**WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

The Walworth County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse. Commissioners Houck, Holgard, Mohr, Schilling and Jungwirth were all present. Also present was Auditor Debbie Kahl. Denise Centeno was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Houck.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Schilling moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mohr seconded. All in favor: Aye-5; Nay-0. Motion carried.

States Attorney Hare joined the meeting.

**CLAIMS:**

Commissioner Mohr moved to approve the claims as presented. Commissioner Schilling seconded. Roll Call vote: Holgard – yes, Mohr – yes, Schilling – yes; Jungwirth – yes. Houck – yes. Motion carried.

APRIL APPORTIONMENT TO SCHOOLS – 1,690,291.70; APRIL APPORTIONMENT TO TOWNS & CITIES - $541,523.68; APRIL APPORTIONMENT TO FIRE DISTRICTS - $6,192.84’ JUSTIN BENTZ – meals, carwash - $32.68; MISTY BLANCO – mileage elections - $20.16; COGLEY LAW OFFICE – court appt atty, abused child defense - $6096.96; COLEMAN LAW – court appt atty, abused child defense - $457; CONNECTING POINT – support, labor, mileage equipment, monthly service - $6935.90; CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE – generator repair - $810.53; DT PHARMACY - $81.73; DACOTAH BANK – rentals, postage, certified mail, blinds, ladder, sales tax - $1624.91; DAKOTA RADIO GROUP – job line - $150.00; EDMUNDS COUNTY – prisoner boarding - $75.00; ROCHELLE FORGET – meals - $25.08; DARRELL GRIESE – meals - $36.50; HOVEN COOP SERVICE – gas, diesel - $5595.08; HUGHES COUNTY – prisoner boarding - $1710.00; CAROL LEAVITT – blood draw - $65.00; LOCKE ELECTRIC – air conditioner work - $1418.96; MDU – electricity - $35.80; MARCO – copier contract, copies – $170.18; MARK KROONTJE - court appt atty, abused child defense- $2439.43; CITY OF MOBRIDGE – 911 surcharge payment - $4837.55; MOBRIDGE PIT STOP – gas - $84.75; MOBRIDGE REGIONAL HOSPITAL – labs - $144.00; MOBRIDGE TRIBUNE – legal notice, job ads - $447.37; PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL – prisoner boarding - $304.45; CHELSEA PRASEK – meals - $14.00; RELX INB LEXISNEXIS – subscription - $614.00; RIPLEY FUNERAL HOME – funeral - $2500.00; CITY OF SELBY - water - $74.11; SELBY OIL – repairs, 2020 Explorer, 2013 Tahoe, $109.00; SELBY RECORD – job ad, clean up ad - $609.50; SENIOR CENTER SELBY – rental for elections - $75.00; SENIOR NUTRITION CENTER - $262.50; SERVALL UNIFORM & LINEN - mats, dust protection, -$67.41; SLATER OIL & GAS, gas - $8020.00; TALIAFERRO LAW FIRM – mental illness service - $1202.00; THOMSON REUTERS PAYMENT CENTER – books, bound volumes - $24.69; KALA TROYER – meals - $52.65; RONNY TROYER – melas - $66.39; VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS – phone, fax - $742.51; VON WALD LAW – abused child defense - $429.25; WELLMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD – employer paid health benefits - $25412.93; CITY OF WINNER – prisoner boarding - $7739.00; WINNER FAMILY DRUG – prescriptions - $51.40; WINNER PHARMACY – prescriptions - $12.40; WINNER REGIONAL HOSPITAL – jail medical - $309.80;

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Denise Centeno spoke to the Commission concerning the signs that are going up in the city of Mobridge. She was told by the city that SD DOT was taking care of it. She is hoping that county would be able to oversee it in some way. She believes that the work is very sloppy and the sign placement is not correct. She would like to make sure that everything is checked before that contract is signed off on. Auditor Kahl spoke concerning knowledge that she had from being on the town board in Akaska. She said that as far as she knew every town had a signed agreement with the DOT concerning that. That agreement was probably signed at least 2 years ago. Mrs. Centeno said that the city Mobridge was not taking care of that and her main concern is to find someone to look at these problems. Commissioner Holgard stated that he was aware that the County and the Town of Glenham had also signed agreements. Mrs. Centeno just wants someone to take responsibility for these signs.

**STATES ATTORNEY**

States Attorney Jamie Hare is asking to surplus a HP Laser Jet Pro MFP to be destroyed. Commissioner Holgard moved to declare the printer surplus to be destroyed. Commissioner Schilling seconded. All in favor: Aye- 5; Nay – 0. Motion carried.

States Attorney informed the commission that he will be resigning around the 15th August. He said he will be submitting an official letter of resignation at a later date.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Cindy Geier gave the commissioners a handout on the status of where we are at the present time concerning tax deed properties. She told the commission she is still working with a few people who have indicated that they are going to clear them up. She also told the commission that she had been working with Gary Walking Elk on a treasurer’s trust and Shirley Walking Elk was supposed to be here this morning, but she hadn’t come in at this time. The commission held a short discussion about the various properties that have tax deeds in both Java and Mobridge. A short discussion was held on pursuing more information about the county possibly once again selling certificates.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Register of Deeds requested to surplus and destroy old non-working printers, keyboards, speakers and phones. Commissioner Mohr moved to declare the items surplus to be destroyed. Commissioner Jungwirth seconded. All in favor: Aye –5; Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION**

Director of Equalization Greg Pudwill requested travel permission to attend the Annual Assessors Conference in Deadwood the week of June 27. The conference will run Tuesday through Friday. He also requested travel permission to attend a Vanguard Software workshop in July. Commissioner Schilling moved to approve both travel requests. Commissioner Holgard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Holgard – yes, Mohr – yes, Schilling – yes, Jungwirth – yes, Chairman Houck – yes. Motion carried.

**AUDITOR:**

Auditor Kahl alerted the commission to some information from South Dakota Municipal League concerning Workman’s Comp. Commissioner Mohr motioned to sign the paperwork and send it in. Commissioner Schilling seconded the motion. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Josh Boll handed out his March & April reports to the commission. The board reviewed the reports. Sheriff Boll told the board if they had any questions to feel free to call him.

**HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Gary Byre handed out his monthly report. The board reviewed them. Superintendent Byre requested that monies be moved from one account to another account for expenses to the Road & Bridge Fund for secondary roads. Commissioner Holgard moved to transfer the monies in the funds as requested by the Highway Superintendent. Commissioner Mohr seconded. Roll Call Vote: Holgard – yes; Mohr – yes; Schilling – yes; Jungwirth – yes; Chairman Houck – yes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Byre brought Resolution WC 2022-10, A Resolution to Establish Temporary Speed and Weight Restrictions on County Road #321 (300th Ave) Blue Blanket Area. The part of the road that had been closed would be reopened to localized traffic only with the following restrictions – 25 MPH speed limit, light vehicle traffic only, No Trucks, No Oversized Farm Equipment. This would become effective today, June 23,2022. Commissioner Schilling moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Holgard seconded. The Resolution was read aloud by States Attorney Hare. All in favor: Aye – 5; Nay – 0. Motion carried.

Superintendent Byre requested permission to add 2 full time employees. He has lost 3 full time and 1 part time employee. He is asking to bring back 2 to replace them. The commission was in favor of this.

Superintendent Byre reminded the board that there is a Master Transportation plan meeting today at 2:00 pm in Mobridge. Commissioner Holgard asked Superintendent Byre if he would bring up the sign issue addressed earlier at this meeting as long as he was meeting with the DOT. Mrs Centeno explained to Superintendent Byre the concerns she expressed earlier. Commissioner Mohr asked the superintendent to bring it to the attention of the DOT. Superintendent Byre explained that this program has been contracted out to KLJ and he has been having conversations with them whenever he has received a complaint. Superintendent Byre gave Mrs Centeno his e-mail address and asked her to share all her concerns with him.

Superintendent Byre gave the commissioners a copy of an agreement with DOT for a haul road agreement to use a small segment of road for the project on Highway 12. He asked for permission to sign the agreements. Commissioner Holgard moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the agreement. Commissioner Mohr seconded. Commissioner Holgard asked if the road would be returned to current condition when they are done using it. Superintendent Byre said that they would. All in favor: Aye – 0; Nay – 0. Motion carried.

Superintendent Byre informed the commission that the Small Structure Inventory is complete and in the hands of the DOT.

Superintendent Byre has had questions about why he’s not mowing the roadside. He said these requests are overshadowed by the number of farmers that want to hay.

The commission took a 5 minute break to wait until the time to open bids at 10:00 am. At 10:00 Chairman Houck called the meeting back to order. The bids were opened. Superintendent Byre reminded the commission that the bids were to be both for contractor furnished and county work force. After a short discussion Superintendent Byre asked if they could recess and go in the Auditor’s office to discuss the bids and come back with a decision. They then opened the bids for Asphalt Surface Treatment. Commissioner Schilling made a motion to stockpile gravel in Twp 121-Rng 74 at $3.98 per ton with Wm. D, Scepaniak, Inc. Commissioner Jungwirth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Holgard – yes; Mohr – yes; Schilling -yes; Jungwirth – yes; Houck – yes. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Schilling asked if any further information had been found on Penny Goetz’s wage. Auditor Kahl said she had not had time to go back and listen to minutes. She has been talking to other people and by what she remembered Lewus Morgan was hired at the $15.95 like all deputies in the courthouse. When he finished his 90 day probation he got a raise to $16.45. Penny Goetz was hired at that wage and then received the $1.50 raise that employees got this year. Commissioner Schilling said that giving a raise after the 90 day probation was not something that is normally done for deputies in the courthouse. He does not think that Lewus Morgan should have been given that raise. Commissioner Schilling said if we are not able to see these raises back on the minutes he believes that Penny Goetz’s salary should be dropped back to what the rest of the deputies are making. Chairman Houck said if we do that we just as well start advertising for an open position at the Landfill. Commissioner Mohr believes Lewus Morgan was given the raise before he became a commissioner. He also said that Penny Goetz has more knowledge about the Landfill from working with it with Gary Byre when she was working for the Highway Department. Commissioner Mohr thinks we could as well be paying a $70000 salary to a Landfill Manager and he thinks the county is getting quite a bargain by having her 2-3 days a week.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Auditor Kahl informed the commission that she was going to be taking a few days off over the 4th of July holiday. She also told the commission that Sylvia Chapman, the consultant that was hired to help in the Auditor’s office would be starting here around July 18. She is studying the last 4 audit reports from the state.

Commissioner Holgard expressed concerns about the upcoming resignation of the States Attorney. Commissioner Schilling stated that he thought we should advertise the position as possibly being part time. He says there are a lot of counties that only have a part time States Attorney. Commissioner Holgard would just like to start exploring what some of our options are. Chairman Houck said maybe we should advertise for either full time or part time. States Attorney Hare joined the meeting. He thinks whether we hire full time or part time would depend on the experience and skill level of any one who expresses interest in the position. States Attorney Hare has talked to some other attorney’s about the position. He feels the county should be open to negotiation. The position is being advertised on the Statewide ads.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Holgard moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mohr seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5; Nay – 0. Motion carried

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**JIM HOUCK, CHAIRPERSON**

**ATTEST:**

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**DEBBIE KAHL, AUDITOR**

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