

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD  
AUGUST 18, 2020  
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 18, 2020 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, Bill Miller, Bob Rinne and Kathleen Svalland. Absent: Raymond Gustafson. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, with Vice-Chair Svalland presiding in the absence of Chair Gustafson.

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

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

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—\$99,284.22; Solid Waste Fund—\$5,564.03; Soil & Water Conservation—\$571.97; Ditch Fund—\$16,335.55; Forfeited Land Fund—\$1,949.25; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$40,208.09; and to approve the following credit cards: General Fund—\$2,845.19; Solid Waste Fund—\$267.97; Road and Bridge Fund—\$35.99; Library Fund—\$827.92; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,237.92; and to ratify payment of the July Disbursements as listed.

Lyle Bergeman was present with Brent Coleman, David Engelbrecht and Bryan Wolle to discuss periodic flooding of fields in the area due to a bridge on CD #1 that was replaced on the township road back in 1978. Bergeman contended they had the right to have the ditch maintained as originally established, and that in 1978 the bridge was made smaller when it was replaced. He stated that proper procedures weren't followed because affected landowners never signed off on the project when it was changed and that water backs up and sits on his property due to loss of capacity. Public Works Director Teal Spellman reviewed documents related to past and present review of the situation. County Ditch Inspector Chad Hildebrand reviewed drainage law, and stated that the Ditch Authority is the County Board. Spellman recommended the affected landowners to go through the improvement process if changes to the system were needed. County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling recommended a meeting to discuss having a redetermination of benefits for CD #1.

The following quotes were received for cutting edges:

| <u>VENDOR</u>          | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Kris Engineering, Inc. | \$46,409.50   |
| H&L Mesabi             | \$58,066.88   |

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Kris Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$46,409.50 for the purchase of cutting edges.

Spellman reviewed a Reimbursement Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company for a reconstruction project in 2021 on CSAH 54 that will affect the Railroad's track and right-of-way. Up to \$10,000 would be reimbursed to the Railroad's engineering firm for reviewing the plans.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Chair's signing of the Reimbursement Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

The following quotes were received for road de-icing salt:

| <u>VENDOR</u>                | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Mills & Miller, Inc.         | \$80/ton      |
| Reliant Transportation, Inc. | \$96/ton      |

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Mills & Miller, Inc. in the amount of \$80/ton for approximately 500 tons of road de-icing salt.

Spellman reviewed a Master Parks and Trail Plan from Houston Engineering. The total estimated cost of preparing the plan is \$36,618 to be split over 2020 and 2021. It includes a public engagement component. At the end of the process, projects would be proposed for future planning.

The MnDOT District 7 Community Outreach was presented via Zoom by District 7 officials Greg Ous, Ronda Allis, Angie Piltaver and Lisa Bigham. Ous reviewed District 7's 10 Year Work Plan, with an emphasis on projects affecting the County. It was noted that they faced potential cuts of \$4.1 million for 2021.

Miller moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve holding the One Watershed One Plan Joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 15.

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

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF  
PAUL A. JOHNSON TO THE RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Michael Curley resigned as a Commissioner on the Red Rock Rural Water System ("RRRWS") Board of Commissioners effective as of July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Paul A. Johnson has agreed to replace Mike Curley on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2020 the RRRWS Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a Motion which recommends that Paul A. Johnson be appointed to the RRRWS Board of Commissioners to complete Mike Curley's term which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners believes that Paul A. Johnson is qualified to act as a Commissioner on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners and is worthy of appointment.

NOW BE IT NOW RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners hereby recommends that Paul A. Johnson be appointed to the Red Rock Rural Water System Board of Commissioners pursuant to and provided for by Minnesota Statutes §116A et seq. to complete the remaining portion of Mike Curley's term which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2023.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Metro Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$11,675.00 for the purchase of a new copier for the Library.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of 9-1-1 Chair in the amount of \$1,839.00 for the purchase of a 24/7 intensive use chair for Dispatch.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Fairmont Glass and Sign in the amount of \$14,035.00 for installation of an interior door and transaction windows for the Highway Department and TMT.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve of the disposal of two evidence vehicles in the possession of the Sheriff's Department.

The July financial reports were reviewed.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of David Tran as a full-time Detention Officer.

County Auditor/Treasurer Pauling reviewed primary election statistics, noting a 32% voter turnout with 76% voting by mail and absentee ballots.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 11:30 A.M.

Kathleen Svalland, Vice-Chair  
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer