

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

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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 minutes of the February 16 regular meeting.

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

Katherine Petty, Director of the Watonwan County Food Shelf, was present to request assistance with the remodeling project of the building they purchased. The current Food Shelf has 600 square feet, but the former bowling alley that was purchased with grant funding will have 6,000 square feet. Assistance was needed to pay for electrical work, concrete work, flooring, closing in the back wall and demolition, totaling \$54,368.98. County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reported that CARES funding had been appropriated for the Food Shelf. Minnesota Statute 465.039 allows the County to give to organizations distributing food. Pauling recommended a grant of \$60,000, to include the pallet door that was previously approved. Petty stated that typically 75-80 families per month are served. They also distributed 800 boxes of food at a recent event.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a \$60,000 grant to the Watonwan County Food Shelf.

Rinne 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—\$85,562.17; Solid Waste Fund—\$4.40; Soil & Water Conservation—\$27.87; Ditch Fund—\$19,281.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$7,554.04.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed several Local Road Improvement Project Grant applications, including one for the County. The County must agree to sponsor projects for smaller cities in order for their projects to be funded.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF  
LEWISVILLE PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING  
FROM MnDOT FOR THE NORTH SIDE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the north side Improvement project includes the reconstruction of PV Street from Lewis to Allen Street, Oric Street from Lewis to Allen Street and Davies Street from Lewis to Allen Street; 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 Lewisville, 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 Lewisville's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the reconstruction of PV Street from Lewis to Allen Street, Oric Street from Lewis to Allen Street and Davies Street from Lewis to Allen Street within the North Side Improvements project, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Lewisville's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF  
LEWISVILLE PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING  
FROM MnDOT FOR THE SOUTH SIDE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the south side Improvement project includes the reconstruction of Oric Street from Lewis to County Rd 10, Rockwood Street from Lewis to County Rd 10, Davies Street from Lewis to County Rd 10, Mclean Street from Lewis to Martin Street, Martin Street from Lewis to PV Street, Marsden Street from Davies to PV Street; 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 as the City of Lewisville, 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 Lewisville's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the reconstruction of Oric Street from Lewis Street to County Rd 10, Rockwood Street from Lewis to County Rd 10, Davies Street from Lewis to County Rd 10, Mclean from Lewis to Martin Street, Martin Street from Lewis to PV Street, Marsden Street from Davies to PV Street within the South Side Improvement project, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Lewisville's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR  
THE CITY OF DARFUR'S APPLICATION FOR  
2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MnDOT  
FOR THE NORTHEAST SECTION STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Northeast Section Street Improvement Project includes the reconstruction of Railroad Street from MN Trunk Highway 30 to Watonwan CSAH 50; First Street North from TH 30 to Railroad Street; and intersecting sections of Bicentennial Avenue and Pioneer Avenue from CSAH 50 east to Railroad Street; and

WHEREAS, Railroad Street is a well-traveled alternate route to the small businesses in the City of Darfur; and

WHEREAS, Pioneer Avenue and Railroad Street are used as an eastbound access for the Darfur Fire Department; 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 routes of regional significance, that are farm to market routes and connect to the regional trunk highway or county road system; and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a small city 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, that the County supports the City of Darfur's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the Northeast Section Street Improvement Project, including the reconstruction of Railroad Street, First Street North, and east sections of Pioneer and Bicentennial Avenues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County agrees to sponsor the City of Darfur's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the City's fiscal agent for this project.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR NELSON TOWNSHIP PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MnDOT FOR THE 710th A VENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the 710th Avenue Road Improvements project includes the reconstruction of 710th Avenue from bridge #L-8033, section 14 & 15, south approximately 1/2 mile and

WHEREAS, the 710th Avenue Improvements project raises the road to stop the water from flowing across the road during flooding and washing the gravel off the road and to also installing culverts to equalize the water on both sides of the road to help stop the buildup of pressure on one side of the road creating a safer road of transportation 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 town, such as Nelson Township to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2021.

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

1. The County supports Nelson Township's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the reconstruction of the 710th A venue Road Improvements project, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor Nelson Township's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the town's fiscal agent for this project.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MnDOT FOR THE 730th AVENUE CULVERT PROJECT

WHEREAS, THE 730TH Avenue Culvert Project includes installation of multiple culverts under 730th Avenue, north and south of existing Bridge #83535 and

WHEREAS, the 730th Avenue Culvert Project would help alleviate flood waters from overtopping 730th Avenue and causing road damage 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 township, such as Riverdale, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2021.

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

1. The County supports Riverdale Township's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the installation of multiple culverts under 730 Avenue, north and south of existing Bridge #83535, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor Riverdale Township's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the Township's fiscal agent for this project.

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

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE CSAH 10 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation has \$75 million available and provides local entities 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) funds can be used on reasonable elements associated with roadway construction; and

WHEREAS, the CSAH 10 improvement project includes the reconditioning and paving of shoulders of Watonwan CSAH 10 from the intersection of Watonwan CSAH 12 to Minnesota Trunk Highway 15; and

WHEREAS, the CSAH 10 Improvement project provides a safer and smoother roadway surface as well as a widened roadway surface by ways of paving the shoulders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2021.

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

1. The County Board hereby supports the reconditioning and paving of shoulders of Watonwan CSAH 10 from the intersection of Watonwan CSAH 12 to Minnesota Trunk Highway 15; and
2. The County Board hereby supports the County's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding and authorizes staff to prepare and submit such application, and
3. The County Board hereby provides assurance that Watonwan County will pay all costs associated with the project beyond the LRIP grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Teal Spellman is hereby authorized to act as an agent on behalf of this Local Unit of Government,

Petterson moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for two Summer Workers positions and one Civil Engineering Intern.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for seasonal supplies, including seal coat oil and rock.

Branstad moved, Petterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the resignation in good standing of Nicholas Haynes.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Light Equipment Operator.

Spellman presented the job description for the proposed position of Crew Lead/Highway Inspector. If approved, the position would be trained in bridge inspection, supervise in the absence of Highway Maintenance Supervisor, and alternate serving on call weekends.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed 3-2 with Petterson and Melheim opposed, to approve the position of Crew Lead/Highway Inspector and leave it to the Public Works Director's discretion as to when to begin advertising.

Petterson moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Sheriff's Office enters into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for the 2021 Speed and Aggressive Driving Special Project during the period from Feb. 1 – Sept. 30, 2021.

The Sheriff of Watonwan County is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Watonwan County Sheriff's Office and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to set the Board of Appeal and Equalization for June 14 at 6:30 P.M.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Human Services advertising for the vacant position of Family Based Service Provider.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to acknowledge the dismissal of a probationary employee in the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Pettersen reported on a meeting with Enterprise North, noting their appreciation for the funding they received.

Commissioner Melheim reported on the Fair Board meeting he attended. There are still concerns with COVID as to scheduling for 2021.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:20.

Bill Miller, Chairman  
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer