

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
FEBRUARY 2, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 2, 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 opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ed Connell was present regarding the National Micro Mini Tractor Puller's Association rental of a building at the Fairgrounds to host their Super Pull event. He requested waiver of the \$100/day fee for rental of the building. He noted that they carry a million-dollar insurance policy, and it costs \$85 to have the County named on the policy. The event was scheduled for March 19 and 20, with set up on the 18th. It will be limited to 100 people due to 50% capacity.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the lease with the National Micro Mini Tractor Pullers Association, with a reduced rental fee of \$100.00 for the event.

Brian Nyborg, Area Wildlife Manager with the MN DNR, was present regarding an agreement for their acquisition of 160 acres of land in Antrim Township. The County Board needs to approve the acquisition, which would be known as "Perch Creek – Wildlife Management Area (WMA) – Tract 19". Payment in Lieu of Taxes would be made on the property, estimated at \$3,900/year.

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

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REVIEW OF PROPOSED STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ACQUISITION

In accordance with; Minnesota Statutes 84.944, Subd. 3 and 97A.145, Subd. 2 the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on January 13, 2021, provided the County Board with a description of lands to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for Wildlife Management Area purposes. Lands to be acquired are described as follows: the Northeast Quarter of Section 31, Township 105 North, Range 30 West, Watonwan County Minnesota. Subject to easements of record and subject to an easement in 430th Street.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Watonwan County on February 2, 2021, that the State's proposed acquisition of the attached described property be approved.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 19 regular meeting.

Miller moved, Melheim 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—\$53,021.16; Road and Bridge Fund—\$785.70; Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,178.55; Debt Service—\$435.00; Ditch Fund—\$12,733.01; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$74,733.15; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$1,679.25; Road and Bridge Fund—\$410.02; Library Fund—\$94.69; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$248.96.

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

RESOLUTION OF WATONWAN COUNTY

BE IT RESOLVED by Watonwan County, that the County enter into the attached Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2019, Chapter 10 Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Watonwan County, that Deb Grote, the Watonwan County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the FY2021 CVSO Grant Agreement for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve authorizing David Haler to Sign Land Management Grant Reports for 2021.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing 2021 Tobacco Licenses to Butterfield Municipal Liquor Store, Darfur Lounge and Village Inn.

A joint letter was received from the *St. James Plaindealer* and *Madelia-Times Messenger* proposing that the *Times-Messenger* be named as first County legal and the *Plaindealer* be named as second legal for Watonwan County going forward until such time as a new agreement is sought.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve designating the *Madelia Times-Messenger* and the *St. James Plaindealer* as the first and second legal newspapers respectively going forward.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Jared Bergeman.

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reviewed the Pay Equity Implementation Report for salary schedules in place December 31, 2020. The Predicted Pay Report showed that male and female classes lined up equitably.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Pay Equity Compliance Report as presented.

Schumann reviewed the Human Resources Retention Schedule that was prepared by the Minnesota County Human Resources Management Association. She requested adoption of the Schedule, which required notification to the State Archives Department of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve adopting the Human Resources Retention Schedule.

Commissioner Rinne reviewed information he received regarding reversable snowplows, and proposed to consider purchasing plows that are reversable in the future.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed a request from the Foodshelf for installation of a pallet door in their new building.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the installation of a pallet door for the Foodshelf, at the estimated maximum of \$2,600.00.

By general consensus, Commissioner Rinne was appointed to the South Central Multicounty HRA as Scott Sanders' replacement. It was requested that a work session be held with the HRA to explain more about it.

Solid Waste Program Manager Kyla Schlomann was present to discuss the Household Hazardous Waste collections, and issues with the long lines. Suggestions included running for a longer time, like 1:00-6:00, or to hold more frequent collections of paint and chemicals. It was agreed to collect paint and chemicals from 3-6:00 P.M from April to August on the first Wednesday of the month, and extend the collection hours in St. James.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a quote from John Deere from the State Bid list for the purchase of a John Deere mower for \$12,392.46.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote from John Deere in the amount of \$12,392.46 for the purchase of a John Deere 1550 TerrainCut Commercial Front Mower and Side Discharge Mower.

The following quotes were received from the state bid list for the purchase of a tandem axle dump truck with trade-in. The Mack Truck was the preferred due to prior issues with the Freightliner:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>NET AMOUNT</u>
Nuss Truck	\$95,871.00 – Mack Truck
Truck Center Companies	\$93,758.00 – Freightliner

A bid from Towmaster Truck Equipment in the amount of \$111,303.00 for plow equipment was included with each truck bid. Discussion was held regarding testing out Martin County's multi-

directional plows. Spellman recommended purchasing standard, but the Board suggested first getting bids for the multi-directional plows for comparison.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, approve accepting the bid of Nuss Truck in the amount of \$120,871.00 less trade-in of \$25,000.00 for net bid of \$95,871.00 for the purchase of a 2021 Mack Granite truck.

SWCD Assistant Manager Chad Hildebrand was present to discuss options for the former Landfill Land. No bids were received to rent it, so a renter was solicited at \$2,875/year. He reviewed the possibility of setting aside 5-7 acres for wetland banking. Hildebrand explained the process of wetland banking, and the different kinds, including Standard, Agricultural or Minnesota Road Banking. A consultant would need to be hired for the Standard, and several costs are involved in the approval process, but an average sale of Credits was as much as \$43,000 in prior years. If approved, it has to meet specific goals each year. The Agricultural banking program pays about 50% of the Standard, and is handled by NRCS. The Road program, is handled by the State at 1/3 of the payout. Commissioner Melheim suggested making the land available to St. James and Madelia FFA students as a piece of ground for farming practices. No action was taken pending further review.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Property Appraiser Trainee Andrea Wellnitz.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Deborah Grote, Shirley Coleman, Caleb Curry, Ross Henderson, Robert Moll and Daniel Sandberg.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Land Management Summer Intern.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Carolyn Runck.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Madelia Branch Library Assistant.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:15.

Bill Miller, Chairman
Watowan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watowan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watowan County Auditor/Treasurer