

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

August 6, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

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

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 July 16, 2024 minutes, monthly bills, seconded by Skorheim. All voted in favor.

Kelley Cole, States Attorney, gave an update on the Veseleyville case.

Brent Nelson asked the commissioners to appoint Kent Matejcek to the Weed Board. **Skorheim made a motion to appoint Kent Matejcek to the Weed Board, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Joel Hylden from the WC Soil Conservation District joined the meeting to discuss the budget process and how mills are calculated. Brandon Mathiason, Taylor Lorenz and Heather Okeson were also present during the discussion.

Heide Jensen, Agassiz Associates, gave an in-depth presentation regarding the work they are doing in the WC Correctional Center.

Allen Anderson, WC Health District, presented the Walsh County Opioid Settlement Funds Plan with the commission. Allen discussed CredibleMind, which is a digital platform for improvement of mental health by prevention, early invention, and evidence-based self-care. The cost for that would be approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000 annually and it would be accessible for all of Walsh County. **Barta made a motion to approve the Walsh County Opioid Settlement Funds Plan as presented, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Wade Thompson, KLJ Engineering, and Jason Johnston presented market analysis with values on potential easements for three potential bridge replacement projects. After a discussion was had, **Brintnell made a motion to accept the values as presented, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a utility permit from Otter Tail Power Company to bury new underground wire and install a new transformer at the elevator in Adams, ND. **Suda made a motion to approve the utility permit, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

- Presented drainage permit applications for Carl Unruh (1), Steven Schuster (1), John Fricke (7), Travis Uggerud (1), and Lee Gudajtes (1). Each application was reviewed in detail, **Barta made a motion to approve each drainage permit as presented, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Presented a ND DOT bridge inspection invoice for 4 bridges in the amount of \$424.76. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the bill, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Jason informed the commissioners that the box culvert for Highway 9 will not be received until October, not August like originally expected.
- Jason reported that he closed a bridge in Martin Township due to two beams that were damaged. They will be replaced with steel beams and the bridge crew will complete the work.

Prairie Timber Wrights Property Tax Incentive Application/ PILOT Program was reviewed. They are requesting a 100% tax exemption for 10 years. After a discussion was had, **Barta made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Auditor Quibell went over the preliminary budget in detail with the commissioners. The 2025 budget requests are: County General \$6,166,507, Capital Projects \$670,000, Veteran Services \$91,870, County Agent \$152,058, Weed Control \$241,142.40, Road and Bridge \$3,313,101.15, WC Health District \$150,000, WC Historical Society \$14,400, Job Development Authority \$337,250, Water Resource District \$275,000, Soil Conservation District \$177,500, State Medical Center 1 mill, Red River Joint Water Resource District \$93,448, Carnegie Library \$125,000. Senior Citizens and Devils Lake Joint Water Resource District will not be levying for the 2025 calendar year. It was noted that the Farm to Market and County Road levies expired and the county will be short 10 mills due to the Road and Bridge max levy allowed at 30 mills. After a lengthy discussion, **Brintnell made a motion to approve the preliminary budget as presented, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

The Three-Year Delinquent Tax Listing was reviewed.

A \$300 per month retention payment for the 2025 calendar year was presented for deputies that work the night shift. **Suda made a motion to approve the monthly retention payment, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

The Public Budget Meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2024 at 8:30 am.

The City of Grafton appointed Brad Burianek to the WC Planning and Zoning Committee, replacing Dave Fellman. **Skorheim made a motion to appoint Brad Burianek to the WC Planning and Zoning Committee, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

The updated logos were reviewed and it was determined that the second logo would be the best for the county's needs.

The Jail Committee will get the logo to the Samuels Group.

Commissioner Skorheim will reach out to the Legislative Representatives to set up a time for them to attend a commissioner meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell
Auditor