

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF WALSH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 7, 2025

January 7, 2025– 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Skorheim moved to approve the December 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes and monthly bills; seconded by Barta. All voted in favor; motion approved.

Katie Thompson introduced the new Extension Office Admin Assistant, Rachel Klose, to the commissioners.

Ed Sevigny, Tax Director, appeared for the following:

- Presented the Agricultural Value per Acre for the 2025 Assessment from the Office of State Tax Commissioner. Walsh County's ag value increased by 1.9% from last year. After a discussion on the 2025 ag valuation, it was Ed's recommendation that the valuation stays the same at \$987.85 per acre for the 2025 assessments. **Skorheim made a motion to keep the 2025 ag valuation the same as it was for 2024, seconded by Barta.** All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Ed gave an update on the mobile home foreclosure in Ardoch. The mobile home is unable to be moved and the Highway Department will have to dispose of it. Ed is working with the Assistant States Attorney on possibly assessing a special assessment to the land owner for the cost of demolition. After a discussion, **Houdek made a motion to have the Highway Department clear out the trailer and, if possible, assess the cost to the landowner with a special assessment, seconded by Suda.** All voted in favor; motion approved.

Ron Jurgens reported that Samuels Group and the Jail Committee are preparing to bring their findings to the commissioners in the near future.

Jason Johnston, Highway Superintendent, appeared for the following:

- Jason reported that he received one bid from KLJ for BRJ-0050(060) bridge project and one bid from KLJ for BRJ-0050(058) bridge project. The committee completed the interview and recommend the commissioners select KLJ to provide the engineering for both projects. After a discussion, **Barta made a motion to approve KLJ for both projects, seconded by Houdek.** All voted in favor; motion approved.
- Reported a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers is scheduled for January 21st to discuss Homme Dam. It was recommended that a public meeting be scheduled after the January 21st meeting.
- Jason gave an update on the County Rd 2 plans.

Kristi Quibell gave an update on the Auditor/Treasurer Office. She received one application on the Deputy Auditor II open position. The Deputy Treasurer II position is now vacant and she has been working with Tanya Wieler and Kristi Brintnell to advertise the position. She has hired a part-time person to help receipt tax payments during the busy tax season.

A discussion was held on the Board Appointment Process for boards that the Walsh County Commission appoints. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Chair Brintnell would work with Tanya Wieler to streamline the process going forward.

Stacie Sevigny, WCJDA, presented the WCJDA recommendations to appoint Joe Torgerson and Peyton Cole-Markel for the two vacancies. After a discussion, **Barta made a motion to appoint Joe Torgerson and Peyton Cole-Markel to the WCJDA Board, seconded by Houdek.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Larry Tanke expressed his interest to be reappointed to the Walsh County Water Board. After a discussion, **Barta made a motion to reappoint Larry Tanke to the Walsh County Water Board, seconded by Skorheim.** All voted in favor; motion carried.

Chair Brintnell informed the commissioners that the commissioners have been invited to a Local Government Capitol Connection in Bismarck on February 18th, 2025 – February 19th, 2025. Due to this event, they will have to either reschedule or cancel the scheduled February 18, 2025 commissioner meeting. A decision will be made as it gets closer to the meeting date.

The assignment of the 2025 portfolios for the commissioners was then discussed. A full review of the portfolio was held and changes were made. The updated portfolio list will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Kristi Brintnell, Chair

Attest:

Kristi Quibell, Auditor/Treasurer