

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
FEBRUARY 16, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 16, 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.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 2 regular meeting.

Pettersen moved, Branstad 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—\$97,744.93; Road and Bridge Fund—\$750.28; Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,904.37; Ditch Fund—\$7,193.80; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$290,798.44; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,871.13; Road and Bridge Fund—\$156.00; Library Fund—\$164.25; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$164.35.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the January Disbursements listing.

SWCD Assistant Manager Chad Hildebrand and Assistant Zoning Administrator Kyla Schlomann were present regarding vegetation surveys done on St. James Lake, Long Lake and Kansas Lake. They were used to map the lakes and identify invasive species. This year's proposals included Butterfield Lake and Fedji Lake. The costs would be covered by the AIS Grant, with the work to be done in late May and late August. The following estimates were received for doing the surveys in 2021.

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Endangered Resource Services, LLC	\$14,900.00
AIS Consulting Services	\$14,926.00
Limnopro Aquatic Science	\$35,546.11

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the proposal of Endangered Resource Services, LLC in the estimated amount of \$14,900.00 for conducting point-intercept surveys on St. James Lake, Long Lake, Kansas Lake, Butterfield Lake and Fedji Lake.

Schlomann noted that the minutes of the previous meeting said the paint pick-up would be April to August, but it will actually be April to October.

The January financial reports were reviewed.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed the annual ditch assessment process.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the 2021 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 #65	\$ 524.00
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 #9 M & W	\$ 3,021.00
JD #11	\$ 3,746.00
JD #13	\$ 2,343.00
JD #13 W & B	\$ 2,094.00
JD #14	\$ 3,844.00
JD #15	\$ 889.00
JD #23	\$ 2,251.00
JD #25 BE, M & W	\$ 930.00
JD #26	\$ 3,299.00
JD #29	\$ 2,235.00
JD #31 W & M	\$ 1,307.00
JD #35 Upper	\$ 8,849.00
JD #35 SW	\$ 2,410.00
JD #35 SE	\$ 2,209.00
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

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review various items with the Board. She reported that the City of St. James was applying for Local Road Improvement Project funding which needs to be sponsored by the County.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF ST. JAMES PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MnDOT FOR THE 7TH STREET S & RING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the 7th Street S & Ring Road Improvements project includes the reconstruction of 7th Street S from 11th Avenue S to 13th Avenue S; Ring Road from its termini to 13th Avenue S; and 13th Avenue S from its termini to 7th Street S; and

WHEREAS, the 7th Street S & Ring Road Improvements project provides opportunity to provide a second hard surface access to the hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,250,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a city, such the City of St. James, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS; that

1. The County supports the City of St. James's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the reconstruction of the 7th Street S from 11th Avenue S to 13th Avenue S; Ring Road from its termini to 13th Avenue S; and 13th Avenue S from its termini to 7th Street S within the 7th Street S & Ring Road Improvements project; and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of St. James's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

Spellman reviewed quotes obtained from Towmaster for the cost of upgrading their bid to two-way plows. It would cost an additional \$1,778 to \$2,334.00 more, which included an additional hydraulic tilt function. The additional cost would still be under budget. If it worked this feature would be standard in the future.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the original bid of Towmaster Truck Equipment in the amount of \$111,303.00, plus upgrading to the reversible and Hyd tilt plow features for two trucks for an additional \$2,334.00 each.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the lease of the Fairgrounds by Brown County Poultry on March 6 and April 3.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Solid Waste Hauling License to Affordable Tree and Landscape

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Jody Anderson.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement by Kyla Schlomann.

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reviewed the tentative agreement with the AFSCME Highway bargaining unit.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the one-year settlement agreement with the AFSCME Local 1204 Highway unit, including a 2% cost of living adjustment to the pay schedule, specified call-out times, callbacks based on seniority, maximum compensatory time bank of 100 hours, use of vacation by new hires, 35 days maximum vacation accumulation, use of sick leave for expanded bereavement leave, and 12-month probationary period for new hires.

HR Director Schumann reviewed the hardship that occurs when young children are quarantined due to a COVID-19 exposure at their daycare or school. Since the Families First Coronavirus Response Act expired December 31, 2020, the existing policy only allowed parents to use vacation, compensatory time or unpaid leave if the children were not sick or exhibiting symptoms. It was recommended that sick leave be allowed as well.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve amending the COVID-19 policy to add the use of sick leave for caring for quarantined children incapable of self-care.

Commissioner Branstad reported on the Minnesota Rural Counties meeting he attended. The MPCA was proposing that the California emissions standards be adopted in Minnesota. The State has been under federal standards, which were rolled back under a prior executive order. There was a request to oppose the California regulations.

The AMC Legislative Conference was scheduled for February 18 via Zoom.

Chairman Miller reported on the Madelia Area Redevelopment Corporation (MARC) committee meeting he attended. He noted that they would like to hire a grant finder/writer.

Chairman Miller reported that after the March 2 meeting, Sheriff Bergeman would give the Board a tour of the jail and dispatch center.

Auditor/Treasurer Pauling reported that there was a proposal for federal funding to counties for COVID relief.

A work session was scheduled with the HRA on Wednesday at 10:30.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess the meeting at 10:35 A.M.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30 A.M. with all members present.

South Central MN Multi-County HRA Executive Director Peggy Wiese presented an overview of services provided by the HRA.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:10 A.M.

Bill Miller, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

Kelly Pauling, Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer