



BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022
DATE APPROVED: OCTOBER 18, 2022

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

The Wright County Board met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter, and Kaczmarek present.

COUNTY BOARD MINUTES 9/27/2022

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek said he had previously requested to change the wording in Section IV of the August 29 Budget Committee of the Whole. He requested that in the first paragraph of the second item the following be added, "Risk Manager Tim Dahl advised the board that there would be no insurance rate increase to Wright County if the \$90,000 was not spent on the surveillance cameras." Commissioner Christine Husom corrected the spelling of "reel" in the Committee/Advisory Board Updates under her name.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the County Board minutes from Tuesday, September 27, 2022 with the corrections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA

Commissioner Darek Vetsch requested to add the scheduling of a Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting to discuss election worker findings.

Daleiden moved to approve the Agenda with the added request of scheduling a COTW meeting. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kaczmarek requested to remove Item B2 for further discussion.

Daleiden moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Item B2 being removed for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

*Item removed for further discussion

**Item petitioned onto agenda

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Approve The Following Grant Applications:
SHF-001 Sheriff's Office Radio Compliance (\$1,800,000)
2. Approval Of Revisions to Section 602 (Personnel Leave) Of the Wright County Personnel Handbook
Acknowledge September Replacement Report.

B. ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE

1. Informational: State Demographer's 2021 Annual Population Estimate.
2. *Approve Administrative Tobacco Violation Appeal of Emma's Express and Impose A Third Violation Penalty.
3. Approve 2022 Tobacco License for Kwik Trip # 1188 (Cokato) From October 20th, 2022, To December 31, 2022.

C. PLANNING & ZONING

1. Approval And Authorization of Chairman's Signature on Grant Agreement for the 2023 Septic Treatment Systems.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

B. ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE**2. Approve Administrative Tobacco Violation Appeal of Emma's Express and Impose a Third Violation Penalty.**

Kaczmarek asked about the number of violations Emma's Express had received. He said there was some confusion on whether it had three or four violations within 36 months. A discussion between Kaczmarek and Elections Manager Tyler Webster cleared up the confusion by going over the dates of violations. Webster said the violations occurred on August 13, 2019, July 15, 2020, and August 4, 2022. Finance Director Lindsey Meyer and Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer provided clarification to dates that were mistakenly identified as dates of additional violations. Kaczmarek agreed that there were three violations and noted that his concern was ensuring consistency in the performance of and tracking of compliance checks.

Kaczmarek moved to approve Consent Agenda Item B2. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

TIMED AGENDA ITEMS**VIRGIL HAWKINS, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Approve Agreement No. 22-50 Between The City Of Cokato And Wright County.

Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins introduced Agreement 22-50 between the City of Cokato and Wright County. The North Cokato Industrial Park development along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 in Cokato will cause safety impacts to the county's highway system at the existing intersection with Field Crest Boulevard. The impacts require mitigation by construction of turn lanes along CSAH 3 at the intersection with Field Crest Boulevard. Agreement No. 22-50 was approved by the Cokato City Council on Monday, August 15, 2022.

Vetsch moved to approve Agreement No. 22-50 between the City of Cokato and Wright County. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

ROSS DEMANT, PARKS & RECREATION

Accept A Donation From Deb Orner In The Amount Of \$1,250.00 To Be Set Aside In The Robert Ney Regional Park Fund For The Purpose Of Purchasing And Installing A Memorial Bench At Clearwater Pleasant Park As Per The Parks And Recreation Memorial Donation Policy.

Parks and Recreation Director Ross Demant said the staff was contacted by Deb Orner in August requesting that her family be allowed to donate a bench at Clearwater Pleasant County Park in memory of her husband, Daniel Orner.

Vetsch moved to approve the donation from Deb Orner in the amount of \$1,250 to be set aside in the Robert Ney Regional Park fund for the purpose of purchasing and installing a memorial bench at Clearwater Pleasant Park as per the Parks and Recreation memorial donation policy. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The roll call vote was unanimous, and the motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Crawford Lake Improvement District (LID)

Assistant County Attorney John Bowen said that he had been in contact with the petitioners of the proposed Crawford LID and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding preparations for the public hearing. Bowen said state statute requires the DNR issue an advisory report prior to the public hearing. Due to scheduling conflicts with the DNR Land Use Hydrologist Kathleen Metzger and the petitioners, the parties have been unable to get together to discuss the LID and what the advisory report would look like.

Bowen said Minnesota Administrative Rule 6115.0970 § 6 permits the board to grant a request for continuance or postpone the hearing so that the parties involved may be allowed additional time to prepare for the hearing. He said the advisory report is necessary to the hearing and required to be read into the record. He spoke with County Administrator Lee Kelly who recommended the public hearing moved to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 29.

Bowen said since there were residents present for the public hearing, it would be proper to allow individuals the opportunity to provide public comment. There was discussion between Bowen and Husom about the rules of public comments and postponing the hearing. Bowen said public comments could be made both times, but it was not necessary as both would be part of the public record. Kryzer recommended voting on the continuance until after public comments were heard. Husom agreed and opened the floor to public comments at 9:32 a.m.

Water Resource Specialist for Wright Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Alicia O'Hare said there are some opportunities available to lake communities in Wright County. She said these were not exclusively available to lake entities such as LIDs. She said Crawford Lake is a prevention lake and was last monitored in 2008 and 2009. She said a prevention lake needs observation and occasional action to prevent the further decline in water quality. Crawford Lake meets half of the thresholds for being labeled impaired. She said one of the opportunities available is a lake sampling program which costs about \$300 per year and includes sampling and shipping. This allows the community to observe the lake's water quality at a reduced cost. O'Hare said that Wright County has an excellent record with continuous data for some lakes going back 20 years. She said there are aquatic invasive species (AIS) treatment opportunities for which grants are offered each year. Crawford Lake does not currently have any AIS listed aside from Curly Lake Pondweed, which is not officially listed though Wright SWCD has given out as much as \$1,000 in grant money to combat it. There are AIS inspections which allow an AIS inspector to be at the boat landing to prevent AIS from entering or coming out of the lake. O'Hare said the DNR spent about 10 hours at Crawford Lake this last year resulting in four inspections. She said a LID could hire its own inspectors. She said there are local and state cost share programs available for conservation practices. Crawford Lake is in a targeted area so there are benefits available specific to it. Residents do not need to be a LID to receive the targeted area opportunities.

There were no further public comments. Husom postponed public comments at 9:36 a.m. Public Comments will be continued at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 29.

Kryzer said there would be no other public notice or flyers reminding residents about the hearing.

Vetsch moved to approve the continuation of the public hearing to 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 29. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

ADMINISTRATION

1. Mayors Association Membership Dues.

Kelly requested approval for the Mayors Association membership dues. He said the dues could be made a part of the other membership dues paid by the county. Husom said the cost covered meals for attendees of the meetings. The commissioners discussed the merits of being a part of the meals at the quarterly meetings with Kaczmarek saying he could skip the meal if it was less expensive.

Vetsch moved to approve paying the Mayors Association membership dues. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

2. Refer Items to County Board Workshop on Tuesday, October 11, 2022:

- I. Assessor Contracts for Next Assessment
- II. Board Meeting Schedules
- III. Legislative Items

Kelly introduced the three items for the upcoming Board Workshop. Consensus was that nothing needed to be added.

3. **COTW Meeting Regarding the Election Work Group

Vetsch said the election work group had met several times and was looking for board guidance. He asked to schedule a COTW meeting. The meeting was initially scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 11. At the request of Finance Director Lindsey Meyer, the COTW meeting was moved to 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 17.

Vetsch moved to approve the COTW meeting at 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 17. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion carried 5-0.

Husom stepped out of the meeting temporarily relinquishing the gavel to Vetsch at 9:23 a.m.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES (09/27/2022)

Kaczmarek summarized the Personnel and Employee Relations Committee meeting. He said in the last line the job title should be social worker not public health nurse. Jill Pooler said the request for a full-time social worker as indicated in the last line was never declined, rather was removed prior to submission to ensure the budget demand was met.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the Personnel and Employee Relations Committee minutes. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 4-0, Husom being absent.

I. Combine vacant .5 MnCHOICES position with current .5 MnCHOICES position to create 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Public Health Nurse position.

Social Services Manager Jill Pooler and Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) Jami Goodrum presented the history for their request. The number of MnCHOICES assessment requests continues to increase each year and the department is struggling to meet the demand and serve clients in a timely manner. According to the MN State Demographer this trend is expected to continue until possibly 2030. It is believed that without additional staff client services will continue to be delayed. Commissioner Mike Kaczmarek asked why this had not been brought up during the 2023 budget requests. Goodrum explained that the department had put in their proposed budget for 2023 a full time social worker, but removed it prior to submission to ensure the budget demand was met.

RECOMMENDATION: The current two part-time positions (One .5 Public Health Nurse and one vacant .5 MnCHOICES) will be combined into one full-time Public Health Nurse position. This position will be filled by increasing the hours of the current Public Health Nurse from part-time to full-time effective immediately upon approval of the Board. Staff is asking the Personnel Committee to recommend that the County Board eliminate the vacant .5 MnCHOICES position and change the FTE status of the current part-time Public Health Nurse to full-time.

Husom returned to the meeting at 9:26 am. Vetsch returned the gavel to Husom at 9:28 a.m.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

County Administrator Lee Kelly

Kelly said work was beginning on Quarter 4 annual meetings. He said the county is in the middle of negotiations with its seven union groups. He said the county had already met with two of the groups and the meetings were going well.

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek

Kaczmarek said the Wright County Fair Board had inquired about the billing process for the new roofs at the fairgrounds. He asked that any suggestions be addressed to him. He participated in a walkthrough Friday, September 28 at the old Government Center. He said the individuals who attended were happy to get what they could for their municipalities. He said the maintenance staff in charge did a wonderful job of ensuring the event went smoothly. Daleiden asked if the remaining items would be auctioned off. Kelly said an inventory would be taken and the determination would be made at that time.

Commissioner Mark Daleiden

Daleiden said the Planning Commission met Thursday, September 29. He said it approved Apple Jacks Orchard addition of a covered structure over the existing corn pit. He met with groups from Wright County Community Action, The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities to approve federal funding for food shelves between Wright County Community Action and Monticello Food Shelves.

Commissioner Darek Vetsch

Vetsch toured the Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset. He discussed the energy plans for carbon-free energy mix for Minnesota by 2050. He said Communications Specialist John Holler had sent out a social media post about a survey allowing the public to provide its feedback to the energy plan. He said the Sherburne County Generating Station (SHERCO) plant closing in 2030 had raised concern in the community about the energy grid being ill-prepared for peak energy needs. He expressed concern for Becker, which would lose 60 percent of its tax capacity with SHERCO's closing.

He said the Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership (CMRP) is one step closer to entering into a purpose and needs statement which is the first step in a Tier One Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Pell Process. He discussed the agreements which were still needed between Sherburne and Wright counties from a cost share perspective. Vetsch said there were

still steps that needed to take place before the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was completed. He said the future of CMRP was to transition to a non-profit lobbying group/communication organization. Daleiden asked if a specific area had to be defined for an EIS. Vetsch answered that because the group was a transportation solutions group and not specifically a bridge crossing group no area needed to be defined. He said the nature of the solution, whether it be a bridge or something else had yet to be made clear.

Commissioner Christine Husom

Husom said the Health and Human Services (HHS) Advisory Committee met. She said it discussed the dental clinic being well utilized by county residents. The clinic had more than 600 appointments set and was booked through the end of the year. The opioid settlement was also discussed. She recommended watching *Dopesick* on Hulu for background into what started the opioid crisis.

Husom attended the Joint Powers Board for the Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Service (CMEMS) region. The CMEMS was doing a survey to determine the number of automated external defibrillators (AED) installed in squad cars. She said there were thousands of new AEDs available to replace the older ones which would allow the CMEMS to donate any additional AEDs on hand to organizations in need. She said the Naloxone grant ended in September so there would be a gap in coverage. The CMEMS provided quite a few Naloxone doses to individuals in the county. The staff of CMEMS were provided training for peer support to work with people who are prone to addiction. There is a new director for the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB), and he is working to find stable funding for the region.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Philip Hodges, Administrative Specialist.