



## BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

### BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

DATE APPROVED: NOVEMBER 19, 2024

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

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|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Members Present: | Tina Diedrick, Michael Kaczmarek (joined at 10:02 am), Nadine Schoen, Darek Vetsch                                                                             |
| Members Absent:  | Jeanne Holland                                                                                                                                                 |
| Others Present:  | Greg Kryzer, Heather Lemieux, Marc Mattice, Matt Massman, Lindsey Meyer, Ryan Miles, Nancy Silesky, Matt Tourville, Ward Westphal, Jeff Wheeler, Clay Wilfahrt |

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Commissioner Darek Vetsch began the meeting at 8:59 a.m. Commissioner Tina Diedrick requested an item addition of Planning and Zoning to the agenda. Assistant County Administrator Marc Mattice informed the board that Planning & Zoning was one of the agenda items listed for the December 10, 2024 Board Workshop. The consensus of the committee was to continue as planned with a discussion of Planning & Zoning at the December workshop.

#### 1. Quarterly Investment Review (Finance/Ehlers)

Ehlers Public Finance Advisors Matt Tourville and Ryan Miles presented to the board a 2024 Quarter 3 Portfolio Review for Wright County. Key market themes as of November 5, 2024 were highlighted with economic indicators and sector insights that included the impact of interest rate reductions by the Federal Reserve that maintained a healthy unemployment rate and the Consumer Price Index showed the rate of increasing prices has slowed significantly. US Treasury Rates, Forward Rates, Federal Funds Effective Rate, and Unemployment & Inflation trends were reviewed. Changes to the portfolio over the past quarter were reviewed and the portfolio remained a Double AA rating that is safe and strong from a credit standpoint and on track from an interest earnings perspective for the calendar year to meet the county's budget goal of 3.5 percent. Planned projects over the next quarter and year for the portfolio were shared by Ehlers that included monitoring liquidity and a custodian transition from UBS to US Bank with Bank Custody.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Informational Only.*

#### 2. Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) Membership

MICA Executive Director Matt Massman and MICA Health & Human Services Liaison Nancy Selesky presented to the board MICA's history, membership, value framework, and key areas of focus. Massman noted that 13 of the 15 member counties are in the top 27 fastest growing counties over the past decade. Finance Director Lindsey Meyer and Health & Human Services Director Jami Goodrum both spoke to the value gained for their respective departments from individual memberships.

Questions were asked regarding membership costs and how that would align with the 2025 county budget and professional services budgeted amount. Interim County Administrator Greg Kryzer explained that MICA had presented in the past to a previous county board regarding membership and the board chose not to pursue membership at that time. Kryzer stated MICA aligns with what Wright County has been doing with work in the legislature and with lobbyists. Vetsch stated that MICA appears to align with similar counties to Wright County that have similar legislative concerns and priorities. Kryzer explained that board approval with MICA membership would be in addition to the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) membership. Massman

explained that AMC and MICA do not do the same thing as both organizations lobby for different legislative priorities and are not in competition with each other.

Finance Director Lindsey Meyer has an individualized membership to MICA and stated the conversations with other counties have been valuable to see how challenges have been dealt with and the processes implemented to address legislative changes. Meyer stated she does not have a comparable organization in which she is a part of that is as forward thinking and policy driven with data as MICA. Goodrum also has an individual membership to MICA and stated the membership has been valuable in streamlining focus areas and preparing for issues that arise in other counties that eventually arise in Wright County for HHS to be prepared and better positioned.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Consensus was for Administration to move forward with staff preparing a financial package for membership to MICA to be presented and voted on at the November 19, 2024 board meeting.*

### **3. Federal Lobbyist - Primacy Strategy Group (PSG)**

Kryzer explained the value of hiring a federal lobbyist to elevate priorities for Wright County Infrastructure projects when congressionally directed spending opportunities exist. Discussion included the I-94 Coalition represented by PSG. The consensus of the board was for staff to move forward with contacting PSG and evaluate fiscal impact with retaining the organization and report back to the board with information for further consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Consensus was for Administration to move forward with contacting PSG for contract rates, evaluate funding available in the Professional Services line item budgeted for 2025, and report back to the board for further consideration.*

### **4. Public Survey Preliminary Action Items**

- **Creation of a Customer Service Philosophy**
- **“E” Newsletter**

Mattice reviewed the survey summary report presented to the board on October 8, 2024 and requested board approval for staff to move forward with four action items.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Consensus was for staff to move forward with four actions items based on the data from the 2024 public survey. Action items were:*

1. *Revamp the Public Engagement Survey and establish an annual survey and report.*
2. *Publish a public-facing Customer Service Dashboard highlighting the county’s customer service survey results and providing a year-to-year benchmark.*
3. *Create a Wright County Customer Service Philosophy that will be shared with all employees and included in the new employee welcome packet.*
4. *Create a bi-annual “E” Newsletter to help connect citizens with county government, inform citizens of county programs, events, and important information, tell the story of county services, and provide general education.*

### **5. FBI Request for Extension**

Consensus was to move agenda item to a Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, November 18.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Informational Only.*

## **6. Central Minnesota Regional Planning (CMRP) Agreement**

Consensus was to move agenda item to a Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, November 18.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Informational Only.*

## **7. BREAK**

## **8. Fair Board Audit Clarifications**

Wright County Fair Board Executive Members Jeff Wheeler and Ward Westphal stated concerns with the board's request of an audit scope that would cost the fair board an estimated \$100,000 and a significant amount of time to complete. The initial request from the county board to the fair board was to conduct an audit scope that would account for the following:

- o Time frame: March 2020 through 2024
- o Audit of Cash/Fiscal Controls and 1099 Reporting Requirements
- o Reconcile Cash Receipts to Deposits
- o Inventory of Assets
- o Audit of Sponsorship and Advertising Procedures

Wheeler stated the fair board would disclose financial statements, annual reports, and cash balances with the county board. Discussion included options to narrow the audit scope of the fair board to conduct a nonprofit audit for 2023 and 2024, share financial statements and reports with Administration, and reported non-profit findings to the board. The fair board was directed to gather cost estimates for non-profit audit of 2023, 2024, and cost for each additional year if needed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Consensus of the board was for the Wright County Fair Board to gather cost estimates for a non-profit audit for 2024 and 2023, provide Administration with Fair Board financial statements and reports. Findings would be reported to the board at a scheduled board workshop and final audit expectations reviewed.*

## **9. Commissioner Updates**

There were no commissioner updates provided.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Informational only.*

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Kelly Kosloski, Administrative Specialist*