

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

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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.

Scott Roemhildt, Region 4 Director for the MN DNR, was present to introduce himself and staff members. Brooke Hacker gave an update on activities of the DNR in Watonwan County. Ben Schaefer with the Division of Lands and Minerals spoke about the Strategic Land Asset Management Program. Goals are set to protect natural resources. He also reviewed the Payment in Lieu of Taxes payment of \$32,520 that the DNR paid out to the County in 2021, and the School Trust Fund Payments of \$113,773 to schools in the county.

Land Management Director David Haler and Solid Waste/Assistant Zoning Administrator Kyla Schlomann were present with C Rae Goltz regarding the Conditional Use Permit application for Virgil and Rae Goltz to place a second residence on their property. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval without conditions.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Conditional Use Permit to Virgil and C Rae Goltz to move in a mobile home as a second residence on their property at 26077 680th Avenue, located in Section 6 of Nelson Township.

Schlomann reviewed Aquatic Invasive Species Reports on vegetation in the various lakes. Most of the lakes are high on carp and low on vegetation, mostly Curly Leaf Pond Weed. Kansas Lake and St. James Lake have a species that can be hand-pulled, and Fedji Lake has a vibrant ecosystem. She noted issues in Butterfield Lake with very few plant species and low depth and sedimentation. The Board recommended to check into actions to reduce the carp population. It was discussed to complete the process in another 3 years.

Discussion was held regarding recycling issues in Madelia.

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

I.T. Director Jeff Tetzloff was present to discuss that the State hadn't renewed the contract with Checkpoint for providing the County's security management system. Options were to purchase new equipment and run it locally which was estimated around \$17,000, or the Smart-1 Cloud option where Checkpoint takes care of everything, at the State contract price of \$3,867/year for 3 years.

Branstad moved, Petterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of SHI in the amount of \$3,867.00/year for the Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. Smart-1 Cloud system.

Tetzloff reviewed a quote of \$16,698 from Marco for extension of the existing server level backup. They would be keeping the same appliance, just extending it for another three years.

Melheim moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Marco for the Unitrends Platinum Extended Service Agreement Renewal for 3 years at \$16,698.00.

Petterson moved, Branstad 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—\$69,458.22; Solid Waste Fund—\$83.64; Building/Equipment Fund—\$15,999.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$138,111.50.

Emergency Management Director Mark Nielsen was present to request approval of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the whole county for mitigation due to weather events or other types of disasters.

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

RESOLUTION
WATONWAN COUNTY ALL-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a framework for the development of a County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act as part of the planning process requires public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Watonwan County Plan includes a risk assessment including past hazards, hazards that threaten the County, an estimate of structures at risk, a general description of land uses and development trends; and

WHEREAS, the Watonwan County Plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives and an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Watonwan County Plan includes a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of the plan into other planning documents and how Watonwan County will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been shared with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Watonwan County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will make the county and participating jurisdictions eligible to receive FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grants; and

WHEREAS, this is a multi-jurisdictional Plan and cities that participated in the planning process may choose to also adopt the County Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Watonwan County supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the Watonwan County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

County Assessor Meggie Munsterman was present to give an update on values and sales information for 2021. She noted that sales were strong and market values were adjusted accordingly.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and requested to place the 2012 Ford Pickup up for public auction on Minnbid.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve listing the 2012 Ford F150 Pickup on Minnbid.

The following quotes were received for a 12' mower trailer for the parks:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Zacs Sales and Service	\$3,150.00
Toppers & Trailers Plus	\$3,199.00

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Zacs Sales and Service in the amount of \$3,150.00 for the purchase of a 12' trailer.

Spellman reviewed a lighting agreement with MnDOT. They will pay for and install lights at the intersections of Highway 15 and three County roads. The County would pay for future maintenance and power.

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

WATONWAN COUNTY
RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that Watonwan County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1049283 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide ownership, operation, and maintenance of Lighting Systems at Trunk Highway No. 15 at County State Aid Highway No. 58, No. 3, and No. 6. The contract construction is to be performed under State Project No. 8305-32 (T.H. 15=015).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair Bob Rinne and the Road & Bridge Director Teal Spellman are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Spellman noted that Spring load restrictions were on.

Commissioner Pettersen reported that a Madelia business was interested in a food truck to be parked on Main Street Madelia once a month. Spellman sited safety concerns, but would hold conversations the parties involved.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for seasonal summer workers.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the February 2022 Disbursements Listing.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve entering a Grant Contract Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety accepting the Emergency Communications Board Grant in the amount of \$15,087 for emergency backup for EMS paging system.

The State bid for a Motorola APX consolette and backup control base was received from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$33,367.00. Half the cost would be covered by the grant funds.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the State bid of Alpha Wireless Communications in the amount of \$33,367.00 for the purchase and installation of the Motorola APX Consolette and equipment.

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

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING OF HF 2821/SF 2670 AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the County of Watonwan is writing in support of this important public safety initiative, HF 2821/SF 2670; and,

WHEREAS, effective radios are the backbone of public safety in the State of Minnesota. Our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel depend upon this ARMER system to effectively perform their jobs. Radios save lives and serve every constituent of the State of Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. They are costly to maintain and replace. In local government units, where budgets are tight, it is

very difficult to plan for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure. Local government units would urge the state to fund a grant program that allows for the critical upgrade of radios. We would also encourage sustainable funding to support ongoing replacement costs; and,

WHEREAS, the cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact of our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source; and,

WHEREAS, in Watonwan County, there are approximately 350 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our small rural emergency departments. There are 20 emergency service departments who serve Watonwan County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services department; and,

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has aging radios on the ARMER system that are no longer supported by Motorola, it is extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our emergency service department rely on the ARMER system to provide the interoperability between departments at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. The replacement cost for the radios that are at the end of their life expectancy, range from \$3,731.00 to \$4,427.25 each, this expense does not include the radio programming or additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the Statewide radio system. The additional cost will be approximately \$100.00 per radio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Watonwan County Board of Commissioners support the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of this public safety initiative.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling noted that the redistricting plan would be held at the next meeting. The goal is for each district to be within 10% of the population average. Commissioners in Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5 will need to run for reelection.

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

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Michelle Knudson.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Jamie Sharp.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Macy Lorenz.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the promotion of Shirley Coleman to the position of Library Director as recommended by the Library Board.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Assistant Library Director.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Leave of Absence request of Jesse Gunderson.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for a temporary Detention Officer with the possibility of permanent employment.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Leave Without Pay request of Jennifer Sanchez.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for an on-call part-time Transit Bus Driver for TMT.

Chairman Rinne reviewed information regarding the wind tower tax.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:25.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watowan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watowan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watowan County Auditor/Treasurer