

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 17, 2024

December 17, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Brintnell; Commissioner Suda, Barta, Houdek, and Skorheim

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

Commissioner Barta left the meeting.

Skorheim moved to approve the December 3, 2024 regular meeting minutes, monthly bills, and the Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal for JR's Bar; seconded by Houdek. All voted in favor; motion approved.

Ron Jurgens, Sheriff, requested a motion to rehire an open jail position. **Skorheim made a motion to allow the rehiring of the open jail position, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Suda presented updated bids from B&D Flooring on behalf of Katie Thompson for the extension office. After a discussion, **Skorheim made a motion to approve the bids, minus the sales tax, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Bev Demers and Judge Whelan presented an application for the Court Facilities Improvement Grant in the amount of \$33,874.22, with a cost to the county of \$8,468.56. After a discussion, **Houdek made a motion to approve the county's share of the project, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented a farm exemption application for the 2023 and 2024 tax years for John and Amy Suda. Ed recommended that the application be approved with the recommended true and full land value of \$5,100. **Houdek made a motion to approve the abatement for John and Amy Suda as presented, seconded by Skorheim.** Skorheim – Y, Houdek – Y, Suda – Abstained, Brintnell – Y; motion approved.
- Presented an abatement for Neysa Oliver for the 2024 tax year. Ed completed an on-site inspection of the parcel and entered the data into the assessment software for an analysis. Ed requested that the application be approved with the total true and full value of \$167,000. After a discussion, **Suda made a motion to approve the abatement application for Neysa Oliver as presented, seconded by Houdek.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Tanya Wieler presented the Child Care Relief Program, which is a new pilot program the state started which will provide some relief to full-time working parents with childcare expenses. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to table this until budget time.

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

- Requested a motion to rehire the Deputy Auditor II position. **Skorheim made a motion to allow the rehiring of the open Deputy Auditor II position, seconded by Houdek.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

- Reported that her year-end training sessions with Tyler Technology totaled \$1,040.00. After a discussion, **Skorheim made a motion to approve the \$1,040, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Barta returned to the meeting

- Presented a proposal from NRG to extend the county's backup services with Datto. The warranty on the current unit expired in 2022 and this would provide a 5 year warranty and lock the current monthly rate of \$865.33, with a 3-year commitment to Datto's backup services. There would be an installation expense to the county in the amount of \$1,016.00. **Suda made a motion to approve the NRG contract, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Presented a drainage permit for Donald Novak. **Barta made a motion to approve the drainage permit, as presented, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Reported heating issues in the Chase Building. Custom Aire was on-site and the cost could be extensive. Jason will be getting additional bids and will present to the commission at that time. Houdek requested an Income and Expense Statement on the Chase Building.
- Reported the bid for the bridge on County 9 near Nash increased by \$26,000 due to the other bridge project being removed from the original quote. After a discussion, it was decided to wait on the bridge on County 9 at this time.
- Presented a bridge inspection bill for the cost-share amount of \$20,577.86. **Skorheim made a motion to approve payment of \$20,577.86, seconded by Suda.** Skorheim – Y, Suda – Y, Barta – N, Houdek – Y, Brintnell – Y; motion approved.
- Presented a Resolution from DOT on Project No – BRJ-0050(058) in the amount of \$2,000,612.40 and a Resolution on Project No – BRJ-0050(060) in the amount of \$621,231.80. Both projects are fully funded by the state. **Barta made a motion to approve both projects, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Wade Thompson from KLJ gave an update on the upcoming year and thanked the county for the business in 2024.
- Commission Suda reported that Katie Thompson will be getting bids for the bathrooms in the extension office. Once the bids are received Katie will be working with Jason to coordinate to get the project completed.

The current Winter Weather Policy was reviewed. After a discussion with Tanya Wieler, Ron Jurgens, and Kelley Cole it was decided that the courthouse closure due to inclement weather should be made by the Sheriff, not the Chair. The Winter Weather Policy will be updated to allow the Sheriff to make the decision to close the courthouse during inclement weather and to remove WDAZ from the list of media that will be updated when a closure happens. **Suda made a motion to approve the first reading of the updated Winter Weather Policy, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Quibell presented Quit Claim Deeds for 3 parcels that did not sell at the Foreclosure Tax Sale in the Adams. The City of Adams would like to purchase parcel 48-0000-14404-000, 48-0000-14417-000, 48-0000-14351-000 for \$1.00 each. **Skorheim made a motion to approve selling the 3 parcels to the City of Adams, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Commissioner Skorheim gave an update on the last meeting that he attended for Three Rivers Soil Conservation District.

Chair Brintnell gave an update on the Department Head Meeting that she attended.

- The county's new website will be live in the near future.
- NDSU Extension Office would help facilitate a 5-year Strategic Plan workshop for the county.
- Chair Brintnell is looking into scheduling a Professional Development Day with NDSU Extension Office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am

Kristi Brintnell, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell, Auditor