

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
AUGUST 16, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 16, 2022 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.

Pettersen moved, Miller 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 August 2 regular meeting.

George Eilertson of Northland Securities was present to review the results of the Bond sale on August 15 for \$7,190,000.00. The County has bond rating of AA with Standard and Poors, due to strong market value, good reserves, and good financial policies and practices. He reviewed the sales summary of 5 bids. Robert W. Baird was the low bidder at 3.34% for a 20-year bond, with optional call in 2029 when prepayment can begin.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the “Resolution Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of \$7,190,000 General Obligation Ditch Bonds, Series 2022a” on file in the County Auditor’s Office.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman was present and reviewed a quote from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$7,245.00 for redaction software for data privacy. \$4,000 will be covered by Human Services for fraud investigation, with the balance split with the St. James Police Department at \$1,622.50 each.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$7,245.00 for redaction software.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve listing a 2007 Audi A4 and a custom lawnmower for public auction on MinnBid.

Miller 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—\$125,240.18; Solid Waste Fund—\$1,000.00; Soil & Water Conservation—\$327.28; Building/Equipment Fund—\$9,950.00; Ditch Fund—\$2,325.80; Forfeited Land Fund—\$202.48; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$61,567.12; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,887.33; Solid Waste Fund—\$1,135.33; Road and Bridge Fund—\$1,199.99; Library Fund—\$54.98; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,578.33.

Pettersen moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Southcentral HRA County Operation Deficit Agreement Acknowledgment, Amendment, and Consent, regarding the AmberField properties.

The July Financials were reviewed.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Jody Anderson.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann to sign the Employer Participation and Adoption Agreement for the Minnesota Service Cooperative VEBA Plan.

Schumann reviewed proposed updates to the COVID-19 policy due to changes in the CDC guidelines for isolation and quarantine.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the COVID-19 policy update, reducing the Emergency Needs Leave for employees who test positive to 5 consecutive calendar days.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review various items.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve final payment to Duinink, Inc. in the amount of \$133,517.51 for SP 83-070-014/SAP 83-610-041, bituminous overlay with safety improvements on CSAH 10.

Spellman reported that Waseca County was selling their chip spreader for \$45,000 and distributor for \$165,000. The equipment is 20 years newer than Watonwan's and can go 16 feet wide versus the current 11. She reviewed budget information showing that equipment replacement purchases for 2022 still had a balance of \$287,105.99 due to some items not being available.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the purchase of the chip spreader and distributor from Waseca County in the amount of \$210,000.00.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising the used chip spreader for public auction on MinnBid.

The following quotes were received for road salt:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Mills & Miller	\$88.00/ton
BlackStrap, Inc.	\$84.50/ton

Melheim moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the bid of BlackStrap, Inc. in the amount of \$84.50/ton for the purchase of approximately 400-500 tons of Bulk Road Salt, for a total ranging from \$33,800 to \$42,250.00.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Teal Spellman.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Caleb Hoffman, Amanda Stradtman and William Coleman.

MnDOT District 7 representatives Zachary Tess, Sam Parker and Doris Degenstein were present to review the Capital Highway Investment Plan, which detailed MnDOT's state highway priorities for 10 years. They acknowledged the resolutions from Watonwan and Brown Counties requesting Trunk Highway 4 be upgraded to 10-ton. They addressed the possibility of Corridors of Commerce funding that the counties could apply for toward the upgrade.

The meeting was recessed at 11:00 A.M. and reconvened on Wednesday, August 24 at 1:00 with all members present.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the preliminary hearing for JD 11 for September 19 at 10:30 A.M. in the Darfur City Hall.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the retirement in good standing of Detention Officer Steve Olson.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve changing Jayger Dannhoff from temporary Detention Officer to full-time.

Both finalists for the position of Emergency Management/Safety Director withdrew prior to their second interview. She reviewed the qualifications of three candidates from out of state.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to reopen the Emergency Management/Safety Director position.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 1:15.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer