

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD

APRIL 20, 2021

9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 20, 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, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the April 6 regular meeting.

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

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement requested by Teresa Holmquist to bore a tile under CSAH 10 in South Branch Township.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Drainage Crossing Agreement for Teresa Holmquist to bore a 12” diameter tile under CSAH 10 in Sections 17 and 8 of South Branch Township.

Spellman noted that there would be a meeting with Big Bend Wind on April 29 regarding a project in the southwest corner of the County. She expressed concern about the road use agreement for the wear and tear during construction.

Pettersen 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—\$89,281.69; Ditch Fund—\$525.00; Agency Fund—\$645.00; Forfeited Land Fund—\$561.20; Road and Bridge Fund—\$34,063.17; to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$2,810.67; Solid Waste Fund—\$242.47; Road and Bridge Fund—\$331.12; Library Fund—\$320.73; Soil & Water Conservation—\$31.15; and the Forfeited Land Fund—\$294.00; and to approve the March Disbursements listing.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$16,896.00 with an equal match.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the quote from Convergent Technologies in the amount of \$18,624.00 for key fob access controls for five doors at the Resource Center.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Notice of Fund Available 2021 - #4 with Minnesota Valley Action Council for the SNAP Support Service Grant for Employment and Training to be extended to December 31, 2021.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Lisa Schumann.

A motion by Branstad and seconded by Miller to approve per diems for Board members watching the online Convene trainings failed 2-3, with Melheim, Rinne and Pettersen opposed.

MN DOC Mankato District Supervisor Sarah Eischens was present and reviewed the probation statistics for 2019. Present with her were Corrections Agents Baily Gratz, Amy Altenburg and Andrea Stevens, and Administrative Secretary Kate Christenson. They discussed their caseloads and areas of expertise.

Eischens reported that the Watonwan County office currently had one full-time and one half-time office support staff, with the State paying 50% of a full-time position. Due to some funding changes, an Office Manager for the District would be assigned some of the duties for the agents housed in Watonwan County and the 50% funding would cease. Eischens met with the Personnel Committee and it was recommended that the half-time position be eliminated.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve laying off Court Services Secretary Celina Mosser due to the half-time position elimination, effective June 30, 2021.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Meggie Munsterman and Amanda Sill.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the resignation in good standing of SWCD Assistant Manager/County Ditch Inspector Chad Hildebrand.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to ratify advertising for the position of SWCD Assistant Manager/County Ditch Inspector.

Commissioner Pettersen reviewed a virtual promotional tool being used by Madelia Area Redevelopment Corp. (MARC).

Commissioner Rinne reported on a meeting of the Rural Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation. It was discussed that rather than mainly commissioners serving on their Board, it should be economic development professionals. No action was taken pending further review.

Commissioner Melheim reported that he booked the bleacher rental for the County Fair from Blue Earth County at \$2000 per set for three sets.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reminded the Board that the JD 18 meeting would be held that afternoon and the bids would be voted on. A petition was also received for JD 11 improvement.

Pettersen moved, Melheim 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