

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
AUGUST 3, 2021
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 3, 2021 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.

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

Melheim moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the July 20 regular meeting.

Pettersen 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—\$8,822.19; Ditch Fund—\$1,638.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$205,603.99; and to approve the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,552.21; Road and Bridge Fund—\$664.45; Library Fund—\$179.39; Soil & Water Conservation—\$282.61; and the Building/Equipment Fund—\$83.56.

County Recorder Karla Doll was present to review the new Central Farm Service-Sinclair Addition Plat. She noted that annexation into the City of St. James has been completed, with a new road named Sinclair Court.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Master Contract Agreement between Minnesota Valley Action Council and Employment & Training for the period from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022, and the Notice of Funds Available for SNAP Support Services in the amount of \$30.00.

Melheim moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the VSO Operational Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 and to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION OF WATONWAN COUNTY

BE IT RESOLVED by Watonwan County that the County enter into the attached Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in as specified in Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter12, Article 1,

Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Watonwan County that Deb Grote, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Deb Grote.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Jody Anderson, Rebecca Senf and Jessica Suess.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Dana Kass and to approve advertising for the position of Technical Clerk for the County Recorder's Office.

Pettersen moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the retirement in good standing of Ronald Kueker and to approve advertising for the position of Transit Bus Driver.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Amanda Petermann.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a final payment request from Duininck for various projects.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve final payment to Duininck, Inc. in the amount of \$143,928.59 for mill and overlays on CSAH 5, CSAH 19 and CSAH 57, and Base One SFDR with Overlay on CSAH 15.

Spellman requested approval for advancement of County State Aid funds from the State.

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

RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WATONWAN COUNTY
REQUESTING COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY FUNDS ADVANCE

WHEREAS, the County of Watonwan is planning to implement County State Aid Street project(s) in 2021 which will require State Aid funds in excess of those available in its State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account, and

WHEREAS, said County is prepared to proceed with the construction of said project(s) through the use of an advance from the County State Aid Construction Fund to supplement the available funds in their State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account, and

WHEREAS, the advance is based on the following determination of estimated expenditures:

Account Balance as of date 2/28/2021		\$2,232,812.34
Less estimated disbursements:		
Project #083-617-008	\$ 423,363.09	
Project #083-603-044	\$ 686,075.89	
Project #083-606-011	\$ 910,665.11	
Project #083-610-041	\$1,495,558.27	
Bond Principle (if any)	\$ 0.00	
Project Finals (overruns-if any)	\$ 351,566.24	
Other Federal Aid	\$ 154,800.00	
Total Estimated Disbursements		\$3,712,428.60
Advance Amount (amount in excess of acct balance)		\$1,479,616.26

WHEREAS, repayment of the funds so advanced will be made in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 162.08, Subd. 5 & 7 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8820, and

WHEREAS, the County acknowledges advance funds are released on a first-come-first-serve basis and this resolution does not guarantee the availability of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve this advance for financing approved County State Aid Highway Project(s) of the County of Watonwan, in an amount up to \$1,479,616.26 in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subp. 9. I hereby authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular/Municipal Construction Account of said County from future year allocations until fully repaid.

Corey Suess of Certified and Diversified Services was present with some questions for Spellman and the Board. He inquired what the process was for renting equipment from rental centers or private contractors, and about the process for hiring contractors to do work for the County. He noted an issue he had with installation of a field driveway with changes being made. He stated that a 4 to 1 slope was difficult because some ditches are too steep, and culverts get covered. He asked about material sales such as the purchase of aggregate from the County, and whether it was available for anyone. Suess questioned the frequency of gravel road grading, noting that he felt it was not being done often enough or after rain events.

Spellman responded that equipment rentals depend on the project being done. They have usually used Roadways because it can be used on demand and other contractors in the past haven't been able to give up their equipment for as long as needed. As to the hiring of contractors, Spellman stated that they obtain multiple quotes. She noted that the field driveway policy was put into place in 2019, with input from the State and surrounding counties, and it's the contractor's responsibility to be familiar with the provisions. Spellman stated that they have traded materials for service when it was in the best interest of the County. Blading is usually done twice a month or after rain events, but with the dry conditions not as frequently because it does no good. Board members were of differing opinions as to the practice of trading of equipment and materials.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman and Chief Deputy Mark Slater were present for a public comment period regarding the implementation and adoption of the policy and procedures for the use of body cameras. No members of the public gave comment.

County Assessor Meggie Munsterman was present and proposed an approximate 5% increase in the assessment fees per parcel, which haven't been changed since 2013. The small cities and townships would go from \$9.71 to \$10.20 per parcel and St. James and Madelia would go from \$12.75 to \$13.40 per parcel.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the 5% increase in the assessment fees per parcel.

Commissioner Rinne reported on the Rural Minnesota Energy Board.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:25.

Bill Miller, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer