

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
MAY 18, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 18, 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.

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

Land Management Director Dave Haler was present with Brian Wolle regarding Wolle's Conditional Use Permit application to build a new feedlot in Nelson Township. It was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, pending the MPCA permit, with the conditions of pit additives, notification of neighbors within 1 mile 48 hours prior to agitating and pumping the pits, and trees along south.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Conditional Use Permit to Brian Wolle to construct a new feedlot over 700 animal units on the parcel described as 80 Acres in the S½ of the SW¼ of Section 8, Nelson Township, with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion was held whether trees to the north and west would be more advantageous to cut odors.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to amend the previous motion to allow for trees on the north, west or south side as appropriate.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May 4 regular meeting as amended due to technology issues.

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—\$46,384.05; Solid Waste Fund—\$12,371.55; Building/Equipment Fund—\$17,121.75; Ditch Fund—\$14,080.99; Forfeited Land Fund—\$1,265.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$39,676.62; to approve the following credit cards: General Fund—\$7,695.87; Road and Bridge Fund—\$239.98; Library Fund—\$140.26; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$87.97; and to approve the April Disbursements listing.

Commissioner Branstad inquired if the County had ever considered using a consent agenda. The Board expressed interest in having County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling check what other counties put on theirs.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Solid Waste Hauling License to Chad Winchester.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed the following quotes received for Base One stabilization:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Midstate Reclamation	\$41,179.05
Allstates Pavement Recycling And Stabilization	\$46,266.20

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Midstate Reclamation in the amount of \$41,149.05 for the Base One Stabilization Projects on CSAH 16 and CR 132.

Spellman reported that the yard out at the Public Works Department is in rough shape, so she has budgeted a certain amount of concrete surfacing over a period of years. The following quotes were received:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
BKC Construction, Inc.	\$23,113.00
TJ Becthold	\$28,350.00

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of BKC Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$23,113.00 for concrete surfacing at the Public Works Department yard.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement with for Karin Bottem for an 8" PVC pipe to be placed under CR 132 in Sections 9 and 10 in Nelson Township.

The following bids were received for the CSAH 17 construction project:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Knife River	\$423,363.09
Duininck, Inc.	\$426,270.31
Minnesota Paving & Materials	\$446,977.13
Central Specialties, Inc.	\$468,583.94
M.R. Paving & Excavating	\$525,121.70

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the bid of Knife River in the amount of \$423,363.09 for the CSAH 17 project.

Spellman reported that the last time there was a fuel contract was 2018. She checked with other counties, and one negotiated a certain rate over rack price. She had a regional meeting the following day and would discuss it with her counterparts.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to close the meeting at 9:55 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, Subd. 2. (b) for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Board's authority.

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

Auditor/Treasurer Pauling and PW Director Spellman reviewed an issue where CD 4 goes into a private ditch, there is damage to the private ditch. The private ditch had done a clean-out, and the understanding that it was going to be done as part of the project. The contractor left when the funds ran out, but the contractor wasn't hired by the County. The County is a beneficiary of 9.3% of the private ditch, and the County ordered the rip rap for the project. Eiden Farm Drainage Co. quoted \$4,500.00 and Jake Romsdahl quoted \$3,000.00 for equipment and labor to complete the work.

Pettersen moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed 4-0 with Melheim abstaining as a relative of a beneficiary, to approve proceeding with the work and accepting the quote of Jake Romsdahl in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed 4-1 with Melheim opposed, to approve the promotion of Matt Bowman to the position of Crew Lead/Highway Inspector.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising in-house for the position of Sign Technician as temporary work out-of-class.

County Auditor/Treasurer Pauling reviewed the \$2,116,615 that the County was eligible to receive through the American Rescue Plan.

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

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL
RECOVERY FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

WHEREAS, Congress adopted the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 ("ARPA") which included \$1,111,301,984.00 in recovery funds for counties across Minnesota.

WHEREAS, ARPA funds are intended to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 in their communities, residents, and businesses.

WHEREAS, \$2,116.615 has been allocated to the County of Watonwan ("County") pursuant to the ARPA.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has adopted guidance regarding the use of ARPA funds.

WHEREAS, in response to the Pandemic, the County has had expenditures and anticipates future expenditures consistent with the Department of Treasury's ARPA guidance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners, that the County intends to collect its share of ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to use in a manner consistent with the Department of Treasury's guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling is hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to receive the County's share of ARPA funds for expenses incurred because of the Pandemic.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Marco in the amount of \$6,504.02, and Amazon in the amount of \$500.00 to update the cameras in the jail.

It was noted that the Board of Appeal and Equalization was scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 6:30 P.M.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Cheryl Lindell, Nicholas Kielas, Julie Carr and Rubi Altamirano.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the resignation in good standing of Nate Ellis.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Deputy Sheriff.

Commissioner Branstad reviewed the Virtual Equity Summit to be held on June 9 and 10. He recommended that employees be allowed to attend if approved by the department head.

Commissioner Melheim reviewed that the Fair Board has some funding to update the front entrance to the Fairgrounds. Total Landscape would donate 50% of their landscaping bill of \$2,500.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve funding the other 50% in the amount of \$1,250 of the Total Landscape bill for updates at the Fairgrounds.

Melheim noted that businesses have been using the recycling shed. There also were issues with it getting full and needing to be cleaned up.

It was noted that the AMC Meeting was scheduled for June 9 in New Ulm.

Auditor/Treasurer Pauling noted that representatives from the major building met regarding lifting of the mask mandate. The requirement to wear masks was removed. Unvaccinated individuals would be encouraged to still wear them.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:35.

Bill Miller, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer