

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
FEBRUARY 1, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 1, 2022 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, Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen and Bob Rinne. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Regional Extension Director Bonnie Christiansen was present with new 4-H Educator Michaela Kellner and Administrative Secretary Michelle Knudson. Kellner introduced herself and some of her goals for 4-H. Christiansen noted that there is also a SNAP-Ed Educator position allocated to Watonwan County, but that was currently vacant.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 18 regular meeting.

Pettersen moved, Rinne 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—\$308,224.00; Solid Waste Fund—\$477.42; Health and Human Services—\$33,769.00; Building/Equipment Fund—\$297.00; Ditch Fund—\$23,879.28; Agency Fund—\$300.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$23,450.98; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$4,309.99; Solid Waste Fund—\$22.99; Road and Bridge Fund—\$802.44; Library Fund—\$240.93; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$5,969.50.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present with Highway Maintenance Supervisor Rick Bak. She reviewed quotes from the State bid list for the purchase of a 2023 Mack Granite truck in the amount of \$126,948.00, plus plow equipment and attachments in the amount of \$134,097.00.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the bids of Nuss Truck in the amount of \$126,948.00, less \$38,000.00 for trade-in of the 2009 Sterling snow plow tandem, for a net cost of \$88,948.00 for the purchase of a 2023 Mack Granite truck, and from Towmaster in the amount of \$134,097.00 for the purchase of the attachments.

Spellman reviewed a quote from Bobcat for the purchase of a Brushcat for the Bbobcat in the amount of \$7,872.80. No action was taken pending discussion on possible use of the ARPA funds.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION
AGGREGATE RESOURCE MAPPING

WHEREAS, Watonwan County desires information relating to the location, amount, and quality of its remaining aggregate resources, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to map the aggregate resources of the State of Minnesota as more fully described in Minnesota Statutes section 84.94, and

WHEREAS, aggregate resource mapping of the County would help ensure continued economical aggregate resources for economic development, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners requests that the Minnesota Department of Natural conduct aggregate resource mapping of the County as authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 84.94 and, upon receipt of the information, the County must consider the protection of identified and important aggregate resources in the County's land use decisions.

Pat Thiner who manages the LaSalle Locker was present to express the desire for the business district in LaSalle to be plowed curb to curb. Bak noted that the majority of the small cities have the snow plowed to the center and removed by the city. It was recommended to hold a meeting with the City of LaSalle.

Chairman Rinne reported on the meeting he participated in with Senator Amy Klobuchar with three other counties. He noted the need in smaller counties for assistance with roads.

Discussion was held whether it would be worthwhile to join the Minnesota Transportation Alliance. Several area counties are members, so Spellman would check into it.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the Board of Appeal and Equalization for June 13 at 6:30 P.M.

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

RESOLUTION
APPROVING WATONWAN COUNTY'S APPLICATION
FOR FUNDING FROM THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT GRANT

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties are responsible for administering elections, which includes security of elections; and,

WHEREAS, to receive funding from the Help America Vote Act Grant (HAVA) to assist political subdivisions with improving accessibility, implementing security improvements for elections systems and/or for funding other activities to improve the security of elections, counties must submit an application to the Minnesota Secretary of State before February 2, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners certifies that any funds awarded from the Help America Vote Act Grant (HAVA) will be used to improve accessibility, implement security improvements for elections systems, and/or fund other activities to improve the security of elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners certifies that the County does not have sufficient resources to implement improvements without obtaining a grant from the fund and approves the application for the funds available through the Help America Vote Act Grant (HAVA).

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Kelly Pauling.

Chairman Rinne reported on the Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting he attended.

Commissioner Melheim reported that he would be attending a Public Hearing in Windom with Big Bend Wind Energy.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve per diem and mileage for Commissioners Melheim and Rinne to attend the Big Bend Wind Public Hearing.

Commissioner Pettersen reported on a survey being conducted related to the Southern Minnesota Emergency Services.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reported that the closing was finalized on the purchase of the Carlson building.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the lease of the Fairgrounds by Brown County Poultry on March 5 and April 2.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve entering closed session at 10:25 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) to conduct the end of probation performance evaluation of Emergency Management/Safety Director Mark Nielsen.

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

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase of Mark Nielsen upon the satisfactory completion of his probationary period.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve entering closed session at 10:50 Pursuant to M.S. 13D.03, Subd. 1 to discuss Labor Negotiations Strategy.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to open the meeting at 11:00.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the tentative two-year agreement with the LELS Detention Officer/Dispatcher unit, which included: 100-hour comp time bank; 3% in 2022 and 3% in 2023 added to the schedule; removal of the bottom step and adding one step to the top each year, and adjusting the members accordingly; increasing the night/weekend differential incrementally so both classes are at \$0.75 in the second year; and add part-time language to applicable sections.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve one-step market adjustments for Dispatch Supervisor Tamara Colón and Detention Administrator Julie Carr, and \$0.50/hour for weekend premium.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period of Carolyn Schultz.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Daniel Sandberg, Caleb Curry, Ross Henderson, Lisa Schumann, Shirley Coleman, and Kyla Schlomann.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Tabitha Odegaard as a Dispatcher.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Taylor Rueckert, with reduction to on-call hours as available.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a one-step pay increase retroactive to August 15 for Meggie Munsterman for completion of her State two-year probationary period, and to approve hiring Bjorklund Compensation Consulting to review the County Assessor position for ranking in the classification system.

It was noted that the J.D. 18 Watonwan and Brown Joint Ditch Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 3 at 10:00 A.M.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:30.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer