

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JANUARY 5, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 5, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. in the Community Room of the Human Services Building, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen, and Bob Rinne. The meeting was called to order by County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pettersen moved and Rinne seconded to nominate Commissioner Bill Miller as Chairman for 2021.

Pettersen moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Bill Miller as Chairman for 2021.

Melheim moved and Branstad seconded to nominate Commissioner Bob Rinne as Vice-Chairman for 2021.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Bob Rinne as Vice-Chairman for 2021.

Chairman Miller declared his intention to make and vote on motions.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the December 15 regular meeting.

Land Management Director David Haler and Assistant Director Chad Hildebrand were present to report that the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan had reached the end of the planning process. The One Watershed One Plan was approved at the District level in December.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT
THE WATONWAN RIVER WATERSHED
COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has been notified by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources that the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) has been approved according to Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, subd. 14 allows a local water management plan developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to chapter 103B to be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan suggested boundary map.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the county hereby adopts and will begin implementation of the approved Plan for the area of the county identified within the Plan and the plan replaces the local water management plan for that geographic area of the county within the Watonwan River Watershed for the duration of the state approved Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the adoption of the Plan, the county shall amend existing water and related land resources plans and official controls as necessary to conform them to Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the adoption of the Plan or amendments to the plan, Watonwan County shall notify local units of government within the watershed. The local units of government are required to submit existing water and related land resources plans and official controls within 90 days to the county for review as per Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.321.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within 180 days, the county shall review the submitted plans and official controls and identify any inconsistencies between the local plans and official controls and the Plan. Watonwan County shall specify applicable and necessary measures to bring the local plans and official controls into conformance with the Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if a local unit of government disagrees with any changes to its plan, the local unit has 60 days after receiving the county's recommendations to appeal the recommendations to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after receiving the recommendations of the county, or a resolution of an appeal, a local unit of government has 180 days to initiate revisions to its plan or official controls. The new or revised plans and official controls must be submitted to the county for review and recommendations.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund—\$47,754.89; Solid Waste Fund—\$200.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$7,677.00 and the following credit cards: General Fund—\$8,729.58; Library Fund—\$226.04; and the Soil & Water Conservation Fund—\$143.80.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to ratify payment of year-end bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund—\$108,098.89; Solid Waste Fund—\$608.20; Soil & Water Conservation—\$116.25; Ditch Fund—\$6,585.29; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$54,034.35.

The Board reviewed the draft listing of 2021 committee appointments and discussed adjustments.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to set the Commissioner Department and Committee appointments for 2021 as revised.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a training request, which was approved by general consensus.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reported on County Relief Grant funds in the amount of \$256,250.00 that were allocated to the County for operations expenditures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County needs to develop an application for businesses to apply for the funds. It was recommended to have a work session on Thursday, January 7 at 9:00 to finalize the committee and other details.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement for Jeff Tetzloff

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Rubi Altamirano.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the one-year settlement agreement with LELS Deputy Sheriffs, including a 2% cost of living adjustment to the pay schedule, weekend premium and night differential increased to \$0.50/hr., Sergeant pay increased to \$2.25/hr., schedule adjustments for Officers Ellis and Sprenger, and uniform allowance increased to \$700.00.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting a quote from Watch Guard in the amount of \$9,690.00 for the purchase of two 4RE squad car camera systems and related equipment.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess the meeting at 10:20 until Thursday, January 7 at 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was reconvened on Thursday, January 7 at 9:00 A.M. with all members present.

Discussed County Relief Funding to provide economic relief to local businesses and non-profits affected by COVID-19.

At 10:00, the Board conducted interviews with Mark Nielsen and Timothy Carrier for the position of Emergency Management/Safety Director.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Mark Nielsen to the position of Emergency Management/Safety Director.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:45.

Bill Miller, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer