

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JANUARY 17, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 17, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen and Scott Westman. Absent: Jim Branstad (by phone). The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Solid Waste Administrator Kyla Schlomann was present regarding the Madelia recycling location. The current building was due to be demolished. They were having difficulty finding a temporary location until a new shed could be erected at the future compost site location. Discussion was held regarding shed, versus 3-sided lean-to, or just dumpsters. The site would be closed temporarily unless an alternate site could be found.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a Hauler's License for All Seasons Services.

I.T. Jeff Tetzloff was present to request approval for the purchase of Network Attached Storage, a server which stores and shares files over the network. The State Contract quote of Davenport Group was \$24,811.00.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Davenport Group in the amount of \$24,811.00 for the purchase of the Dell ME5012 Storage Array.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 3 regular meeting.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to ratify corrections to the December 20, 2022 minutes.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund—\$346,240.29; Solid Waste Fund—\$7,229.70; Health and Human Services—\$36,643.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$10,126.55; and to approve the December Disbursements listing as presented.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of per diems as submitted.

Miller moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 390.005, Subd. 2, provides for the appointment of the County Coroner by resolution of the County Board and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Lindy Eatwell has served as Watonwan County Coroner since January 4, 2010, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lindy Eatwell has consented to serve the residents of Watonwan County as their County Coroner and possesses the qualifications necessary to serve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. Lindy Eatwell is hereby appointed Watonwan County Coroner for a period of four years beginning January 4, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Coroner is authorized by the Watonwan County Board under Minnesota Statute 390.05 to appoint assistant coroners as necessary to fulfill the duties of the office.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

WATONWAN COUNTY RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WORK GROUP AND URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS A NEW FUNDING FORMULA AND SIGNIFICANT APPROPRIATION DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

WHEREAS, community supervision is a fundamental part of the criminal justice system in Minnesota and funding sufficient to ensure effective services is vital to public safety in all communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, community supervision includes services such as probation, supervised release, and intensive supervised release; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties provide essential community supervision services both as mandated by M.S. Chapter 244.19 and also as delegated by the Department of Corrections under M.S. Chapter 401; and

WHEREAS, when the Legislature decided that community supervision was best delivered through a state-county partnership, it stated a clear intent that the state would provide significant funding to the counties for the operation of local programs; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Minnesota has become the state with the lowest level of corrections funding in the nation because the Legislature has not upheld its promise to provide adequate state resources to support community supervision; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature's failure to adequately fund community supervision has increased local property taxes on residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, a revised community supervision funding formula is necessary to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have enough state funding to provide a consistent standard for effective, evidence-based community supervision services, regardless of local capacity to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the Community Supervision Work Group including county leaders and experts in community supervision from all three supervision delivery systems to study the needs of community supervision departments statewide and develop a single funding formula that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers; and

WHEREAS, the Community Supervision Workgroup has taken up its charge to convene stakeholders across the three probation delivery systems to oversee a study to create a unified recommendation for an equitable and adequate funding formula and appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support a new funding formula that provides counties with the resources needed to keep communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners endorses the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Erica Schreiber to the Extension Committee.

Miller moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the 2022 Election Security Grant (Phase 2) Agreement for funding in the amount of \$4,286.94.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request submitted by Ryan Visser.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a step increase for Isaac Carstensen for the satisfactory completion of his probationary period.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Caleb Curry, Shay Forstrom, Erin McDurmont, Tamara Colón, Jacob VanRyswyk and Lisa Schumann (with D6 market adjustment).

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Property Appraiser Trainee Daniel Haala.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the pending resignation in good standing of Detention Officer Jesse Gunderson.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Heavy Equipment Operator Greg Hruby.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve hiring seasonal snow plow operators until fully staffed.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reported on a meeting with an engineer from ISG to discuss their offer to provide engineering services on an interim basis, one to two days per week.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize the Personnel Committee to negotiate a temporary engineering contract.

Commissioner Branstad noted that there would be a presentation regarding climate change by Frank Kolasch on January 23 at the Library.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve mileage and per diem for Board members to attend the climate change meeting.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:55.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer