**WALWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

The Walworth County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 4, 2022, at 9 am. at the Walworth County Courthouse. Members present were: Jim Houck, Duane Mohr, Kevin Holgard, Scott Schilling and Justin Jungwirth. Also present were County Auditor Debbie Kahl.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Chairman Houck convened as Walworth County Commission.

Klevre Lee was present to speak at Public Forum. Her concern is with Highway 271 near Java, She is requesting to have the speed limit changed. The Commission advised her to talk with her city and Highway Superintendent Byre. Commissioner Schilling also gave her a number to contact.

Commissioner Holgard moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mohr requested to add the 2022 annual waste survey for the Landfill. Auditor Kahl asked to add an amended surplus property list for the Sheriff and add a leave of absence request for the State’s Attorney. Emergency Manager Jensen requested to add a radio program, and report on site 54. Commissioner Schilling moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Commissioner Mohr seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Commissioner Jungwirth moved to approve the claims. Commissioner Holgard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Holgard – yes, Jungwirth – yes, Mohr, - yes, Schilling – yes, Houck – yes. Motion carried.

AGTEGRA – supplies - $3287.00; AT&T MOBILITY – phone service - $407.30; RENEE BEAR STOPS – juvenile attorney - $366.84; BOWDLE HEALTHCARE CENTER – inmate medical - $419.09; BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF – inmate boarding - $4350.00; BUTLER MACHINERY – repairs, maintenance, supplies – $2322.32; CARLSON SERVICES – sewer repairs - $320.00; COGLEY LAW – court appointed attorney - $5662.00; COLEMAN LAW – court appointed attorney - $567.00; CONNECTING POINT - remote session - $92.50; DACOTAH BANK – rentals, postage - $49.99; DAKOTA FLUID POWER – supplies - $490.58; EDMUNDS COUNTY – inmate fingerprinting - $250.00; GREAT WESTERN TIRE – repairs, maintenance, tires - $1029.55; HOVEN MEDIA – publishing - $598.04; CITY OF JAVA – water - $18.00; JENSEN ROCK & SAND – services, materials – 87879.75; KENNEDY, PIER, LOFTUS, REYNOLDS – mental health board - $161.60; KEN’S WESTERN LUMBER – keys, supplies - $77.74; MARK KROONTJE – court appointed attorney - $2377.42; MARCO – rentals, supplies - $175.78; MDU – electric - $1398.83; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS – internet service - $158.39; CITY OF MOBRIDGE – water - $116.93; MOBRIDGE REGIONAL HOSPITAL – drug testing, inmate prescription - $171.56; PFITZER PEST CONTROL – pest control - $86.44; GREG PUDWILL – travel, meals - $190.78; RELX DBA LEXISNEXIS – courts - $1280.00; SDDANR – landfill tonnage fees - $1023.23; SD RETIREMENT – retirement - $13839.94; CITY OF SELBY - water - $828.99; SENIOR NUTRITION CENTER – inmate meals - $105.00; SERVALL LINEN SUPPLY - rentals, rugs - $1381.80; SHORTY’S – gas - $194.35; TOM STRICKLAND – subpoena, mileage - $87.20; US POSTAL SERVICE – annual fee - $108.00; VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS - $53.91; VERIZON – compactor GPS - $47.28; VON WALD LAW – abused child defense - $4040.00; PETE WEINZIRL – supplies VSO - $12.00;

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Holgard moved to approve the minutes of 07-28-22. Commissioner Mohr seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**STATES ATTORNEY**

State’s Attorney Beck was not present. Auditor Kahl brought to the attention the information concerning the civil action matter on the culvert down by Akaska. He is asking that the commission sign the Full & Final Agreement. This matter was settled for $100,000. Commissioner Holgard moved to sign the Full & Final Agreement. Commissioner Schilling seconded. Commissioner Schilling wants to state that he is not very happy about the outcome of that case. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried. Auditor Kahl also brought forward the leave of absence request. He has a family emergency on the east coast. He is requesting 29 hours leave without pay. He is aware that for those 29 hours he will be charged personally for his health insurance. The leave of absence has been signed by State’s Attorney Beck. Commissioner Mohr moved to approve the leave. Commissioner Schilling seconded. Chairman Houck asked if this 29 hours was on top of whatever accumulated leave that Bissett has. Auditor Kahl explained that he must use all his accumulated leave before he can have a leave of absence. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Byre presented a temporary easement between the County and Matt Arbach. The document as drafted brings up some questions concerning fencing. Superintendent Byre recommends tabling this document for review by the State’s Attorney. Commissioner Mohr moved to table this item. Commissioner Schilling seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Emergency Manager Jensen informed the commission of several things that have been going on in his department. He has a Mutual Aid Agreement with Agtegra concerning grain bin rescue. It has been sent to State’s Attorney Beck and was approved. He would like the commission to sign the agreement. EM Jensen has been told by his Regional Coordinator that he needs to start working on some of the professional trainings that are available to Emergency Managers. There will be one in Pierre October 10 – 13. He is asking for permission to travel. Commissioner Schilling moved to approve the travel. Commissioner Mohr seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried. There is another meeting in Watertown on November 29 – December 1. Commissioner Jungwirth moved to approve the travel. Commissioner Holgard seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried. There are also one day meetings in Pierre on October 27 concerning software, and another in Pierre on December 8 about EOC/ICS. EM Jensen told the commissioner about a full-scale exercise on 9-24-2022 at Swan Creek about a missing person. All 5 fire departments and the Sheriff’s office were all included in this exercise. Sheriff Boll, Commissioner Jungwirth and EM Jensen met concerning any Homeland Security Grants available to the county. They discussed greater security at the front and back entries to the courthouse. They also discussed getting some more VHF radios and a drone. Commissioner Holgard asked about grants for courtroom security. EM Jensen explained that Homeland Security Grants do not cover that but that there are different avenues for grants for that purpose. EM Jensen explained that War Hawk has just signed a lease agreement with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to put a civil defense antenna on one of their towers for Ziebach County and surrounding areas. It seems to be working much better than what they had. EM Jensen reported on Site 54 which is the last inundated road in the county. We must have something done by June 2023 or we stand to lose all money for that project. The project has been inspected. Em Jensen reports that our radio situation is not good. Our radios are becoming outdated and he is exploring avenues for that project. The fire departments know that this programming will be at their cost. EM Jensen expressed his frustration with IMEG. This has been an ongoing problem. He has made calls to the state and to NECOG. IMEG says they are planning to have it done in October. He says we are coming up on another closed door. This project has to be done by April. The commission would like our State’s Attorney to send a letter to IMEG addressing this issue. This is becoming more and more frustrating. Commissioner Holgard moved to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Agtegra. Commissioner Schilling seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Boll presented his monthly reports for May and June. He also presented an amended surplus list. There was a clerical error. He is requesting the commission approve the amended request. Commissioner Jungwirth so moved. Commissioner Mohr seconded. He presented a new list to the commission. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried. Commissioner Holgard questioned the average inmate per day number of 15. Sheriff Boll told Commissioner Holgard that he hadn’t run those numbers for awhile and he would look at this and get back to Commission Holgard. Sheriff Boll said the count historically goes down during the winter months. He said the Judge has begun to change how he is handling the bonding out of prisoners.

**AUDITOR**

Auditor Kahl presented the performance review for the 4-H Youth Advisor. She pointed out a letter to the commission from Brown County concerning the Regional Jail Project. Commissioner Schilling has been in contact with Duane Sutton from Brown County. He feels we should have them come here for a meeting so that the public can gain a better understanding of the project. He requested permission to call Brown County and ask them to come and meet with us. The Commission thought that it would be a good idea. Chairman Houck said we could maybe move our meeting to a Thursday so to it wouldn’t be a conflict with their meetings. Auditor Kahl said she needs to know as soon as possible if the meeting is going to be changed from October 18, as there is a zoning hearing that day. If she knows soon enough a notice could be put in the paper to advise the public of the change of date for that hearing. The SD Memorandum of Understanding for the Opiod Agreement is included in their packets. She urged the commission to read that well. There are several things expected of the county as far as using the money from that agreement. Auditor Kahl reminded the commission of the 2022 Annual Safety and Loss Control Training Conference. She urged someone to go. Auditor Kahl asked who would be attending the Upper Missouri Valley Meeting in Mina. Commissioners Houck and Schilling are going to try to get there. She also brought up LACTF. It’s a fund that is somewhat connected to the ARPA funds. These funds can be used like general fund revenues. The money would be distributed in 2022 and 2023. Walworth County is slated to receive $50000 each year. This needs to be applied for by the end of November. The Commission believes we should attempt to get signed up for it.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

We had one applicant, Pete Weinzirl, who as already been approved by the state. Commissioner Holgard moved to appoint Peter Weinzirl as Veteran’s Service Officer. Commissioner Schilling seconded. All in favor: Aye – 5, Nay – 0. Motion carried. Commissioner Holgard moved that his wage be set at $657.60 bi-weekly effective September 19, 2022. Commissioner Mohr seconded. Roll Call Vote: Holgard – yes, Jungwirth – yes, Mohr, - yes, Schilling – yes, Houck – yes. Motion carried.

**LANDFILL**

Commissioner Mohr presented information on the 2022 waster survey. This is an annual project that must be done. The cost would be approximately $5700. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting to be acted on.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Schilling concerning a few calls he has had. He wondered if we had ever considered moving the treasurer’s office to the ground floor for the convenience of the elderly. He also discussed the drop box we put in the front of the courthouse. He would like to see us put a box that people could drive up to so they didn’t have to even come into the courthouse. Commissioner Schilling has a box that would work well. Auditor Kahl updated the commission on the lights for Operation Greenlight. Custodian Schmidt has been in contact with Cam-Wal to replace some of the existing lighting at the Memorial. The lighting has become quite dim. Commissioner Holgard brought up an article in the Mobridge Tribune. He wondered where Cox and Cain got the permission to represent the County. Chairman Houck said he doesn’t believe they were speaking for the County. He believes they were speaking for the City of Mobridge.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Holgard wondered where we stood on the tax deed properties. Auditor Kahl said the treasurer would be taking the deeds to the Register of Deeds tomorrow for filing. Auditor Kahl has learned that we cannot abate the taxes on those properties until they actually belong to the county. That will be sometime after tomorrow. Auditor Kahl will try to get those abatements ready for the next meeting. The commission will have to decide on how they are going to dispose of the properties.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Holgard moved to adjourn. Commissioner Schilling 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