

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 1, 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, and Kathleen Svalland. Absent: Raymond Gustafson and Bob Rinne. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, with Vice-Chair Svalland presiding in the absence of Chair Gustafson.

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

Menno Schukking of SRF Consulting Group was present via Zoom to request support for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC). The purpose of the Council will be to formalize and seek coordination between rural transportation providers to eliminate transportation service gaps, and give better customer access to providers to meet their travel needs. The MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation provided financial assistance to develop the RTCC. MnDOT will fund 100% the first year and 90% thereafter. He was seeking a resolution of support from the County, as well as the other counties in the region. He noted that the goal is not to take away from local transit TMT, but to complement it. No action was taken pending further review.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the August 18 regular meeting.

Branstad moved, Miller 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—\$24,970.63; Soil & Water Conservation—\$309.38; Ditch Fund—\$1,678.62; Forfeited Land Fund—\$169.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$118,096.38.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of TalkPoint Technologies in the amount of \$1,285.00 for the purchase of five wireless headsets and two base systems for Dispatch.

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

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement for Rebecca Senf.

Svalland moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Laura Quiring to the position of District Technician for Land Management/SWCD.

County Auditor Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed the following categories that have been identified for the CARES Act funding of \$1,368.465: Small Business Grants—\$325,000; Public

Health Outreach—\$5,000; Community Resiliency—\$75,000; and County Infrastructure and COVID-19 Expenses—\$305,000. The balance of the funds have not yet been allocated.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the allocation of the CARES Act funds as presented.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review operations and projects.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement for Amanda Stradtman and William Coleman.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to enter closed session at 10:40 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05 Subd. 3 (b) for attorney-client privilege relating to pending union arbitrations. Labor Attorney Peter Bergstrom and County Sheriff Jared Bergeman were present.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to open the meeting at 11:25.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Kathleen Svalland, Vice-Chair
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer