



BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DATE APPROVED: NOVEMBER 15, 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 10/25/2022

Commissioner Mark Daleiden moved to approve the County Board minutes from Tuesday, October 25, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA

Commissioner Darek Vetsch moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. Acknowledge October Replacement Report.
2. Approve Revisions To Section 103 (Pre-Employment Occupational Physical Examinations) Of The Wright County Personnel Handbook.

B. ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE

1. Approve The Acceptance And Corresponding Budget Adjustment For The Local Assistant And Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) Allocation Under The American Rescue Plan Act.
2. Acknowledge Warrants Issued Between October 19, 2022, And October 25, 2022.
3. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funds As Follows:
County ARP Funds:
 - i. Approval Of County Reimbursement Of \$1,081.12 From 01-099-493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.5910 Transfer In As Follows:
\$1,081.12 For Administrative Expenses-Staff Costs
 - ii. Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493-8433-6020.
\$6,819.70 2.2 Household Assistance
4. Approve Renewal Of 2023 Tobacco Licenses For:
 - a. Kwik Trip #1188 (COKATO)
 - b. Kwik Trip #104 (CLEARWATER)
 - c. Kwik Trip #162 (OTSEGO)
 - d. Kwik Trip #177 (MONTICELLO)
 - e. Kwik Trip #345 (MONTICELLO)
 - f. Kwik Trip #681 (ST. MICHAEL)
 - g. Kwik Trip #1020 (ALBERTVILLE)
 - h. Kwik Trip #1031 (DELANO)
5. Approve Renewal Of 2023 Tobacco Licenses For:
 - a. Backyard Liquors (St. Michael)
 - b. Lake Region Co-op (Maple Lake & Cokato)
 - c. The Original Tom Thumb (Hanover)

- d. Ambema Retails (South Haven)
 - e. Flippinbills (Delano)
 - f. Clearwater Travel Plaza & Fuel Center (Clearwater)
 - g. VIP Tobacco (St. Michael)
 - h. Jack's Of French Lake (Annandale)
 - i. Jack's Of Cokato (Cokato)
6. Approve Renewal Of 2023 Tobacco Licenses For:
- a. Casey's General Store #2156 (ROCKFORD)
 - b. Casey's General Store #2412 (ALBERTVILLE)
 - c. Casey's General Store #3601 (MONTROSE)
 - d. Casey's General Store #1647 (COKATO)

TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Aggregate Removal Tax Ordinance.

Commissioner Christine Husom opened the public hearing to for the Aggregate Removal Tax Ordinance at 9:31 a.m.

Assistant County Administrator Marc Mattice said there had been no written or verbal comments submitted from the public regarding the ordinance. He said the ordinance is being updated to handle the change in definition of "Abandoned Pit" and the change in how the 15 percent going toward restoration can be used. Ordinance 22-3 had been brought before the board in September to schedule the public hearing. Mattice said at the time it was brought to the board it was numbered 22-2, but since that time another ordinance has come forward that is 22-2, so this ordinance has been changed to reflect that. He said 42.5 percent of the aggregate tax revenue is allocated back to the county for the road and bridge fund. 42.5 percent is allocated to the township in which the mine is located, or to the county, if the mine is located in an unorganized town, to be expended for maintenance, construction of roads, highways and bridges. The remaining 15 percent is to go to a special reserve fund which was established to restore abandoned pits, quarries or deposits located within the county, for any other unmet reclamation need, for conservation or other environmental needs.

Mattice said the ordinance creates an Aggregate Tax Committee to meet annually as directed by the County Administrator to review applications as provided by the Finance Director and make recommendations to the county board. The collection of taxes would be handled through the Finance Department. There is \$597,000 cash on hand as of Tuesday, November 1 and not all from restoration funds.

Kaczmarek mentioned the 42.5 percent that is allocated to the township where the pit is located being for roads and bridges. He said in some of these townships the gravel pits are attached directly to county roads and there is no need for trucks to touch township roads, but the townships still receive their 42.5 percent. He said there is no way for the board to fix this as it must be fixed at the state level. He said it is not fair for townships who do not receive road and bridges money and yet their roads and bridges are used for transportation of gravel. He said the designee responsible for auditing gravel pits should come up with a standard operating procedure on how the audit report will be done legally and randomly. The audit should not just be because of a complaint or suspicion. Husom said she had spoken with township residents who have observed gravel trucks driving on non-gravel pit townships roads and bridges.

Vetsch said the issue of townships that do not have mines but experience the wear and tear of gravel trucks utilizing their roadways was an issue to bring to the state for change. Kaczmarek asked when a review committee would be set up. Vetsch said a committee would start in January with the new board. Mattice said a date in May was put on the applications for review. Mattice said it was important to not put audit information in the ordinance to avoid using titles. He said the next step would be to have County Auditor/Treasurer Bob Hiivala develop standard operating procedures for the audit and present them to the board.

Husom opened the hearing up for public comments at 9:39 a.m.

Dwight Hammer Albion Township

Albion Township resident Dwight Hammer said he was just notified about the Public Hearing. He said the ordinance sounds like the way to go. He wondered why this was not discussed at the last Township Officers meeting so the township could have more opportunity to provide feedback. Hammer said Albion Township has a large culvert in need of repair. He said because of damage gravel trucks have done caused from constant travel the repairs will be expensive and the township will get no money because it does not have a gravel pit in the township. Husom said she could not answer the question as to why this was not brought up in a meeting. Kaczmarek asked if Albion Township had any gravel pits. Hammer said no. Vetsch asked if all townships were notified of this meeting or just townships with pits. Mattice said the county followed the public notification process of posting in local papers and online. Vetsch said it would be good to be more vigilant in the future to ensure all townships are able to comment on changing ordinances.

Fred Bonk Fred Bonk Gravel, Buffalo

Owner of Fred Bonk Gravel, Bonk has been a gravel hauler in Wright County for 51 years. He said Wright County pays more gravel tax than other counties. He said Wright County pays 50 to 70 percent of the gravel tax in the state. He said the gravel tax is not fair. There are four townships that do not get gravel tax-Albion, Maple Lake, Woodland, and Chatham. He asked if the board thought it was fair that these four townships pay the gravel tax and do not get any help from the gravel tax. Vetsch said the State Legislature allocates the money. Bonk said the gravel tax is not fair. Bonk asked if the county knew how much it paid. Husom said this issue needed to go to the State Legislature. Vetsch said the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) needed to step up. He said the townships needed to get MAT to review the issue. The county can partner with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) to have the Legislature look at the gravel tax to see if it still makes sense in 2022. Bonk said he would continue to pay the tax as required and that the board needed to make it fair. Kaczmarek asked if this could be discussed with the Legislature.

Public comments closed at 9:50.

Kaczmarek recommended to present to the legislators § 111.006 distribution of revenues for discussion and designate staff to create a standard operating procedure (SOP) for a legal and random audit of aggregate importers or operators. Husom asked Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer if these recommendations needed to be separate from the vote to approve the resolution and ordinance. Kryzer said these recommendations would be separate from the question of the adoption of Ordinance 22-3.

Husom said there was a resolution in front of the board amending the Wright County Code of Ordinances Article 1, Chapter 111 Aggregate Removal Tax. She read for the benefit of all in attendance the entirety of Resolution 22-59.

Daleiden moved to approve the resolution amending the Wright County Code of Ordinances Chapter 111 Aggregate Removal Tax. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. On unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Daleiden moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance 22-3. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion carried 5-0.

Kaczmarek moved to recommend presenting to state legislators § 111.006 distribution of revenues for discussion and designate staff to create an SOP for a legal and random audit of aggregate importers or operators. Daleiden seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

ADMINISTRATION

Schedule Legislative Meeting

County Administrator Lee Kelly said he reached out to Wright County State Legislators to inform them of the 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 28 meeting at the Government Center. He spoke with departments that are bringing items forward for discussion at the workshop. Kelly will let newly elected legislators know once the election is over.

Vetsch moved to schedule a meeting with state legislatures for 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 28. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

Refer Items to County Board Workshop on Tuesday, November 8, 2022:

ARP

Update

Water Quality Improvement Grants

Discussion of Legislative Items

Fee Schedule

Kelly said regarding the workshop on Tuesday, November 8 there will be an American Rescue Plan (ARP) update as that has been progressing along. There has been a new request regarding Water Quality Improvement Grants. There will be a public hearing at the end of the month for the new fee schedule. He said the commissioners would be receiving a copy Tuesday, November 1 for their study and preparation. He said the format would be the same for all departments for consistency.

Daleiden asked where the changes to the compost facility were at. Husom said there had been a tour of other counties facilities. Mattice said it would be best referring this discussion to the workshop. He said Environmental Health Supervisor Jacob Wagaman had made changes to the fee schedule. Mattice said an operations plan and designing a new facility were in development. Husom said some of the discussion in the past indicated that nothing would happen in one shot, but it would be a process. Kaczmarek said he did not realize the field trip still happened after the commissioners cancelled and he wanted to ensure it was understood it was not due to lack of interest. He said the commissioners should make an effort to visit other facilities in the future. Mattice said it was a good field trip for staff, much of the conversation revolved around operational details rather than just design. He said it was key to get the operational details worked out before bringing in the 2023 commissioners. Husom agreed this would be important.

Daleiden asked how the scrap metal auction had gone. Planning and Zoning Administrator Barry Rhineberger said all but two items sold at auction had been picked up. The two items left were the largest items sold and it was unclear how long before they would be picked up. He said staff have been recycling scrap metal as the size of the bin allowed. Daleiden asked if the scrap metal brought in any recycling money. Rhineberger said there was recycling money received.

COMMITTEE MINUTESDitch Committee Of The Whole (10-25-2022)

Wetter summarized the Ditch Committee of the Whole (COTW) public hearing. Kaczmarek and Husom discussed the role of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in residents' flooded property and what the redetermination of benefits will do to aid in that process.

Wetter moved to approve the Ditch Committee of the Whole public hearing minutes and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Daleiden The motion carried 5-0.

I. Redetermination of Benefits for County Ditch # 13

Commissioner Christine Husom began the meeting by reading the following statement:

This is a public hearing on the redetermination of benefits and damages on Wright County Ditch 13 under statutes section 103E.351. I would like to welcome everyone who has come today. Under consideration at this hearing is the redetermination of benefits and damages for Wright County Ditch 13 which includes the acquisition and valuation of buffer seeding areas.

The purpose of this hearing is to review the viewer's report and receive comment from those affected by or interested in the proposed redetermination of benefits and damages report.

This is an evidentiary proceeding. The proceedings are being recorded in order to preserve the record. The order of business for the hearings will be as follows. First, the Drainage Authority's legal will present the procedural and legal requirements. Following the staff presentation one of the viewers will make their presentation. After the viewer has made his presentation, I will open the hearing for public comment. The Board would like to hear your comments on the proposed redetermination of benefits and damages of the drainage system and any information relevant to that purpose.

Specifically, the Board is interested in:

1. *Whether it is missing information used to define the public benefit, damage, or valuation.*
2. *The extent and basis of any benefits or damages.*
3. *Whether and how your land drains to the public system*
4. *Whether you have concerns with the soil classifications as presented by the viewers.*
5. *Whether the seeding and right of way acquisition area and valuation are correct or missing information.*
6. *Whether you have concerns or issues associated with any portion of the benefits of damages assessed to your property*
7. *Whether the recommended benefits and damages creates other material concerns the Board should consider prior to adopting the viewer's report*

Though information may be presented regarding the current condition of the drainage system, this hearing is not an appropriate time to discuss issues related to possible, future actions such as a repair unless the repair or lack of an ability to make a repair will alter the benefits or damages of the system. If repairs are warranted, the Drainage Authority will initiate separate proceedings to discuss those issues. However, if you have an immediate concern, we invite you to contact our Agriculture and Drainage Coordinator Matt Detjen.

The purpose of this hearing is to review the viewer's report. During the public hearing, commissioners may ask questions of staff or the viewers making presentations and of commenters, in order to clarify any testimony.

In addition, if a member of the public asks a question and a commissioner believes that a response from the Drainage Authority staff or a viewer can readily resolve the question or enrich the testimony, the commissioner may ask me to have the appropriate staff member or viewer speak to the question. I will exercise my judgment as to whether to allow such discussion.

However, commissioners' expression of their positions and general discussion concerning the subject of the public hearing should be avoided during the public comment portion of the public hearing. Board discussion will occur after all members of the public have had a chance to speak and the public comment period has been closed. Board discussion may occur and be concluded at this or a subsequent meeting, as the Board decides.

If a member of the public would like to make a comment, please stand and address the Board when I recognize you. Speak clearly and state your name and address for the record. If you have a specific question concerning the proposed viewer's report, we may ask our drainage coordinator, one of the viewers or legal counsel to respond. If you have anything in writing you wish to submit, you can provide it to me before the close of the public comments and I will note its receipt in the record.

To ensure that all wishing to comment on the proposed viewers report concerning the redetermination of benefits and damages of the public drainage system may have time to speak, I may limit the time any single speaker may comment to three minutes. Please limit redundant or repetitive comments.

Husom gave the floor to Assistant County Attorney John Bowen to provide background on the proceedings. Bowen read the following statement:

1. *This is a public hearing on the redetermination of benefits and damages of Wright County Ditch 13*

These drainage systems are located Buffalo Township, Wright County. The drainage area is mainly developed and guided for agricultural use .

2. *As part of his analysis of the drainage system, the viewers have provided the Drainage Authority with a report showing the following:*

A description of the lot or tract, under separate ownership, that is benefited or damaged;

The names of the owners as they appear on the current tax records of the county and their addresses;

The number of acres in each tract or lot;

The number and value of acres added to a tract or lot by the proposed drainage of public water;

The damage, if any, to riparian rights;

The damages paid for the permanent strip of perennial vegetation under MN ST section 103E.021;

The total number and value of acres added to a tract or lot by the proposed drainage of public waters, wetlands, and other areas not currently being cultivated;

The number of acres and amount of benefits being assessed for drainage of areas that would be considered conversion of a wetland under United States Code, title 16, section 3821, if the area was placed in agricultural production;

The amount of right-of-way acreage required; and

The amount that each tract or lot will be benefited or damaged.

3. *In order to properly manage the drainage system in a way that recognizes its intended, beneficial public functions, the Drainage Authority initiated proceedings to redetermine the benefits and damages over the system. The Board initiated the redetermination of benefits and damages process by resolutions adopting findings and orders dated July 26, 2016.*
4. *The Drainage Authority adopted the resolution because the original benefits or damages do not reasonably reflect current land values or because the benefited or damaged areas have changed.*
5. *Pursuant to the requirements of 103E.351 subd. 2, the Board mailed notice of this final hearing to all property owners benefited or damaged by the drainage systems. The viewer's report was mailed to the property owners. Other interested parties were provided notice by publication in the Howard Lake Herald Journal. Evidence of all notices are on file with the Drainage Authority.*
6. *Substantive comments received during today's hearing, if any, may be incorporated into the final findings for the Board.*
7. *Evidence of all actions in this matter, including the viewer's report, preliminary orders, appointments, oaths, affidavits of mailing, publication or posting as well as hearing agendas and presentation materials shall be considered the record of proceedings in this matter.*
8. *At this hearing, the viewers will present their report. The viewers will also provide an explanation of the process and information used to determine the benefits and damages and valuation and acquisition of the right-of-way of the drainage systems.*
9. *The intent of this proceeding is to confirm the benefits and damages and the benefited and damaged areas and to also acquire any permanent strips of perennial vegetation under Minn. Stat. § 103E.021*
10. *The redetermined benefits and damages will be used in all subsequent proceedings relating to the drainage systems.*
11. *Based on your comments and testimony today, the Drainage Authority may make one or more of the following decisions:*
 - a. *Rise and report to the full board an order accepting the redetermination the benefits and damages as described in the viewer's report.*
 - b. *Direct the viewers to further review the area or portions of the drainage systems and determine if adjustments should be made to the proposed benefits and damages and perennial strips of vegetation.*
 - c. *Rise and report to the full board that it adopt an order rejecting the viewer's report and directing a new report be conducted.*
 - d. *Direct the viewers to make adjustments and submit a revised report.*
12. *As requested by the Drainage Authority, please limit your comments to the redetermination of benefits and damages. Comments related to repair of the drainage system are not germane to this public hearing unless the repair or lack of ability to make the repair will alter the benefit or damages of the system.*
13. *The decision standard for the Board is whether, based on the proceedings herein, the evidence presented at this hearing and the testimony of the viewers and the public, the Board finds that the viewer's report accurately reflects the benefits and damages of the watershed for Wright County Ditch 13.*

President of the Viewers Association, Ron Ringquist, gave an overview of the Viewer's Report and introduced his colleagues

who were present, Minnesota Drainage Viewers Stearns County Director, John Cunningham, and Vernon Ruschmeyer. Ringquist said the original draft report was submitted in 2017, but due to complicating factors relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the process was delayed. He said the report submitted on Thursday, September 8 had updated numbers to account for current values and inflation. Ringquist said there has been minimal maintenance done to the ditch since its creation 100 years earlier and said it does not serve its original intended benefits any longer. He said because of Department of Natural Resource (DNR) regulations, the viewers made the assumption that any repair would not significantly impact the restored wetlands, therefore the benefits do not assess in the same way it would when the ditch was originally constructed. Ringquist said that if the wetlands were drained and restored to original grade lines, it would change the benefit value findings.

Ringquist went over all the considerations the viewer's report took into consideration to include soils maps of Wright County, Geographic Information System (GIS) aerial data, soil cover, sales values of the area, visual inspections of all properties in the watershed, and reviewed all County Board records and minutes pertaining to Ditch 13 up to Tuesday, October 25, 2022. With the understanding that the benefit would not go back to its original intended classification of agriculture, Ringquist and his associates created four new classifications. Classification A being those acres used for hay and pasture, Classification B being metropolitan or medium density residential areas, Classification C being agriculture acres that would benefit from the runoff, and Classification D being the upland agriculture areas that do not need the outlet but would contribute to the loss of value in lower lands. He said they also considered roads as a separate entity and non-benefitted acres. He said the benefits were based on the contribution, the accelerated run off, and the loss of value to lands originally drained by the system. The benefits breakdown came down to Classification A being \$650 per acre, Classification B being \$325 per acre, Classification C being \$190 per acre, and Classification D being \$150 per acre. These considerations brought the land benefits to \$84,587.50, and road benefits to \$12,480.50. The City of Buffalo would be assessed \$10,000 and damage acres \$100 per acre.

Ringquist showed on the map where drainage was taking place and where the ditch should be extending through. He noted that the GIS map did not accurately show where the ditch was constructed. He asked that there be one parcel number correction made if the board adopted the action. He noted the change to parcel number 20200103102, stating that the last four numbers should be changed to 3302. He did note that the proper landowners still received the necessary notifications despite the incorrect parcel number. Ringquist noted that the mistakes on the GIS mapping system were correctly identified with a physical inspection that was done. Agriculture and Drainage Coordinator Matthew Detjen said he would update the changes with the current alignment in the County GIS system.

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek asked if there were any public comment submitted before the meeting. Ringquist said an informational meeting was held the week prior and any questions that arose were addressed even if the concerns were not resolved.

Husom opened the floor for public comment at 11:25 a.m.

Buffalo resident Tore Dahle, 5502 Davern Avenue NE, said that during the informational meeting, the map did not show the encroachment on his land. He explained that the map he had been working with showed a different area that amounted to 14 acres, whereas the map presented at the public hearing expanded even further. Dahle said in the northwest corner of his property, which the DNR had specified as wetlands, there was a road that led to his house that would be affected by the encroachment. He said that most of the water that sat on the land did not drain out. Dahle also wanted to note that in the center of his property there was a drain ditch that ran down along the road to the south. He said when considering the elevations in GIS, he thought the board should also consider other properties to take on the burden of the cost. Husom asked how many acres he had total. Dahle said he had 30 acres. He said initially the redetermination showed 14 acres but now it specified 23 acres, bringing his cost up to around \$1,600. Dahle thought maintenance should be considered to minimize the cost to the residents. Husom asked if the current map was the same map that he saw at the meeting the week prior. Dahle said it was not as the map at the meeting indicated no benefit determined to his property. Detjen clarified that at the meeting the week prior the map was up to date but that there was no HDMI cord to display the map. An alterante map was displayed to show the area, but it was an older map intended to only show the area being discussed. Husom acknowledged this and explained that to be considered a benefitted landowner your water was considered as "contributing" to the ditch.

Buffalo resident Julie Gutknecht, 3770 Dague Avenue NE, said her property was located at the beginning of Ditch 13. She said that to her understanding the flooding on her property started when the clay used in the original ditch system was crushed. Gutknecht said the redetermination would benefit her as other landowners would also be paying in to help pay for

fixing the ditch. She said that because the DNR was claiming part of her property as wetlands now, there was nothing the board could propose to reverse the damage done to her property. Husom understood that she was concerned about a separate issue.

Detjen said the flooding was considered a public water well and not covered by the DNR under the wetland consideration. He noted that it was administered under a separate statute. Detjen said this separation was done in the 1980s. He said his hope was to come to a management agreement with the DNR, which had the potential to be a long process. Husom said the board had seen the photos of the way Gutknecht's property should look and Detjen was able to find the original tile that had been crushed causing the flooding. Gutknecht clarified that to have this issue fixed it would have needed to be addressed decades earlier. Dahl noted that if Gutknecht's issue was a maintenance issue, the DNR would not have to be involved causing a slower process. Detjen clarified the definitions of maintenance versus improvement according to the DNR and concluded that the county would have to work with the DNR in addition to having a drainage panel. Husom clarified that Gutknecht's flooding issue would need to be discussed outside of the redetermination of benefits hearing.

Husom closed the floor for public comment at 11:49 a.m.

Kaczmarek asked if there was a cost to the benefited landowners when the viewers had to update the cost to the land in 2017. Ringquist said that he did not have these numbers specifically, but the additional cost consisted of one day of review of the watershed and one day verifying that names and addresses were correct. Kaczmarek asked why the current version was not available to the board members. Ringquist said the incorrect portion of the map was part of the county's GIS layer and was not something that he or his associates could update themselves. He said that the information provided to landowners was up to date and noted that the landowners were given notice of the correct number of acres and this information was available at the previous week's informational meeting.

Gutknecht asked if all costs incurred up to the approval of the redetermination would be assessed based on the previous determination's landowners or if it would be assessed to the newly named benefited landowners as well. Husom said because the viewer's report was for the redetermination of benefits, it would be assessed to include the newly benefitted landowners as well. Daleiden added that the ditch's original intended purpose was to be used as a wetland drainage but was currently being used as a rural stormwater drainage system that is benefitting everyone.

Daleiden moved to direct staff to prepare findings and an order consistent with the proceedings, including responses to all comments received through the public comment process; that the draft findings and order be written to affect the redetermination of benefits and damages of the public drainage system consistent with the viewer's report and recommendation; direct recording of the order to reflect the redetermination of benefits and damages of the public drainage system record; and that the committee rise and report this matter to the Board's regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15, or by adjournment to an appropriate time on the County Board's agenda, at which meeting the Board will consider findings and an order for the proposed viewer's report on the redetermination of benefits and damages of the public drainage system records. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Darek Vetsch being absent.

RECOMMENDATION: To direct staff to prepare an order on the redetermination of benefits and damages of the public drainage system consistent with the viewer's report, the public hearing comments and guidance from the Board and move to set a public hearing on Tuesday, November 15, at which time the Board will continue the public hearing for the purpose of considering and adopting an Order.

Personnel Committee (10-26-2022)

Vetsch summarized the Personnel Committee minutes and recommendation. He said the recommendation would provide an improvement to workflow. Husom requested one word in the recommendation be changed.

Vetsch moved to approve the Personnel Committee minutes and recommendation with one correction. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

I. Discuss Centralization of Information Technology.

Assistant County Administrator Clay Wilfahrt said that the goal of the Personnel Committee was to consider the county goals of efficiency, consistency, and resiliency when discussing potential changes. With those goals in mind, there was discussion on the dissolution of two of the Information Systems Specialists (ISS) positions currently within Health and Human Services (HHS) Technology, the potential to open two Technology Systems Specialist (TSS) position within Information Technology (IT). This would leave three Information Systems Specialist (ISS) positions within HHS Technology Division. There will also be a change in title from Technology Coordinator to be Business Project Coordinator. This position will be open for applications and will remain in the same pay grade as the previously titled Technology Coordinator position. Also discussed was changing the job title of the three ISS positions to Business Technologist due to the primary function of the Information Systems Specialist shift from software and Personal Computer (PC) support to No-Code/Low-Code (NCLC) development, process management, staff training, and product administration. The title of Business Technologist would capture the change and emphasize department business while remaining descriptive of the role as a mediator between business users and IT systems.

RECOMMENDATION: To open two TSS positions in IT for internal applications first. To dissolve two of the ISS positions within HHS Technology and have three ISS positions job titles changed to Business Technologist to remain in HHS Technology Division. To change the name of the Technology Coordinator to Business Project Coordinator, keeping the pay grade the same, and opening the position up to applicants. If any of the three Business Technologist positions are vacated in the future, the reconsideration of refilling the position would go back to the Personnel Committee for review.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

County Administrator Lee Kelly

Kelly said there were continued meetings with the seven labor unions. He said Secretary of State Steve Simon stopped by for the public accuracy testing. He said Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) goes live on Monday, November 7. He said Green Light for Veterans is planned for the week of November 7-11. Kelly said he was working with facilities to get some form of green lighting at the Government Center for that week.

Commissioner Darek Vetsch

Vetsch said the Energy Transition Advisory Committee had its meeting Tuesday, October 25 where it adopted the Energy Transition Plan that will go forward to the governor and Legislature. The biggest recommendation that came out of this meeting was that it was important that the Energy Transition Advisory Committee be enacted ongoing as the energy transition moves forward. The closures of each plant in each community are fluid and no one way will work for all communities. The committee needs to be available to make recommendations on a case-by-case basis. He said the way Local Government Aid (LGA) works is too slow for communities impacted by plant closures. Whatever the source of community financial aid, many things need to happen prior to plant closures to ensure the money gets to where it is needed in a timely manner without taking away from other communities in need. He said there needed to be a focus on the valuation of property between the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the local assessors' offices. The local assessor sets property value based on the land while the state sets property value based on the land and the structures on that land. When the plant is shut down the valuation of property is turned over to the local assessor by the state, who will have a challenge getting real estate comparable prices.

Vetsch attended a Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership (CMRP) meeting. He said there will be a Request For Proposal (RFP) released in the next 30 days for its "purpose and needs" statement which it hopes to have ready in December. This will allow CMRP to enter into the Tier 1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for addressing a transportation solution for the region.

Vetsch said the I-94 Coalition is putting in applications for gap funding between Albertville and Monticello. Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) had a presentation from Greater Minneapolis Saint Paul (MSP) Regional Economic Development Partnership regarding the lack of large commercial properties that are shovel ready, that have high - electric, and high-water capacity in our region. He said Wright County had one site that was close but was only a 45-acre site, where the Greater MSP is looking for sites that are 50 to 100 acres, are shovel ready, and have transportation infrastructure already in place. He said if one was available in the seven-county metro area it would be garnering multiple hits from companies across the county.

Commissioner Mary Wetter

Wetter attended the public accuracy test of county voting equipment on Monday, October 31. She was surprised there was not more of a public presence. Husom and Wetter discussed the process for counting ballots utilizing the ballot counting machines. Husom said that the accuracy test held prior to the primaries had a bigger crowd. The Secretary of State said he liked to go to different county tests to ensure the election was ready.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Philip Hodges, Administrative Specialist.