

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
NOVEMBER 4, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 4, 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.

Peter Lindstrom of Clean Energy Resource Teams with the University of Minnesota and Michael Linder of the St. Paul Port Authority were present via Zoom regarding Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. Their mission is to connect individuals and communities to resources for clean energy. PACE is a way to finance renewable energy upgrades and it's repaid as a property tax assessment. Joel and Bernice Penner would like to install a 47-kilowatt solar field to power their hog farm. Rural Minnesota Energy Board has a cap on the amount they can loan out, so the St. Paul Port Authority needs a joint powers agreement for the program in Watonwan County.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to enter a Joint Powers Agreement with the St. Paul Port Authority.

Svalland moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the special assessment of \$136,440 for Joel and Bernice Penner, as a 10-year assessment at 4.25% with first payment in May 2021, and to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PORT AUTHORITY TO
IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER A PROPERTY ASSESSED
CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING ON BEHALF
OF THE COUNTY, AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION
OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AS NEEDED IN CONNECTION
WITH THAT PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Watonwan (the "County"), as follows:

1. The Port Authority of the City of Saint Paul (the "Port Authority") has established the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program ("MinnPACE") to finance the acquisition and construction or installation of energy efficiency and conservation improvements (the "Improvements"), on properties located throughout the State of Minnesota through the use of special assessments pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 216C.435 and 216C.436 and Chapter 429 and 471.59 (the "Act").
2. In order to finance the Improvements, the County hereby determines that it is beneficial to participate in MinnPACE, and to designate the Port Authority as the implementor and administrator of that program on behalf of the County for purposes of financing Improvements located within the County.

3. The County understands that the Port Authority may obtain funding from designated lending institutions or may issue its MinnPACE special assessment revenue bond(s) to finance the Improvements, and that the sole security for the loan(s) or bond(s) will be special assessments imposed by the governmental entity participating in MinnPACE.
4. To facilitate and encourage the financing of Improvements located within the County, the County covenants to levy assessments for said Improvements on the property so benefitted, in accordance with the Application and Petition for Special Assessments received from the owner(s) of the Property and approved by the Port Authority. The interest rate on the Special Assessments shall be the interest rate on the Loan(s) or Bond(s), and may include additional interest.
5. After imposition of the special assessments, the County shall collect such assessments and remit them to the Port Authority for use in the repayment of the Loan(s) or Bond(s). The County will take all actions permitted by law to recover the assessments, including without limitation, reinstating the outstanding balance of assessments when the land returns to private ownership, in accordance with Minn. Stat. Section 429.071, Subd. 4.
6. The County Auditor/Treasurer is authorized to execute on behalf of the County, any documents, certificates or agreements necessary to implement the program authorized by this resolution.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reported that Watonwan County's proposal was selected as one of the top three to have the historic Kern Bridge relocated to the County for location on a future trail extension between Long Lake and Ormsby. MnDOT solicited letters of intent for the project. The project would be 80% federal funds and 20% state aid. Full applications are due December 4.

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

RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WATONWAN COUNTY
RESOLUTION AGREEING TO MAINTAIN FACILITY

WHEREAS: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that states agree to operate and maintain facilities constructed with federal transportation funds for the useful life of the improvement and not change the use of right of way or property ownership acquired without prior approval from the FHWA; and

WHEREAS: Relocating and rehabbing the Kern Bridge will receive federal funding; and

WHEREAS: the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has determined that this requirement should be applied to the project proposer; and

WHEREAS: Watonwan County is the sponsoring agency for the project identified as the Kern Bridge Relocation to Watline Stage II River Crossing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the sponsoring agency hereby agrees to assume full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of property and facilities related to the aforementioned transportation alternatives project.

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

RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WATONWAN COUNTY
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – SPONSORING AGENCY

BE IT RESOLVED that Watonwan County agrees to act as sponsoring agency for the project identified as Kern Bridge Relocation to Watline Stage II River Crossing seeking federal funding and has reviewed and approved the project as proposed. Sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Teal Spellman is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Spellman requested to reclassify Charles Beckius from the title of Assistant Highway Maintenance Supervisor to his original classification of Shop/Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, which is more in line with the duties he performs. Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann stated that in 2013 his position was reviewed by Bjorklund Compensation Consulting at the B31(2) level. The Board reclassified him to Assistant a couple months later contrary to Bjorklund's recommendation, but it was not clear as to the circumstances that prompted the change.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement for Charles Beckius and to reclassify his position to Shop/Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.

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

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

Branstad moved, Svalland 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—\$20,143.16; Solid Waste Fund—\$27.78; Ditch Fund—\$35,084.83; and Road and Bridge Fund—\$77,715.38; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$9,697.53; Library Fund—\$532.32; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$265.43.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Amendment of Lease No. 4 with the State Department of Corrections for the Court Services Lease of offices in the Courthouse at a fee of \$676.64/month.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed CARES Act funding requests from Madelia Schools for testing kits - \$9225, Jail training - \$1,760, and Medication management - \$1,621.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the CARES funding requests as presented.

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

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF
LES ANDERSON, GLEN FRIEDRICH, AND MARLOW NICKEL
TO THE RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Les Anderson's 4-year term as a Commissioner on the Red Rock Rural Water System ("RRRWS") Board of Commissioners is scheduled to expire at midnight on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Glen Friedrich's 4-year term as a Commissioner on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners is scheduled to expire at midnight on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Nickel's 4-year term as a Commissioner on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners is scheduled to expire at midnight on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2020 the RRRWS Board unanimously adopted a Motion which recommends that Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, and Marlow Nickel each be re-appointed to another 4-year term on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners believe that Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, and Marlow Nickel are all qualified to act as Commissioners on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners and are all worthy of re-appointment.

NOW BE IT NOW RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners hereby recommends that Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, and Marlow Nickel all be appointed to the Red Rock Rural Water System Board of Commissioners pursuant to and provided for by Minnesota Statutes §116A et seq. for a 4-year term which shall commence on January 1, 2021 and shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2024.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agreement for Consulting Services with USICG (Hildi Inc.) for actuarial consulting services at a cost of \$3,500 for 2021, with additional fees for GASB 75 for 2022.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Kelly Pauling (2).

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step movement for Daniel Rotert, Allison Karau, Kate Christenson and Heidi Engel.

Miller moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the promotion of Nery Garcia to the position of Deputy Sheriff.

Svalland moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Daniel Estrada to the position of Detention Officer, pending satisfactory background investigation.

Rinne moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Timothy Rahn from the position of Detention Officer.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Detention Officer.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the retirement in good standing of Diane Englin from the position of Sr. Technical Clerk for the County Recorder's Office.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for the position of Technical Clerk for the County Recorder's Office with the opportunity to advance to Sr. Technical Clerk after a year.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:40.

Kathleen Svalland, Vice-Chair
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer