**WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**June 22, 2023**

**9:00 am**

**Present Commissioners**: Jim Houck, Justin Jungwirth, Duane Mohr, Scott Schilling and Kevin Holgard were present. Also present was Bud Andre, Tom Fielder, Kathy Walker, Dale Burnette, Dan & Linda Beaman, Stave Zabel, Duane Zabel, Julia Gerlach. Deputy Auditor Kahl and Auditor Pepin.

**Pledge of Allegiance**:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**Agenda**

Chairman Houck called to order the meeting. Motion to approve the agenda. Chairman Houck requested to add Discuss/Act on private road blading & remove executive session. Holgard moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Schilling. All in Favor; all ayes, motion carried.

**Minutes**

Holgard moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2023, seconded by Mohr. All in Favor; all ayes, motion carried.

**Claims**

Schilling moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Jungwirth. Roll call vote – all voting yes, motion carried.

Cam Wal Electric Coop, utilities 249.85; Cenex, supplies 91.36; Heartland Waste Management Inc, 210.00; Hoven Coop Service Co, supplies 1,999.17; Hoven Review, publishing 11.73; Ken’s Western Lumber, supplies 133.64; Quill LLC, supplies 654.40; Runnings, supplies 499.02; Shorty’s One Stop, supplies 1,231.92; Thee Glass Doktor LLC, repairs & maintenance 1,723.60; West River Telecommunications, utilities 78.47; Agtegra/Herreid, supplies 246.41; Agtegra Coop/Java, supplies 1,435.17; Alcopro, supplies 843.50; Avera Occupational Medicine, services & fees 101.00; Bantz, Gosch & Cremer LLC, mental illness 214.95; Beadle County, inmate boarding 29,445.00; Beck Law Office, services & fees 117.40; K. Brandt, court reporter 597.70; N. Brockel, supplies 40.00; Butler Machinery Co, supplies 6,908.73; Cogley Law LLC, court appointed & child defense attorney 2,453.90; Connecting Point, supplies/services/fees 6,316.40; Dacotah Bank, supplies/services/fees 311.81; Dakota Glass & Alignment LLC, repairs & maintenance 1,192.60; DRG Media Group 745.00; Elan Card Services, supplies 356.50; Equipment Blades, supplies 10,148.80; Graham Tire Aberdeen, repairs & maintenance 680.08; Halfile Systems Corp, services & fees 321.20; Hase Plumbing Heating & Air, supplies 51.58; Hughes County, inmate boarding 2,755.00; Huron Regional Medical Center, inmate medical & dental 83.66; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc, supplies 1,505.00; Kesling Funeral Home, services 675.00; Kroontje Law, attorney fees 5,682.74; Lewis & Clark Behavioral, services & fees 184.00; Lewis Family Drug LLC, services & fees 9.69; Marco Inc, rentals 175.76; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, rentals 96.22; Mcleod’s Printing, supplies 175.90; Mobridge Pit Stop, supplies 103.72; Mobridge Regional Hospital services & fees 3,475.33; Mobridge Tribune, publishing 1,804.27; Montana-Dakota Utilities, utilities 26.69; Oahe Landscapes, repairs & maintenance 387.68; Pennington County Jail, services & fees 269.32; Pfitzer Pest Control LLC, services & fees 165.86; Premier Equipment, supplies 83.94; G. Pudwill, travel 408.66; Ramkota Hotel & Conference, workshops 464.00; Rees Communications, major equipment 2,226.50; Schlachter Lumber Inc, supplies 148.93; Schlomer Brothers, supplies 40.00; SDDANR, May tonnage 1,256.02; SD Development Center, services & fees 60.00; Selby Auto Sales & Service, repairs/supplies 170.31; Selby Record, publishing 859.23; Senior Nutrition Center, inmate meals 157.50; Servall Uniform & Linen, rentals 236.05; Slater Oil & LP Gas, supplies 15,150.00; Venture Communications Coop, utilities 1,008.72; Von Wald Law LLC, services & fees 568.36;

**Highway**

Superintendent Byre presented his Monthly Budget Report. Holgard moved to approve a request for installation of water line to pasture NW of Glenham and to permit it to occupy right of way, seconded by Mohr. All in Favor; all ayes. Byre reports KLJ began research developing for 5-year Master Transportation Plan, from design to actual construction for roads and bridges. Byre withdrew executive session to make conversation open; asking commissioners if they would support overtime for employees willing to work overtime, no motion necessary. All commissioners in support. Schilling moved the request for the county to do private road blading with landowner paying the entire cost, seconded by Holgard; All in favor, all ayes. Motion carried. Superintendent Byre reported that expenditures for snow removal & secondary roads is currently at $83,000.00. He also reported that work is in progress on WCBD3 has begun with a 4-man crew. He estimates that it will be wrapped up on Walworth County’s side and then Campbell County will do the graveling. Once that is completed the FEMA project will be done.

**Emergency Management**

EM Jeff Jensen discussed the updates for the commission room meeting access. Holgard moved to approve the video displays for commissioner’s room at a cost of $3305 plus an additional monitor for $667.50 out of the building fund, seconded by Schilling. Roll Call vote: All voting yes, motion carried. EM Jensen will coordinate with Auditor Pepin to complete setup. He also requested that his salary amount be amended in the minutes to reflect the $12,000 reimbursed by Warhawk to cover that position added to his Emergency Manager salary, making it a total of $59,569.60. Jungwirth so moved, seconded by Mohr. Roll Call Vote, all voting yes, motion carried. EM Jensen recommended to the commission that the new Highway Superintendent attends FEMA Training on July 18 & 19.

**Landfill**

Commissioner Mohr presented Monthly report. He also reports that a bill totaling $28,000 from the Fort Yates

water plant debris clean up from Fort Yates is to be paid next month. That project brought in a total of $119,888 of revenue for May.

**Register of Deeds**

Register of Deeds DeToy presented her monthly report; collected $5945.50 in May.

**Poor Relief**

DeToy reported that Robert Nelson, representing Avera Hospital, in reference to an involuntary hold from 2022 that has not been paid. The patient’s residency is in Corson County. Walworth County has documentation that we paid our share. She said we can bill Corson County but there’s no guarantee that Walworth won’t end up paying this. Holgard moved to deny paying remaining costs, seconded by Mohr; Roll Call vote – all voting yes. motion carried.

**Budget Meeting**

Commissioners set the first 2024 Budget meeting for Tuesday June 27, 2023, at 9am.

**Opt- Out**

Houck states a small, select group discussed projected financial outlook for Walworth County. Took what it cost us from January 1 to May 1, prorated what it’s going to cost the rest of the year at that rate. It was reported in that meeting that the rate of spending from January 1, 2023, through April of 2023, and if not, budget supplements are made between now and the end of 2023 we will be 1.159 million dollars short of what the county took in. We are allowed to raise approximately $79, 000 more for property taxes in 2024. Using an inflation rate @ 7%, it was projected we would spend 1.591 million more than the county will take in. It was projected that the county will be out of money mid-year by 2026. We would have to opt out in 2025 to cover county expenses in 2026. Mohr moved to table the opt out until 2024, seconded by Schilling. Holgard wants to wait until after budget meetings to make the decision. Roll Call Vote - Holgard no; Mohr, Schilling. Jungwirth and Houck voting yes; motion carried.

**Old Business**

Holgard questions 8,108 miles driven by transport, when patrol used 82.7 more gallons of gas but did less driving.

**New Business**

Mohr states for the record, regarding a letter to the editor for the paper, commissioners have not received raises in three years and have dropped their county paid health insurance.

**Public Forum**

Linda Beaman asked why the commissioners don’t want to hear from the public. Beaman gives concern over budget, concerns over commissioners not answering questions. She believes the county could make budget adjustments. Schilling asked for her suggestions. Beaman states that she has a list and asks the commissioners if they know how much money is in the funds. She also voiced concerns over camera location.

**Adjournment**

Holgard moved to adjourn, seconded by Mohr. All in Favor; all ayes, motion carried.

**APPROVED: ATTEST:**

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**CHAIRPERSON AUDITOR**

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