

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JUNE 2, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 2, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. in the meeting room of the Human Services building, 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.

Gustafson moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May 19 regular meeting.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review operations. Elroy Geistfeld was present regarding his request for a driveway permit variance for a field entrance wider than permitted by policy. He stated that he would like it about 10 feet wider than the 24 feet in policy. Spellman noted that the 24-foot wide driveway actually is 74 feet wide at the opening, and presented information showing that it is sufficient for entry and exit by a tractor-trailer. She recommended adhering to policy.

Rinne moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed 4-1 with Miller opposed, to deny the driveway permit variance requested by Elroy Geistfeld.

Spellman requested to attend the NACo Leadership Academy, at no cost to the County due to the full scholarship offered to each county.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Teal Spellman.

Spellman presented an update on the construction projects, which were projected for completion at the end of July.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Bryan Nelson Construction in the amount of \$6,788.00 for tile boring and installation under CSAH 1 due to a plugged intake.

Branstad moved, Gustafson 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—\$52,209.03; Solid Waste Fund—\$7,347.36; Ditch Fund—\$200.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$19,971.65.

Svalland moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Marco in the amount of \$2,267.74 for the purchase of interior and exterior camera upgrades for the Jail.

In an update on the usage of the Fairgrounds, it was decided that it would be available as long as the users follow guidelines for safe social distancing practices due to COVID-19.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve usage of the Fairgrounds by the Relay for Life with a modified event, such as drive-through.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reported that the Library received a bequest from Reinhold Struhs, estimated at a minimum of \$225,000. The Library was named as beneficiary of investments with Edward Jones, which currently were in the stock market so would need to be moved to a different form of investment.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Meggie Munsterman.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve naming Edward Jones as an additional official depository due to offering FDIC backed CD's.

Miller moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Julie Carr, Susan Hunstad, Thomas Hanson and Cheryl Lindell.

Gustafson moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Kristine Jaycox, Mary Jo Schroeder and Daniel Rotert.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the part-time position of Branch Library Assistant for the Madelia Library at 20 hours per week.

Commissioner Rinne reported on the rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting he attended via Zoom. Discussion was held regarding updated Ordinances related to wind and solar power.

Svalland moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a Charitable Gambling Permit for the Butterfield Summer Sizzler.

The AMC District 7 meeting on June 3 would be held by video conference. Chairman Gustafson was designated to present the County update.

Auditor/Treasurer Pauling presented an update on JD 18. A landowners' meeting was scheduled for June 18.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to close the meeting at 10:15 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, Subd. 2. (b) for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to the Board's authority.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to open the meeting at 10:50.

Gustafson moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to update the Personnel Policies to conform to State Statutes relating to Veterans Preference.

Rinne moved, Gustafson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:55.

Raymond Gustafson, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer