

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 2024**

November 19, 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.

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

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Gravel pit valuations were discussed. Valuations have not increased since 2018 and it was decided that the Tax Director’s office will look to increase valuations in the future.

Kristi Quibell, Auditor/Treasurer, appeared for the following:

- ARPA funds and County General expenses over \$10,000 were reviewed. After a discussion was had, **Brintnell made a motion to use all of the ARPA funds to pay for salaries paid out of County General and transfer the exact amount from County General to the Capital Improvement Fund for the HVAC/Jail project, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Quarterly Treasurers Reports for the first 3 quarters of 2024 was reviewed.
- Year to date budget expenses were reviewed.
- Outsourcing the final tax statements through Forum Communications was reviewed. After a discussion, **Suda made a motion to approve outsourcing the final tax statements, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Pursuant to public advertisement, the sale of real estate forfeited to Walsh County for delinquent taxes was held at 10:00 a.m.

The following parcels were sold:

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|-----------|--|-----------------|----------|
| 24--06037 | In SE1/4NW1/4 & SW1/4NE1/4 16.069A 21-158-56 | Jay Gudajtes | \$26,000 |
| 37-09003 | Lots 21 & N 10’ of 20 Bk 76 First Addition | Lance Benson | \$9,500 |
| 37-10496 | Lots 4 & 5, Bk 1 Monson 2 nd Add | Timothy Stegman | \$9,500 |

The remaining parcels will be offered to the respective cities for sale.

Stacie Sevigny and Julie Gemmill gave a financial update on the Walsh County Childcare Center. After a lengthy discussion, **Suda made a motion to have Walsh County as a leader and support a vital addition to our entire county by pledging \$100,000.** No second; motioned failed. After a lengthy discussion, **Suda made a motion to pledge \$50,000 to the childcare center, seconded by Anderson.** Roll vote: Skorheim – No, Suda – Yes, Brintnell – No, Barta – No, Anderson – Yes, motion failed.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a utility permit for Polar Communications to install fiber optic cables at 156-26-54. **Barta made a motion to approve the utility permit, seconded by Brintnell.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

- Presented a drainage permit for Tom Torkelson on County Rd 6, Section 32 in Farmington Township. After a discussion, **Skorheim made a motion to approve the drainage permit for Tom Torkelson, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved. The drainage permit for Spencer Bina to add a culvert was not presented until they are contacted regarding cleaning out the ditch.
- Presented the bid for OpenGov for discussion. After lengthy conversation, it was determined that Jason would include his department in the conversation and possibly present a demo of the product before a decision is made.
- Discussed the lease between the Corps of Engineers and Homme, which expires in July 2034. The current lease does not allow camping for more than 30 days in the Homme Campground. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a committee would be created to navigate the future of the campground.

Commissioner Barta discussed the need for state funds for jail infrastructure. After a discussion, it was decided that the county would wait for the legislative session.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am

Karen Anderson, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell, Auditor