating in a 10-year pilot program with the City of Park River where their assessed value was \$0. The 10 years expired but the assessed valuation was omitted from the 2023 tax year. The true and full value for the 2023 tax year was \$10,430,040. **Suda made a motion to accept the omitted assessment for Walsh Grain Terminal, LLC as presented, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Barta gave an update on the water board meeting he attended this morning.

Auditor Quibell informed the commissioners that the Tyler Technologies expenses and overtime that was to be paid out of ARPA funds were reported incorrectly. Quibell stated that it was reported that those expenses were paid out of LACTF funding. Quibell asked

for a motion to approve the expenses to be paid out of LACTF funding, instead of the ARPA fund. After a discussion **Barta made a motion to approve the technology expense and overtime to be paid with LACTF funds, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Drainage Permit for Lone Wolf Farms was presented for County Rd 15 and 15A. **Barta reluctantly made a motion to approve the permit due to the fact that they did the work before the permit was approved, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Commercial Market Corridor (CMC) road map, which are roads that have received federal funding, was reviewed. A discussion was held on the right-of-ways for all county roads. **Barta made a motion to start enforcing right-of-ways county-wide, seconded by Suda.** Roll call vote – Skorheim – Yes, Suda – Yes, Brintnell – No, Barta – Yes, Anderson – Yes; motion approved.
- Utility Permit for Walsh Rural Water District was presented for County Rd 1 and 9 to install waterlines by horizontal direction drilling. **Suda made a motion to approve the utility permit for Walsh Rural Water District, seconded by Brintnell.**
- Jason presented the fund balances for the funds allocated by NDDOT.
- Contracts from KLJ were reviewed. The first contract is for the replacement of 50-135-8.2, which will be a Texas crossing. The second is for the replacement of 50-148-05.0, which is located on Cty Rd 9 and Drain 48 and will be funded by the Flex Fund. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the two contracts with KLJ, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Mowing bids were reviewed. Custom 365 was awarded the job with a bid price of \$2,400 per month.
- Bridge replacement request from Walsh Centre Township was reviewed. The bridge is located on 147th Ave NE and Walsh Centre Township will pay 50% of the cost of the culvert. **Suda made a motion to approve the bridge replacement, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Commissioner Barta requested overtime be granted to the road grader operators in an effort to get the roads bladed. After a discussion, **Barta made a motion to approve the overtime, to be reviewed again in 2 weeks at the next meeting, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Kristi Quibell, Auditor, appeared for the following:

- Kristi informed the commissioners that the county was subject to penalty and interest for all 4 quarters of 2023 from the IRS. The total amount due of \$30,739.20 was for failure to make a proper tax deposit and for a late return on payroll related withholdings. Quibell will be working with the IRS in an effort to get some of the fines abated and will report back.
- Auditor office support was reviewed in detail with the commissioners. After some discussion, **Suda made a motion to extend paying Kristi for the extra hours worked, dropping it from overtime rate to straight pay and increasing it to 100% of the hours with an option to convert to comp time;**

seconded by Brintnell. All voted in favor; motion approved. Kristi will review quarterly with the commissioners. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the intern to work 3 days per week and allow Kris Molde to continue to work additional hours; seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Brandon Mathiason's application for the vacant Planning and Zoning Committee position was reviewed. Currently, there is a 2-year unexpired term and a 1-year unexpired term for the Planning and Zoning Committee. **Barta made a motion to appoint Brandon Mathiason for the 2-year unexpired vacant term, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor