

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 20, 2024**

August 20, 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.

**Suda moved to approve the August 6, 2024 regular meeting minutes, the June 25, 2024, July 8, 2024, July 31, 2024 special meeting minutes, and monthly bills; seconded by Skorheim. All voted in favor.**

Chair Anderson will be the 2024 NDACo Conference Delegate.

Cheryl Osowski, Red River Regional Council, and Haylee Viger, ND Department of Agriculture, joined the meeting to give an overview of the Regional Livestock Development and Planning Grant Program. The grant program is to assist with counties, townships, and regional planning councils for livestock development planning. Brian Reilly, Walsh Rural Water District, was present to support the grant program. After a lengthy discussion **Suda made a motion to sign the resolution, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Auditor Quibell presented the commissioners with a proposal from Eide Bailly on the annual audit and single audit. In previous years the State Audit Department prepared the county audits but due to staffing issues they have been unable to complete the audit. The State Audit Department recommended that if the county does not want to wait for them to complete the audit, we should look for other firms that could complete it. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that before any decisions are made Quibell, with the help of Chair Anderson, would reach out to the State Audit Department again.

Tanya Wieler presented the first reading of the updated Vehicle Accident Policy, requiring all accidents to be reported to the supervisor immediately. **Barta made a motion to approve the first reading of the updated Vehicle Accident Policy, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Tanya Wieler presented the second reading of the updated Sick Leave Policy, allowing employees to receive payment of 10% of their unused sick leave balance, with a maximum payout of 200 hours. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the updates Sick Leave Policy effective immediately, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Tanya Wieler announced that Adrienne Montonye was the logo artist that was chosen during the logo contest.

Tanya Wieler reported no update from the insurance committee at this time.

Andrew Gozdal joined the meeting to discuss buyouts for Walsh County properties near the Red River. Mr. Gozdal has a property in St. Andrews Township and would be interested in a potential buyout. Brent Nelson explained the buyout process in detail and explained that Hazard Mitigation paid for the house buyouts in the past.

Brent Nelson has been working with Gwen and Rory Sobolik on a floodplain permit variance. The Soboliks are working with Agatha Frisby on an addition to their property and have been working with a land surveyor to remove the existing structure from the floodplain. It was determined that a variance would not be given until after the process of removing the structure from the floodplain has been completed.

Brent Nelson states that the Floodplain Management Resolution with the townships are not adequate with FEMA. Brent will be sending out three options to the townships; one option would be no county floodplain management, the second option would be that the county would handle their floodplain management but no county planning and zoning, and the third would be the county would handle both the floodplain management and planning and zoning.

Ron Jurgens presented a quote from Motorola Solutions for two new radios in the amount of \$13,766.40. After a discussion was had, **Barta made a motion to approve the purchase of the new radios, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Ron Jurgens presented two Bill of Sales to replace the Sheriff's Office UTV. The first was from Joe's Sport Center, Inc out of Devils Lake, ND in the amount of \$23,855 for a new 2024 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 NorthStar Edition Premium. The second was from Hubert's Outdoor Power out of Thief River Falls, MN in the amount of \$31,500 for a new 2025 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 NorthStar Edition Premium. After a discussion **Skorheim made a motion to accept Joe's Sport Center, Inc bid, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Jason Johnston and Wade Thompson reported that Gladen Construction was the low bid during the bid opening for the box culvert job on #9. **Skorheim made a motion to approve the bid, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved. Also presented was a proposed contract from KLJ for construction engineering on the project in the amount of \$52,800. **Brintnell made a motion to approve the contract with KLJ, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Jason Johnston presented drainage permit applications for Nathan Riskey, Harley Kingsbury Company, Cyril Suda and Sons, and Lee Gudajtes. Each application was reviewed in detail, **Suda made a motion to approve each drainage permit as presented, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Skorheim left the meeting.

Auditor Quibell reported in order to place the measure to increase the Capital Projects Levy by 10 mills on the November ballot it must be approved at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. After a discuss was had it was decided that Quibell would work with the States Attorney office and present the wording of the measure at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Auditor Quibell stated that her office is consistently receiving bills after the deadline. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that all bills must be submitted to the Auditors Office no later than 4:30 pm each Friday, every piece of mail must be date stamped, and late bills must be notated in the commissioner packets. If the issue continues the Auditors Office will work with the portfolio holder for that department.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

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Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

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Kristi Quibell  
Auditor