

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
MAY 19, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 19, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. by teleconference. County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling was present in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Raymond Gustafson, Bill Miller, Bob Rinne and Kathleen Svalland. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May 4 regular meeting.

Svalland 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—\$67,540.96; Solid Waste Fund—\$584.43; Road and Bridge Fund—\$3,849.86; Soil & Water Conservation—\$128.73; Ditch Fund—\$186.60; Forfeited Land Fund—\$62.22; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$56,231.78; to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,616.07; Library Fund—\$64.99; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$7.10; and to ratify payment of April disbursements as presented.

A request was received from County Recorder Karla Doll to purchase a laptop, docking station and extra monitor for use in remote work. The estimated cost was between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

Branstad moved, Gustafson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the purchase of computer equipment up to \$3,000.00 for the Recorder's Office, to be paid from the Recorder's Technology Fund.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed the April financials, and updated the Board on property tax collections.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Solid Waste Hauling License to Affordable Tree & Landscape.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present by telephone and updated the Board on the construction projects underway.

Svalland moved, Gustafson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to acknowledge the dismissal of probationary employee.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Light Equipment Operator for the Public Works Department.

Spellman reviewed discussions from 2019 when she proposed ending the County's agreement with Odin Township to provide snow removal to the Township.

A motion by Branstad and seconded by Rinne to send Odin Township a letter ending snow removal services, failed 2-3 with Svalland, Miller and Gustafson opposed.

Commissioner Svalland and Chairman Gustafson volunteered to serve on a committee to meet with Odin Township to discuss the snow removal issue.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the software and installation agreement with CentralSquare Technologies LLC in the amount of \$99,933.11 for upgrades to the 911 system, with funding through the E-911 Fund and grant funding.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Amanda Sill.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Dispatcher Chester Anderson, II with reduction to on-call status as available.

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reported that Bjorklund Compensation Consulting reviewed the reallocated job descriptions for Land Management positions and recommended reclassifying the positions of Land Management Director to D61, SWCD Assistant Manager/County Ditch Inspector to C42(2), and Solid Waste Administrator/Assistant Zoning Administrator to C41(2).

Gustafson moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Land Management position reclassifications as recommended by Bjorklund Compensation Consulting, and to adjust the pay of David Haler, Chad Hildebrand and Kyla Schlomann to the new ranges.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the vacant position of District Technician, and to add the position of Technical Clerk for the Land Management Department.

Solid Waste Administrator Kyla Schlomann was present by telephone and reported on conversations with Madelia Mayor Mike Grote and City Administrator Christine Fischer regarding the recycling shed. The request was made that the County replace the door on the existing shed, but hold off on moving the shed until other options are explored.

Gustafson moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve fixing the door on the Madelia recycling shed and maintaining the current location.

Svalland moved, Gustafson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to extend the Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus an additional 30 days to June 18.

County Auditor/Treasurer Pauling reported that the JD #9 Martin and Watonwan project contract was awarded to Gustafson Drainage with goal to start in August.

Commissioner Branstad reported that the Library Board was meeting that night and would be discussing future opening to the public. He also noted that the Fair Board would be meeting to discuss the fair.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:50.

Raymond Gustafson, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer