

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
FEBRUARY 15, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 15, 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.

I.T. Director Jeff Tetzloff was present and reviewed an opportunity through the State for the CrowdStrike Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) program under the Statewide Security Monitoring Initiative. It is an advanced anti-virus and anti-malware monitoring system utilized in about 1/3 of the counties in the State. The current anti-virus expires in 2022. The cost through the State was \$12.00 per computer/server for 2022 and \$14.00 per device for 2023 with no set-up fee. An alternate quote from Marco had a monthly fee of \$4.95 per device, plus \$4,550.00 for set-up.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve participating in the Statewide CrowdStrike EDR program at the rates of \$12.00 per device for 2022 and \$14.00 per device for 2023.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 1 regular meeting.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman and Chief Deputy Mark Slater were present to request the addition of a sixth Deputy Sheriff. At one time there were six officers, but it was decreased when an officer was promoted and not replaced. The addition would allow for a schedule where officers could have every other weekend off. It was not budgeted, but ARPA funds could be used for 2022 and 2023. The increased annual cost was projected at \$60,104 with the elimination of a part-time position.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve adding a full-time Deputy Sheriff.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve increasing the hours of Erik Gratz to the full-time Deputy Sheriff position.

Sheriff Bergeman reviewed a quote of \$32,060.00 from Swedebro for applying a polyaspartic coating system to the flooring in the jail, through the Cooperative Purchasing Connection.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Swedebro for the jail floor coating project in the amount of \$32,060.00.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the 2022 Ditch Assessments as follows:

<u>DITCH NUMBER</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT</u>
CD #1	\$ 2,776.00
CD #4	\$ 3,510.00
CD #6	\$ 815.00
CD #62	\$ 2,982.00
CD #64	\$ 5,108.00
CD #65	\$ 1,047.00
CD #101	\$ 1,048.00
CD #102	\$ 1,364.00
JD #5 B & W	\$ 4,608.00
JD #6 W & B	\$ 3,102.00
JD #8 W & B	\$ 2,089.00
JD #11	\$ 3,746.00
JD #12 W&C	\$ 2,924.00
JD #13	\$ 2,020.00
JD #13 W & B	\$ 2,094.00
JD #14	\$ 3,844.00
JD #14 B&W	\$ 3,882.00
JD #15	\$ 889.00
JD #23	\$ 1,501.00
JD #25 BE, M & W	\$ 930.00
JD #26	\$ 3,299.00
JD #29	\$ 2,235.00
JD #31 W & M	\$ 654.00
JD #35 Upper	\$ 2,212.00
JD #35 SW	\$ 2,410.00
JD #35 SE	\$ 4,417.00
JD #36 BE & W	\$ 563.00
JD #48 BE, BR & W	\$ 658.00
JD #52 BE & W	\$ 326.00
JD #88 M & W	\$ 513.00

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Notice of Funds Available 2022 - #4 with Minnesota Valley Action Council for Employment and Training to receive the Region 5 SNAP Support Service Grant in the amount of \$880.00.

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

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review a proposal from Houston Engineering to complete right-of-way surveys on CSAH 3 and 27 in Riverdale Township for \$79,220.00. She proposed beginning an annual program starting with the CSAH roads, using State Aid funding.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve proceeding with the right-of-way survey project as proposed by Houston Engineering in the amount of \$79,220.00, but to assess the value when completed.

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—\$95,564.23; Solid Waste Fund—\$160.00; Building/Equipment Fund—\$1,147.58; Ditch Fund—\$54,732.61; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$396,653.19; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$3,719.27; Solid Waste Fund—\$188.71; Road and Bridge Fund—\$337.17; Library Fund—\$321.15; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$84.80.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve mileage and per diem for Board members to attend the Association of Townships Annual Meeting that evening at 7:00 P.M.

Pettersen, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Library Director Matthew Pannkuk. The Library Board would discuss the replacement process at their meeting that evening.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a pay step increase for Michelle Perez upon the satisfactory completion of her probationary period.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Melissa Cornelius.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the tentative two-year agreement with the LELS Deputy Sheriff unit, which included: compensatory time increased to 100 hours; \$200.00/year added to the clothing allowance for HEAT Team member and K-9 handler; 3% increase on steps one and 15, with reduction to 13 steps equally spaced and employees placed on the step that represented at least a 3% increase; 3% increase for 2023; increase Sergeant pay to \$2.50/hr; increase Night/Weekend premium to \$0.65 in 2022 and \$0.75 in 2023; and add part-time language to applicable sections.

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reported that the County is eligible for Wellness Program funding through the South Central Service Cooperative because of the change to their Medica health plan for 2022. Up to \$11,360.00 was available based on \$80 per contract. A Wellness Committee comprised of representatives from the various buildings met to recommend activities and a proposed budget, including mini massages, Convene Seminars, agency garden, health snack stations, nutritional shakes, an AED for the Highway shop, and incentives for a wellness challenge.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Wellness Program budget as presented.

Commissioners Rinne and Melheim reported on the Big Bend Wind public hearing they attended.

Chairman Rinne reviewed correspondence received from Nuvera internet.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:15.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watowan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watowan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watowan County Auditor/Treasurer