



BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

DATE APPROVED: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Tina Diedrick, District 1
Darek Vetsch, District 2
Jeanne Holland, District 3
Nadine Schoen, District 4
Michael Kaczmarek, District 5

The Wright County Board met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Diedrick, Vetsch, Holland, Schoen, and Kaczmarek present.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. MINUTES - DISPENSE WITH READING, APPROVE AS WRITTEN/REVISED

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek said that he would like to make the following change to the Committee of the Whole (COTW)- Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP):

The first sentence of the second page should read, "Kaczmarek said that the goals being proposed and discussed fit more for an organization that has been in existence for a year or two rather than a 30-year organization."

Kaczmarek moved to collectively approve the meeting minutes with the listed change to the COTW- WCEDP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

- A. Approve Minutes from the County Board Meeting (4-2-2024)**
- B. Approve Minutes from the Committee of the Whole- Wright County Economic Development Partnership (4-8-2024)**
- C. Approve Minutes from the County Board Workshop (4-9-2024)**
- D. Approve Minutes from the Broadband Committee (4-9-2024)**
- E. Approve Minutes from the Aggregate Tax Committee (4-10-2024)**

III. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Darek Vetsch said that there are two items to petition onto the agenda:

*Approve contract between Wright County and Widseth for the Maple Lake Highway Maintenance Shop, added to Items for

Consideration, B5.

*Adopt a resolution recognizing Corrections Officers Week in Wright County, added to the Timed Agenda, A1.

Vetsch acknowledged that there was an additional distribution of resolutions passed by Wright County cities in support of the WCEDP that came in after the agenda was posted and noted that copies of the highway maintenance building contract, the Corrections Officer Week resolution, and the WCEDP support resolutions were available for the public to view.

Commissioner Nadine Schoen moved to approve the agenda with the additional items. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Kaczmarek asked to pull Item B1, accept the findings and recommendations of the Planning Commission request to rezone, for further discussion.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal of Item B1 for discussion. The motion was seconded by Schoen. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

A. FINANCE & TAXPAYER SERVICES

1. Approval of Tobacco License Renewal for Marohn's Marketplace Cokato (310 Cokato Street West, Cokato)
2. Acknowledge Warrants Issued between March 27, 2024 and April 9, 2024.

B. PLANNING & ZONING

1. Accept the Findings and Recommendations of the Planning Commission for the Following Request to Rezone: Zeb Haney - (Franklin Twp.). By Majority Vote, the Commission Recommends Approval to Rezone the Entire Property from General Agriculture (AG) with a Residential-Recreational Shoreland Overlay District (S-2) to Agricultural/Residential (A/R) with a Residential-Recreational Shoreland District Overlay (S-2) and Establishment of a Rural Planned Unit Development (PUD) Overlay District.

Item B1 Pulled from Consent

Accept the Findings and Recommendations of the Planning Commission for the Following Request to Rezone: Zeb Haney - (Franklin Twp.). By Majority Vote, the Commission Recommends Approval to Rezone the Entire Property from General Agriculture (AG) with a Residential-

Recreational Shoreland Overlay District (S-2) to Agricultural/Residential (A/R) with a Residential-Recreational Shoreland District Overlay (S-2) and Establishment of a Rural Planned Unit Development (PUD) Overlay District.

Kaczmarek said that he wanted to call attention to this item after reading the public comment submitted. There was significant support from residents for the cul-de-sac to remain as-is and Kaczmarek asked about the option to put a road through the horse farm property instead. Planning and Zoning Administrator Barry Rhineberger said that there has been a lot of discussion on the Planning Commission and the township prefers this option as turning a cul-de-sac into a through street when there is a large abutting piece of land is a general concept of development. Kaczmarek said that the land owner and developer are both significantly benefiting from this proposal and should have more skin in the game.

Holland moved to accept the findings and recommendations of the Planning Commission for the request to rezone. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tina Diedrick. The motion passed 4-1 with Kaczmarek opposing.

For: 4; Against: 1; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

V TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

.

*A. PAT O'MALLEY, SHERIFF

1. Recognize May 5-11, 2024 as Correctional Officers and Employee Week in Wright County

Jail Captain Pat O'Malley requested board approval in recognizing May 5-11, 2024, as Correctional Officers and Employee Week in Wright County.

Diedrick moved to approve May 5-11, 2024, as Correctional Officers and Employee Week. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

B. 9:05 AM- MATT DETJEN, PARKS & RECREATION

1. Accept the Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Submitted by the Wright Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) for County Ditch #19 for \$215,000

Agriculture and Drainage Supervisor Matt Detjen said that Items 1 and 2

are the same grant but for different fiscal years. The funding pool from the State of Minnesota was \$1 million and Wright County received \$715,000. Detjen thanked Wright SWCD as it played a large role in the grant writing and application process.

Kaczmarek moved to accept the MDM grant from the Minnesota BWSR. The motion was seconded by Schoen. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

2. Accept the Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Submitted by the Wright SWCD for Joint Ditch #15 for \$500,000.

Kaczmarek moved to accept the MDM grant from the Minnesota BWSR. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

3. Review a Repair Request Submitted by a Benefited Landowner on County Ditch #30 Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 103E.715 and Determine If the Drainage System Needs Repairs.

Detjen said that a repair request was received for County Ditch # 30 (CD 30). The landowner worked with a previous ditch inspector who stated that findings from a survey showed the culvert is three feet too high and the landowner is looking to lower the culvert. Detjen said that he was unable to locate the survey referenced by the inspector. The biggest concern with a request like this that has a large wetland complex upstream is that there is a lot of surveying and regulatory prep work involved. Lowering the culvert has the potential to have a large impact on that wetland. Detjen said he is looking to get a recommendation from the board and is requesting a reestablishment of records where a survey would be done to find the legal bottom of the ditch. There was a ditch improvement in 1984, but there is no record of the profile or as-built drawing.

Kaczmarek asked about the past as-built philosophy. Detjen said that if private crossings were put in as part of the ditch, and in this case there are four crossings, they are considered infrastructure of the ditch. Even though they are on private land and are accessible only to the landowner, repairs are assessed to all benefited landowners. Kaczmarek clarified that if a crossing were to be created now, it would be the responsibility of the private landowner instead of being assessed to all benefited landowners. Detjen confirmed and said that the reestablishment of records would be for the entire ditch system and decisions made on how to move forward could be discussed once the process has been completed.

Kaczmarek moved to approve a reestablishment of records for CD 30. The motion was seconded by Diedrick. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

4. Schedule a Ditch Committee of the Whole to Discuss Potential Repairs and Next Steps for County Ditch #19

A Ditch Committee of the Whole was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Kaczmarek moved to schedule a Ditch COTW. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

C. 9:15 BARRY RHINEBERGER, PLANNING & ZONING

1. Action on Ordinance 24-2 Amending the Wright County Code of Ordinance Chapter 155 - Zoning

Rhineberger said that the ordinance amendment was based off an application from a resident to allow non-commercial contractors yards as an interim use. The item was brought to the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission recommends denial of the amendment request.

Diedrick moved to approve the resolution and order of denial for Ordinance Amendment 24-2. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

VI. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve and Adopt Recommendations from the County Board Workshop (4-9-2024)

Schoen moved to approve and adopt recommendations from the County Board Workshop. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

2. Approve and Adopt Recommendations from the Broadband Committee

(4-9-2024)

Diedrick moved to approve and adopt recommendations from the Broadband Committee. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

3. Approve and Adopt Recommendations from the Aggregate Tax Committee (4-10-2024)

Diedrick moved to approve and adopt recommendations from the Aggregate Tax Committee. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

4. Approve and Adopt Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole- Wright County Economic Development Partnership (4-8-2024)

No action necessary.

B. ADMINISTRATION

1. Direct Staff How to Proceed with Wright County Economic Development (WCEDP) Funding

Assistant County Administrator Clay Wilfahrt said that in early 2024, staff was directed to bring forward conversations three times per year regarding the WCEDP funding. As of April 16, the county has not sent any budgeted dollars to the WCEDP. There is \$120,000 budgeted for 2024 and staff is looking for direction on how to move forward with funding. Vetsch said that this topic has been discussed at length and he is hoping to find a way to move forward. Holland said that she sees great value in the WCEDP but would like to hold funding until July 2024 to reevaluate funding at that time as she doesn't see the strategic values of the WCEDP matching with the strategic values of Wright County. Kaczmarek agreed and said that year to date, \$3,000 in Wright County staff time has been spent on WCEDP duties and he would like to continue to track that time for consideration in July.

Diedrick said that the appropriations were agreed on during the budgeting session and she is frustrated that the county has not kept its word. The WCEDP is a non-profit that benefits more than 80 Wright County businesses. Vetsch said that withholding funds but expecting measurable progress in the interim is not a reasonable expectation.

Kaczmarek said that the resolutions received from cities and townships were supportive of WCEDP, but those same entities don't want to share

the financial burden. Holland agreed and said that she is frustrated that county staff is backfilling duties that should be covered by the WCEDP. Vetsch said that the WCEDP chose county funding largely to have the perception that one city is not benefiting more than another. The biggest change is that the county has doubled its investment in the organization over time and a conversation about expectations hasn't happened until recently.

Schoen asked about the reserve funding of the WCEDP. Vetsch said that there are some reserve funds and questioned if applying those funds for operations instead of long-term strategic initiatives is in the best interest.

Holland moved to continue to withhold funds from the WCEDP until July 2024 and reevaluate at that time. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek. The motion passed 3-2 with Vetsch and Diedrick opposing.

For: 3; Against: 2; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

2. Acknowledge the Date and Time For Annual County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Monday, June 17, 2024, between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Kaczmarek moved to acknowledge the date and time for the annual County Board of Appeal and Equalization. The motion was seconded by Diedrick. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

3. Schedule Board Budget Retreat for May 6th 2024

A board budget retreat was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

Kaczmarek moved to schedule a board budget retreat for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 7. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

4. Schedule a Budget Committee of the Whole for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, 2024

A Budget COTW was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Kaczmarek moved to schedule a Budget COTW for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 8. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

*5. Approve Contract with Widseth for the Maple Lake Highway Building

Vetsch said with direction from the Transportation COTW, there is a recommendation to approve a contract with Widseth for the Maple Lake Highway Maintenance Shop.

Diedrick moved to approve the contract with Widseth for the Maple Lake highway building. The motion was seconded by Holland. The motion passed 5-0.

For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 0; Recused: 0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

VIII. WARRANTS ISSUED

A. Warrants Issued

County Board Meeting minutes submitted by Caitlin Chovan, Administration Office Manager.

