



## BOARD MINUTES

### BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022

DATE APPROVED: DECEMBER 20, 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 11/29/2022

Commissioner Mark Daleiden moved to approve the County Board minutes from Tuesday, November 29, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Darek Vetsch. The motion carried 5-0.

#### AGENDA

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Kaczmarek requested to move F1, review and sign the 2023 Law Enforcement Service contracts for the cities of Albertville, Delano, Monticello, Otsego, and St. Michael.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Item F1 removed. The motion was seconded by Vetsch. The motion carried 4-1 with Daleiden dissenting.

\*Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion

##### A. Administration

1. Reappoint Melissa Fee And Jacey Wallace To Serve On The Great River Regional Library Board For A Three-Year Term Commencing January 1, 2023.

##### B. Administration – Facilities

1. Authorize Signatures On Janitorial Services Agreement.

##### C. Administration - Finance

1. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) As Follows

##### I. County ARP Funds:

Approval Of County Reimbursement Of \$169.24 From 01-099-493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.5910 Transfer In As Follows:

\$169.24 for Administrative Expenses-Staff Costs

Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493

\$3,600.00 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, And Utility Aid

##### D. Administration – Human Resources

1. Approve And Authorize Signatures On The Labor Agreement With The International Union Of Operating Engineers (Local 49) For The 2023-2025 Calendar Years.
2. Approve The 2023 Non-Union Salary Ranges, Effective January 1, 2023.

##### E. Attorney

1. Approve Developer's Agreement With Munson Solar Farm In Victor Township.
2. Schedule A Public Hearing To Amend The Wright County Tobacco Ordinance.

##### F. Sheriff's Office

- \*1. Review And Sign The 2023 Law Enforcement Service Contracts For The Cities Of Albertville, Delano, Monticello, Otsego, And St. Michael.

#### ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

## F. Sheriff's Office

### 1. Review And Sign The 2023 Law Enforcement Service Contracts For The Cities Of Albertville, Delano, Monticello, Otsego, And St. Michael.

Kaczmarek read from the Delano contract regarding the charging of the cities for prosecution fees as is stated in the contract. He said during the budget meetings County Attorney Brian Lutes had noted that no money had been received for work the County Attorney's had provided. Kaczmarek said three attorneys and 6,500 hours of time were spent annually prosecuting crimes in the municipalities. At the time it was suggested that the Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office come together and reach an understanding of how to rectify the issue. Daleiden said this had been discussed many times and the contracts do not state the costs to the county for the services rendered at the municipalities. Kaczmarek said the point is that no money has been going to the County Attorney's office for prosecution fees.

County Attorney Brian Lutes said he brought this up during budget discussions as a point of identification. Even though the revenue sources are pretty minimal some of the money in the law enforcement contracts is attributable to prosecution services. Lutes has dedicated three attorneys assigned to prosecute minor offenses. He said this topic is a bigger issue than should be addressed at a board meeting. He recommended addressing this at a Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting possibly when the rates are updated for the law enforcement contracts. Lutes said his concern was that if rates for prosecution services were to be up for bid it would create a situation where law enforcement would potentially have multiple City Attorneys be responsible to prosecute their own crimes. Lutes said he wants to be the City Attorney for the cities.

Vetsch said it was important to let the cities know that there will be changes coming in the contracts as the current rate was not sustainable and is highly subsidized on the county's end which then creates inequities across the county. With inflation, higher labor costs and the cost of fuel, the rates must go up. Sheriff Sean Deringer said cities are statutorily obligated to have law enforcement or provide for that protection for the city whereas townships are not in the same situation but are under statutory obligation to the Sheriff's Office. Deringer said the Sheriff's Office pinpoints its expenses, so it is not subsidizing cities, and with the rises in inflation, cost of cars, fuel, and labor the \$86.75 per hour figure being charged to the cities closely covers its expenses. He said with these particular five cities' contracts indicate a change in the coverage hours only. Deringer spoke with the five cities specifically and requested an increase in its presence in each town. He agreed this is a conversation that needed to happen as the contract is between the commissioners and the cities. He said it is imperative for the commissioners to stand with him in front of the cities as a united front. Vetsch said this cost is the capital investment that the county is investing in the system. Commissioner Christine Husom said it was not long ago where the board realized it was not charging enough and decided to incrementally increase the rate. This need to be addressed so the cities are aware that this is what it costs to be in their cities.

Kaczmarek moved to approve and sign the 2023 Law Enforcement Service contracts for the cities of Albertville, Delano, Monticello, Otsego, and St. Michael provided there is a COTW prior to the next signing. Daleiden seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

## TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

### ROSS DEMANT, PARKS & RECREATION

#### Adopt A Resolution Approving A Regional Legacy Connecting People To The Outdoors Track Wheelchair Grant Application To The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks And Trails Commission And Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources For The Shared Track Wheelchair Project.

Parks & Recreation Director Ross Demant introduced the Shared Track Wheelchair Grant Opportunity. The Trackchair Wheelchair is a powered wheelchair with tank tracks instead of wheels. The plan is to have it housed at Bertram Park. This program would allow people to access the park and wheelchair for free. Communities in the county and out would be able to borrow the wheelchair for periods of up to seven days each, but no more than 45 days total. Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Brad Harrington has been working on the project and said the chair articulates for downhill movement so that while the tracks move the chair would remain steady. The chair has a lighter base that works well on the trails. Demant said the company making the chair is called Action Track and is based locally out of Rochester, Minnesota.

Harrington said there were plans in place for a lease program similar to what is already in place for the bike fleet. The borrower would be required to provide the transportation, or the county would charge for the transportation to cover mileage. Demant said the lease program proposed to Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) would include a five-day period not including pickup and drop off. This would allow other agencies to advertise to the

public to try it in order to see if it was something they wanted to purchase as well. He said the County Attorney's Office was working on the lease to ensure everything is covered. Commissioner Mary Wetter asked how much the chair cost. Demant said it was just less than \$15,000. Demant said it is possible to be controlled remotely for individuals unable to drive on their own. Harrington said Parks & Rec is also looking at a second battery which would put the cost less than \$20,000. Wetter asked how long the battery would last. Harrington said eight to nine hours per charge.

Daleiden moved to adopt a resolution approving a regional legacy Connecting People to the Outdoors Track Wheelchair grant application to the GMRPTC and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Shared Track Wheelchair Grant Opportunity. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The roll call vote was unanimous, and the motion carried 5-0.

#### Approve Recommended Changes To The Memorial Bench Policy.

Demant said the current memorial bench policy outlines the options available to the public with trees, picnic tables, and benches. Benches tend to be the most popular as since 2005 there have been 25 benches and only one tree. The plan is to streamline the process. Out of the 25 benches there are none that are at the 20-year contract amount, so the plan is to decrease the available contract to 10 years and increase the cost from \$1,250 to \$1,600. Daleiden said after 10 years the bench is not removed but is no longer maintained. He said the benches can last for longer and will not be removed until its condition requires it.

Daleiden moved to Approve changes to the memorial bench policy. The motion was seconded by Vetsch. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **GREG KRYZER, ATTORNEY**

##### Proposed Dissolution Of Wetland Appeal Board And Discontinuation Of The Insurance Coverage

Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer introduced the amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) pertaining to the Wetland Conservation Act. Staff is looking for direction on how they should proceed in relation to the renewal of the Appeal Board which is coming up. The question is whether the board wanted to continue as the Appeal Board did not meet frequently and was created to handle a few contentious wetlands appeals. The board was in agreement that while the Appeal Board had served its purpose it was no longer needed. Dissolving the Appeal Board will allow the county to discontinue the insurance coverage.

Daleiden moved to accept the amended JPA dissolving the Wetland Appeal Board and discontinuing the insurance coverage. The motion was seconded by Wetter. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **JOHN BOWEN, ATTORNEY**

##### Denial Of Crawford Lake Improvement District (LID) Petition.

Assistant County Attorney John Bowen said this would be the third continuation of the Crawford LID. He summarized the previous hearings. Daleiden asked if the LID could come back at some time in the future. Bowen said it was understood by all the parties involved that the LID could be created at some point in the future once more work has been done by the community.

Vetsch moved to approve the resolution to deny the Crawford LID Petition. The motion was seconded by Daleiden. Roll call vote was unanimous and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **ADMINISTRATION**

##### Schedule A Closed Session To Discuss County Administrator Annual Review.

County Administrator Lee Kelly said his annual review needed to be scheduled. The review would be a closed session at his request. Daleiden recommended 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 20 after the county board meeting. Kaczmarek asked why the discussion is a closed session. Kryzer said this is a personnel issue that can be open, but only at the request of the County Administrator. Vetsch said it was the difference between an elected official and a hired employee.

Daleiden moved to schedule a closed session to discuss the County Administrator annual review at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 20. The motion was seconded by Wetter. Roll call vote was unanimous, and the motion carried 5-0.

##### Authorize Signatures On Statement Of Work From Sierra Cedar For Implementation Of ERP Project Phase

Kelly said Sierra Cedar is the firm that aided in the launch of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Phase One. This approval

would provide approval for the implementation of Phase Two to go live the first pay period of 2024. Vetsch said the price may seem high but is indicative of the need to replace the aging software. Daleiden said this system will talk with other programs saving precious time. Husom said this project has been a long time in the works and will reduce to the redundancies. Kaczmarek said on page 47 of 52 there is a list of costs where the labor is more than \$2.5 million. Kelly said the amount reflected is the “not to exceed” number. Kelly said this amount only applied to Sierra Cedar employees. Kaczmarek asked if the estimate included the cost to hire the project manager. Kelly said the project manager was hired separately from Sierra Cedar and therefore was not included. Vetsch said the choice was to hire an employee to fill the role or an experienced project manager. Kaczmarek said the project manager should be in the contract. Vetsch said the project manager is not an employee of Sierra Cedar, but a contractor who is helping to implement ERP.

Daleiden moved to authorize signatures on statement of work from Sierra Cedar for implementation of ERP Project Phase Two. The motion was seconded by Vetsch. The motion carried 5-0.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

### Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Kaczmarek, Wetter, Husom, and Kelly all attended the AMC Conference. Kaczmarek said at the public safety meeting one of the Ramsey County Commissioners proposed changes to how each county handles bail with what they said were minor infractions. He said a resolution would be sent to county staff at some point in the future to discuss it further. Kaczmarek said the specific request from Ramsey County was to lower or eliminate bail for low-level offenses, citing concerns of racial equity within public safety. He pointed out that what Ramsey County deemed a low-level offense may not be considered a low-level offense in any of the other 87 counties in this state. He said the Wright County Attorney’s Office had a strong lobby working for them to help ensure this does not take effect in smaller counties outside the metro. He said the question is who decides what the balance is between equity and public safety. He said staff was working on Wright County’s position on equity and public safety for clarity and understanding.

Wetter said she went to the Sunday night Agriculture and Rural Development Forum. The speakers were the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director and the USDA Farm Service State Director. They discussed the projects and program their respective departments were instigating. She attended the Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) forum where she met the lobbyist group led by Britta Torkelson, daughter of Representative Paul Torkelson. She said there were now three individuals doing the MRC lobbying where before one person had handled the load. Keynote speaker and Director of Executive Leadership Programs at the George Washington Leadership Institute, Dr. Peter Cressy, spoke about crisis and how former presidents and military leaders in the past handled crisis situations and how their actions can be educational to leaders today. She attended a meeting on shoreline management where the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) said what is currently being done to protect lake shorelines in Minnesota is not working. The presentation focused on ways to get people to think differently.

Husom said the keynote speakers gave insightful and powerful presentations. She attended the shoreline management presentation and other workshops. Mower County gave a presentation on how it is encouraging and training its employees to be more engaged in their work and its leaders to becoming more accessible to staff.

### Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek

Kaczmarek said the Wright County Fair Board had met and there was nothing new to report as the next fair is roughly seven months away. Safe Schools met in Delano, there is nothing new to report.

### Commissioner Mary Wetter

Wetter said South Fork Crow River, One Watershed One Plan reviewed a number of priority issues ranking them for its 10-year goals and placed them into three tiers. She said the main tier of issues would be its high priority items to address while the second tier was made up of items that would need help from a partner agency. The third tier included items where the issues had already been addressed by another agency or plans were in action to address them. Emerging issues such as salt were discussed. Wetter attended the Mayor’s Association meeting which was mainly focused on transitioning between new and outgoing mayors. The Highway 55 Coalition met and discussed a grant application to expand the highway to four lanes in Loretto. In addition, it was looking at resurfacing from County Road 118 to County Road 19.

### Commissioner Christine Husom

Husom attended Buffalo Safe Schools and said there would be a presentation called “Angst” which is to raise awareness on mental health and anxiety. The Mayors Association meeting and the Public Works Labor Management discussed its new

signed contract and its ability to make de-icer on site now which will help save a lot of money. Public Works still has salt brine and facilities at Cokato and Waverly. The Otsego project is going well. The last timber bridge in Wright County on County Road 2 will be improved this year. She attended the Highway 55 Coalition which two of Wright County's new commissioners also attended as they will be involved. Commissioner-Elect Tina Diedrick was elected vice chair for next year. Husom received notice that the Workforce Center received a clean audit report.

Commissioner Mark Daleiden

Daleiden said the ongoing contract negotiations with the employee unions were progressing and will hopefully all be closed out by the end of the year. He noted that one agreement had already been approved and there were a couple of more tentative agreements being gone over.

County Administrator Lee Kelly

Kelly said the meeting with the legislators saw a good turnout and discussion. The county was able to convey the issues facing it over the next year and was met with positive responses from the legislators.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Philip Hodges, Administrative Specialist.