

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
June 4, 2024

June 4, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Anderson, Commissioner Brintnell, Suda, Barta, 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 May 21, 2024 minutes, monthly bills, and a gaming permit for JR's Bar Oakwood Softball, seconded by Suda. All voted in favor.

Brent Nelson gave an update on the dispatch center. He hired Amber Grigsby for one of the open positions and has one vacant position at this time.

Auditor Quibell introduced Neysa Oliver to the commissioners. Neysa has accepted the Deputy Treasurer II position and will be working in the Treasurer's Office.

Tara Balstad, Director of Domestic Violence and Abuse Center, Inc gave an update on the program to the commissioners.

Tanya Weiler appeared to discuss the 2025 COLA and step increase. After a discussion was had, **Brintnell made a motion to approve the step increase for 2025, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved. A discussion was had on the percentage of COLA for 2025 to aid in the upcoming budget season. **Suda made a motion to approve up to a 2% COLA increase for 2025, seconded by Skorheim.** It was noted that the 2% increase was a preliminary percentage and the final percentage would be determined at a later time. All voted in favor; motion approved.

Pursuant to NDCC 57-12-01 the County Commissioners met as the County Tax Equalization Board at 9:30 a.m.

Present was Ed Sevigny, Matt Byron, and Ann Berg from the City of Park River. Ed presented the following:

- That overall residential values were up 12% in the county while ag and commercial valuation stayed the same. Ed will bring the full report back to the Commissioners in 2 weeks for final approval.
- Matt Bryon, a property owner from Park River, appealed his valuation. After a discussion, it was decided that Ed would work with the City of Park River and Matt Byron before the final meeting in two weeks.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Ed presented an abatement application for Derek Pokrzywinski and Brittney Zahradka for their property at 306 Regina Ave S, Park River, ND for the tax years

2022 and 2023. They are seeking to change the classification of their property from commercial to residential. Ed went over the details with the commissioners and it was noted that the City of Park River approved this abatement application. It was Ed's recommendation to approve the abatement application and classify this property as a residential with an unchanged value of \$110,970. **Suda made a motion to approve the abatement application for Derek Pokrzywinski and Brittney Zahradka, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

- Ed presented the second abatement application for Brian Brintnell for his property at 12746 59th St NE for the tax years 2022 and 2023. Ed reported that Mr. Brintnell is requesting his parcel to be classified as a Farm Residence Exemption. He reported that Medford Township approved this abatement. It was Ed's recommendation to approve the abatement application and remove the true and full value of this parcel from \$49,052 to just a land value of \$4,569 for 2022 and \$4,792 for 2023. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the abatement application for Brian Brintnell, seconded by Barta.** Brintnell abstained from voting because Brian is her son. All others voted in favor; motion approved.
- Ed reviewed the Vanguard Comparable Sales Module with the commissioners. The City of Grafton is interested in using the module and has offered to pay for the initial cost and the annual fee for the first year. After a discussion was had **Barta made a motion to move forward with the module, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- The rate for county assessing was discussed. After a discussion **Brintnell made a motion to increase the assessing rate from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per parcel, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Herb Winzer appeared to give an update on the condition of the property in Veseleyville. He was joined by Kurtis Rogalla and Neysa Oliver.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented two professional service agreements from KLJ for preliminary and design engineering for two projects. **Barta made a motion to approve the agreements, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Homme was discussed and a building and carport acquisition was reviewed.
- Jason presented the 2024 gravel map for the county.
- A letter addressed to David Silewski was reviewed regarding the St. Andrews Texas Crossing. The letter was requested by David Silewski.
- Application for Drainage Permit for Gary Dauksavage was reviewed. Jason reported that the water board approved the permit. **Suda made a motion to approve the drainage permit for Gary Dauksavage, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Application for Drainage Permit for Myrdal Bros was reviewed. Myrdal Bros are looking to place a small approach to access their tile pump. Due to the location of the approach, it was Jason's recommendation to deny this application.
- Application for Drainage Permit for Kevin Zikmund was reviewed. Kevin would like to clean and deepen the ditch on the south side of County Rd 19. Jason recommended that this application be denied.

- Quotes for highway signs were reviewed from Newman Signs and Sign Solutions. **Brintnell made a motion to accept Newman Signs quote, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- The condition of the state highways within the county was discussed.

Commissioner Barta reported that he is working with the health department on septic tanks.

Commissioner Barta discussed the water tour dates with the commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor