

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JANUARY 21, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 21, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Raymond Gustafson, Bill Miller, Bob Rinne and Kathleen Svalland. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bobbi Maciel was present to address the Board regarding their decision on Refugee Resettlement. She stated that it should have been a community decision, not just the Board's. She questioned what information was used to make the decision, and stated that it is a strain on communities. Commissioner Branstad explained the Refugee Resettlement process. Maciel would be provided with the information packet used by the Board.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Land Management Director David Haler and Feedlot Officer Amanda Lang were present to review the MPCA County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement Work Plan. The previous goal of 25 inspections per year was increased to 25% of delegated feedlots so that each is visited once every four years.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Delegation Agreement Work Plan as presented.

Haler reviewed the MPCA County Feedlot Grant Agreement. \$24,788 per year is available for FY 20 and FY 21 and must be used by the end of 2021. For 2020 there was carry-over so there is approximately \$33,000 to spend as catch up. The Board had previously authorized signing of the Agreement. They would be looking for creative uses for the excess funds related to feedlot related pollution prevention.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a training request to attend the MnDOT District 7 Engineers and Tech Conference.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Training Request presented by Teal Spellman.

Spellman reviewed the dust control program from 2019. Only 48 residents utilized the County's services. The actual cost of the service was \$164.04 per 100 feet, but the County only charged \$116.00. She noted that outside companies already do it for some residents in the County. Since the County's equipment is in need of updating, Spellman suggested getting out of the business. The Board was in concurrence, but requested to see a draft letter prior to sending out to residents.

Svalland moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 7 regular meeting.

Rinne moved, Gustafson 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—\$112,430.84; Solid Waste Fund—\$2,294.38; Soil & Water Conservation—\$183.52; Debt Service—\$435.00; Ditch Fund—\$11,234.30; Agency Fund—\$180.00; and the Road & Bridge Fund—\$24,964.40; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,010.08; Library Fund—\$241.99; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,647.47.

Svalland moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Tobacco License to City of Butterfield.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Ronald Kueker, Anna Curry, Stephanie Kreele, Logan Sizer and Robert Moll.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reported that JD 14 had a cleaning and tile repair bill of \$38,900. She recommended a 3-year assessment to the beneficiaries at 4% interest.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the assessment to JD 14 beneficiaries with the option to pay over 3 years at 4% interest.

Commissioner Committees for 2020 were reviewed and revised.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to enter closed session at 10:25 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) for attorney client privilege relating to pending litigation. County Attorney Stephen Lindee, Attorney Steven Sunde, Sheriff Jared Bergeman, and Chief Deputy Mark Slater were present.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to open the meeting at 10:45.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:47.

Raymond Gustafson, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer