



BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

DATE APPROVED: OCTOBER 25, 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 9/20/2022

Commissioner Christine Husom noted that the title of the Hulu show *Dopesick* should be changed to one word. Commissioner Mark Daleiden moved to approve the County Board minutes from Tuesday, October 4, 2022 with the recommended change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Wetter with the corrections. The motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek requested to add an Agenda item to Items for Consideration that would allow him to give review and summary on his out of state travel to look at the digester processing plant in Massachusetts.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the Agenda with the recommended addition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Darek Vetsch. The motion carried 5-0.

*Item petitioned onto agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vetsch moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion carried 5-0.

A. ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE

1. Acknowledge Warrants Issued Between September 28, 2022 And October 11, 2022.
2. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Funds As Follows:
County ARP Funds:
 - I. Approval Of County Reimbursement Of \$446.38 From 01-099-493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.5910
Transfer In As Follows:
\$446.38 For Administrative Expenses-Staff Costs
 - II. Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493-8444- 6261 And 6411.
\$3,599.45 - 1.11 Community Violence Interventions - Operation Living Hope
3. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Funds As Follows:
County ARP Funds:
 - I. Approval Of County Reimbursement Of \$377.08 From 01-099-493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.591
Transfer In As Follows:
\$377.08 For Administrative Expenses-Staff Costs
 - II. Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493-8419, 8433.
\$5,500.00 2.26 Education Assistance- Senior Technology
\$36,069.60 5.11 Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution-City Of Buffalo

B. ATTORNEY

1. Authorize Litigation Against Property Located At 2361 Eckert Avenue S.E., Rockford Township, PID 215-100-141302.

C. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

1. Approve 2022-10-28 HHS Economic Engagement Coordination Operations Team Retreat, Wright County Historical Society.

D. SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1. Approve And Sign The Updated Wright County Emergency Response Plan For The Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

BRIAN LUTES – ATTORNEY

Request Approval Of Appointment And Oath For Hans E. Larson, Assistant Wright County Attorney.

County Attorney Brian Lutes requested approval of the appointment and oath of the new Assistant County Attorney Hans Larson stating that the documents were given to County Administrator Lee Kelly prior to the meeting.

Introduction Of Hans E. Larson, Assistant Wright County Attorney.

Lutes introduced Larson, who started Monday, October 3 with Wright County. Larson came to the county with 11 years of experience and worked previously as an Assistant County Attorney for Polk County and Sherburne County. Larson will be on Lutes' Felony Domestic Violence Team. The board members welcomed Larson to the county.

MATT TREICHLER – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Resolution To Approve The 2023 MN Department Of Public Safety Traffic Enforcement Grant (\$36,900).

Chief Deputy Matt Treichler introduced the resolution for the 2023 Minnesota Department of Public Safety Traffic Enforcement Grant which included speed, seat belts, driving while intoxicated (DWI), distracted driving, and other dangers on the road. Treichler said that in 2022 the deputies made 985 traffic stops which included 76 citations for speed, 16 DWI arrests, 15 seatbelt violations, and 24 citations for the use of a wireless device while driving. Husom thought this was an important grant to approve. Daleiden asked Treichler how the Sheriff's Office chose the timeframes for violation campaigns. Treichler said the campaign calendar dates are set by the state and the Sheriff's Office tries to distribute it throughout the county to consider traffic flow. Treichler noted that the campaign dates are posted on social media so the public is aware that the Sheriff's Office is out looking for specific violations.

Vetsch moved to approve the resolution for the 2023 MN Department of Public Safety Traffic Enforcement Grant (\$36,900). The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The roll call vote was unanimous and the motion carried 5-0.

QUARTERLY YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Kelly noted that the county recognizes employees on a quarterly basis in order to keep the recognition closer to the employees' anniversary dates. The current period of recognition was from Friday, July 1 through Friday, September 30.

Kaczmarek recognized Andrew Fashant from the Sheriff's Office, Chad Engel from the Sheriff's Office, Eric Leander from the Sheriff's Office, Heath Gillham from the Sheriff's Office, and Sean Deringer from the Sheriff's Office on 25 years of service to the county. Daleiden recognized Brandi Kirkpatrick from Health and Human Services, Karmen Christenson from Health and Human Services, Joshua Hinton from the Sheriff's Office, and Stacy Doyle from the Sheriff's Office on 20 years of service to the county. Vetsch recognized Christa Pearson from Finance and Taxpayer Services, Jessica Baker from Health and Human Services, Kimberly Johnson from Health and Human Services, Corey Paulson from the Highway Department, Thomas Coon from the Sheriff's Office, and Terry Klaers from the Sheriff's Office on 15 years of service to the county. Wetter recognized Megan Ward from Health and Human Services, Rebecca Graham from Health and Human Services, Rhonda Heshiser from Health and Human Services, Jordan Barto from the Sheriff's Office, and Chad Hausmann from the Highway Department on 10 years of service to the county. Husom recognized Schawn Johnson from Administration, Diana Johnson from Finance and Taxpayer Services, Andrea Jennings Dyreson from Health and Human Services, Janet Marquette from Health and Human Services, Jessica Littrell from Health and Human Services, Sarah Grosshuesch from Health and Human Services, Lukas Jans from the Highway Department, Sara Buermann from the Highway Department, James Dahl from the Sheriff's Office, Michael Ryan from the Sheriff's Office, and Winston Weekes from the Sheriff's Office on five years of service to the county. The board thanked the employees for their service to the county.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

ADMINISTRATION

Remaining Government Center Equipment

Kelly said there was an event on Wednesday, September 28 that gave local jurisdictions a time to visit the old Government Center and claim items that would fill the needs of cities and townships. He said there was one group left to claim chairs, but outside of that there was still some equipment remaining that needed to be addressed and wanted board direction on how to distribute the remainder. Kaczmarek wanted to see if an online auction was feasible. He said he had noticed that there were MARCO printers left behind and asked Kelly if he had heard back from MARCO regarding The Wright County owned printer in the old Government Center for which the county was still paying \$1,400 a year for. Kelly had followed up with the

MARCO representative but had nothing new to report at that time. Husom asked if it was a possibility to offer these printers to non-profits that may have a need, stating that she thought the auction would not produce much funding.

Vetsch thought if an auction were to take place, the marketing for an auction needed to be built up to produce more interest from the public. Kaczmarek had reached out to a live auction company for more details regarding the logistics of how that would work. Kaczmarek said the auctioneer thought a live auction would be more cost efficient versus doing an online auction. Vetsch recommended looking into an online company to do the auction as he thought a small amount of income would be better than nothing. Vetsch noted that contracting a professional service would be up to the discretion of the County Administrator. Kelly said as a professional service the county would not have to put out an official request for proposal (RFP) but thought it would be wise to gather a few quotes to compare.

Facilities Director Alan Wilczek said that the Information Technology (IT) Department sold all its own equipment and added that he did not have experience selling tech such as printers. Wilczek gave options that the county had used in the past with regard to auctions and online marketing of equipment. Wilczek said that whatever direction the board wanted to go his Facilities team would be ready to assist. Husom thought the most efficient way to do this was the in-person auction. Wilczek said his only concern was the crowd that it would draw to the old Government Center and noted that he would need more staff to direct attendees through the in-person auction. The board discussed options, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of a live auction versus an online auction.

Husom stated the directive was to have Administration bring the board options for an online auction company. Kaczmarek asked if there was a timeframe that IT had regarding when to have the equipment fully moved out of the old Government Center. IT Director Matthew Fomby said the moving process was still in progress and the target date for move completion was Monday, October 31, 2022. Fomby said the only consideration with environmental controls was keeping the humidity down. He noted that the internet connection did come through the old Government Center building and would be the only item remaining. Fomby said that he was looking into other location for rerouting the fiber line with the state. He had been working on this issue continuously but did not have a move date at that time.

ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE

Motion To Approve The Delegation Of Department, Fund, And Levy Neutral Budget Adjustments In Oracle Fusion To The County Administrator, Finance Director And Assistant Finance Director.

Kelly said they were 20 days from go live with Phase One of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). He explained that this request would be to make budget transfers that are neutral to the budget. Kelly said this would allow him to make logistical decisions for the county without needing to bring it before the board every time there needed to be a change of this kind.

Vetsch said he understood that there were a lot of questions that would come up and was okay with the transfer piece but was not sure about the longevity of the discretion. He did not like the lack of transparency that he thought would occur if this request was pushed through. Kelly said there was an expiration on this request and there would continue to be weekly updates in the Consent Agenda. Kaczmarek did not think this was the direction the board wanted to go. He said he wanted to continue to have say in decisions rather than simply being updated on changes that occur without board approval.

Finance Director Lindsey Meyer said denial of this request would prohibit the departments from paying bills on time. She clarified that what was being asked was the ability to conduct business as she was concerned with accounts payable and the timing of the requests from departments, receipt of invoices, and alignment with county board meetings. Husom pointed out that that the board would still receive the warrants at each board meeting and there would be nothing hidden from the board. Meyer said she wanted to continue to have transparency with the board. Daleiden recommended approving this request to midway through 2023 to allow the new board members to have a vote as they learn more about the ERP system and processes. Vetsch agreed. He said he thought that was a good plan and that a reevaluation could happen in July 2023.

Daleiden moved to approve the delegation of department, fund, and levy neutral budget adjustments in Oracle Fusion to the County Administrator, Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director through July 2023. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

***COMMISSIONERS**

Review And Summary Regarding Out Of State Travel To Look At The Digester Processing Plant In Massachusetts

Kaczmarek said the trip to Massachusetts was initiated out of interest from a company that had expressed to build a similar

digester processing plant in Wright County. Kaczmarek did not think that looking at a PowerPoint would be sufficient for approving operations in the county and thought it was time well spent to visit the site in person. The group that attended the site tour looked at the processing plant that was built for \$7.5 million. Kaczmarek explained the process briefly stating that the trash was hauled and run through a machine to be sorted. The trash then came out in liquid form, which was hauled to a farm site and placed in a lagoon and used to fertilize the fields. Kaczmarek said one could not see or smell the residue. The group spoke with neighbors who lived next to the plant in Massachusetts and the neighbors did not have any concerns or complaints about the plant, smells, or the operation. Kaczmarek said in addition to meeting with the neighbors, the group also met with representatives from Vanguard, the company that owned the plant. He noted that there was also methane gas that was created at the plant and sold for energy. Kaczmarek said his question was whether the plant belonged on the farm or in the city as it was more industrial and commercialized. He said it would involve a long-term lease with a farmer, which was another consideration.

Vetsch thought Kaczmarek had covered the extent of the trip well and wanted to add that he was excited to see what would come out of applications within Wright County. Wetter asked about the consideration for ice and water and how freezing conditions would affect plant and distribution operations. Vetsch explained that the location the group visited experienced more precipitation than Wright County and a similar climate. He thought this would not be a concern for plant operations. Vetsch said the garbage went into the field in a liquid form and he thought it would absorb quicker than manure. He added that the spreading would not take place in January, February, or March per state law in Massachusetts. Vetsch thought the farmers in Minnesota might follow the same methodology even though there were not state restrictions in Minnesota. Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer added that it was a 27-to-28-day process from start to finish as trash goes through the system. The liquid then goes to a liquid manure holding area where it is dried, and the solids used as bedding for the dairy cows and the liquid moved to liquid holding manure pond for field injection. Kryzer added that the liquid form has less smell and the plant's neighbors did not know when spreading was taking place.

Wetter asked if there were companies in Wright County that were interested in the methane that was produced from the plant. Vetsch said the plant condensed down the natural gas down to a form that can be used in the main lines for natural gas. If the plant was too far from a natural gas line, the plant was able to use alternative options to put it back into the generator for internal use as an electrical generator system. Kryzer said the electrical energy produced by the methane was a constant. Kaczmarek said that there needed to be buy-in from farmers in the county to see the benefit of using the new process as a business decision versus past practices. Kryzer showed pictures of plant operations from the trip as Vetsch talked through the processes that took place in each picture.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

County Board Workshop Minutes from Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Vetsch gave a summary of the County Board Workshop from Tuesday, October 11, 2022. Daleiden asked if there was a preferred date recommended for the legislative review. Kelly said staff was still waiting on a few remaining responses.

Vetsch moved to approve the County Board Workshop Minutes and recommendations from Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

County Administrator Lee Kelly

Kelly reminded the board of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) District 5 meeting in Meeker County on Monday, October 24. Kelly reiterated that ERP was 20 days out from the go-live date and noted that training was ongoing. Kelly said he attended the Association of Minnesota Counties Administrators Conference and thought there were great topics addressed such as employee retention as well as best practices discussions. He said he was voted Vice President of the Association for 2023.

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek

Kaczmarek attended two Safe Schools meetings in Delano and Howard Lake which were both well attended. He heard that students were coming back around to their level of social interaction students had pre-COVID 19 pandemic. He also attended City and Township meetings as well as the Township Officers Quarterly Meeting at Chatham Township.

Commissioner Mark Daleiden

Daleiden met with Wright County Community Action and expressed concerns that the state had reduced the funding for

energy assistance. He was hoping that legislators would increase this program with the surplus funds that the state would have in January 2023. Daleiden was concerned that this reduction would have a negative impact on people and cause issues for people in the winter months. Vetsch pointed out that this program was on a first-come-first-serve basis and the funding would run out. He said with the artificial increase some applicants would not qualify for the funding even if they had the year prior.

Commissioner Christine Husom

Husom attended a Buffalo Safe Schools meeting where Lutes spoke about the new drug laws, in particular the edibles and how laws have changed. She said it posed a challenge for schools as minors would not be cited for possession and use but could not buy products. Husom noted 960 kids went through the wRight Choice Program last year. Husom said it was the 50-year anniversary of Wright Technical Center and applauded the center's great work. Husom attended the Township Officers meeting and enjoyed hearing from everyone.

Husom attended the Mentorship Education and Drug Awareness (MEADA) meeting. MEADA was in its third year with the Drug-Free Community (DFC) Grant. Members offered programs such as alcohol server trainings, a youth empowerment and leadership campaign, and working on Positive Community Norms (PCN) campaigns with youth in the county. She said MEADA was reaching out to schools for more buy-in for the great programs the group offers. Husom also met with the Wright County Opioid Settlement Advisory Council where members discussed funding prioritizations. There will be a survey sent out to the public regarding harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery, and the criminal justice system regarding funding and how best to break those down.

Commissioner Darek Vetsch

Vetsch said he also attended the Township Officers meeting. Vetsch said he and Daleiden had attended a number of Labor Negotiation meetings throughout the week. He said he had a meeting regarding the high occupancy at the East Central Regional Juvenile Detention Center (RJC) and had three contracted beds made available for when Wright County needed the spots. Vetsch attended the Manufactures Month Tour at Die Technology Inc. and NanoTech Precision and thought it was a good opportunity to see the operations of businesses within the county. Vetsch noted Wednesday, October 12 was appreciation day for case aids, eligibility specialists, and child support officers and he thanked them for all they do for the county.

Commissioner Mary Wetter

Wetter attended the Wetland Appeal Board where a new wetland bank was approved in Middleville Township. Following the appeal board, she met with the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). She said many of the contract payments were approved and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would soon be ready for the Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed, One Plan. Wetter said environmental education days for fifth graders had taken place and 623 students had attended. She attended the Mining and Extraction Work Group meeting where the group discussed interim use permits. She attended the Safe Schools meeting in St. Michael and learned that phones now had to be left in students' lockers during the school day.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Laine Stephan, Office Manager