

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JANUARY 18, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 18, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Dillon Melheim, Jim Pettersen and Bob Rinne. Absent: Bill Miller. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

New Court Administrator Jodie Geerdes was present to introduce herself to the Board.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 4 regular meeting.

Solid Waste Administrator Kyla Schlomann was present to review the extra paint days for Household Hazardous Waste drop-off. In 2021 they had from 9 to 22 drop-offs. The June and October events were not well attended because the full events were held during those months. She recommended holding the additional events in April, May, July, August and September. She also noted that three hours was too long, so suggested trying 3:30 to 5:30. By general consensus, the Board agreed to the proposed changes.

State Representative Bjorn Olson was present to introduce himself to the Board. He noted that he is on the local government and transportation committees in the House. He was a proponent for the road aid that was received by small cities and townships, and was working to find designated funds for both without taking from the counties.

County Assessor Meggie Munsterman was present to review the Joint Powers Agreements with the local jurisdictions. The previous ones were effective through 2021. The new ones will be effective until terminated by one of the parties.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Joint Powers Agreements with the Cities of Butterfield, Darfur, LaSalle, Lewisville, Madelia, Odin, Ormsby and St. James, and the Townships of Adrian, Antrim, Butterfield, Fieldon, Long Lake, Madelia, Nelson, Odin, Riverdale, Rosendale, St. James and South Branch.

Melheim moved, Pettersen 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—\$174,901.24; Solid Waste Fund—\$47.28; Building/Equipment Fund—\$3,874.17; Debt Service—\$435.00; Ditch Fund—\$7,935.00; Agency Fund—\$280.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$132,441.96 (contingent on clarification of one vendor); and to approve the December 2021 Disbursements listing as reviewed.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reviewed the financial reports, and presented an update on the ARPA funds. Guidance was issued that all entities can count up to \$10,000,000.00 as lost revenue, so the funding can be shifted to general government activities.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Karla Doll, Kelly Pauling and Dave Haler.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Anna Curry and Shay Forstrom.

Pettersen moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the pay step increase of Erin McDurmont upon the satisfactory completion of her probationary period.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve authorizing the Human Resources Director to advertise in the event of a pending resignation.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve disability leaves for two employees.

Chairman Rinne expressed his intention to make and vote on motions.

Commissioner Branstad reviewed information from the St. James Chamber of Commerce regarding housing issues. He noted that Cottonwood County adopted a tax abatement for new residential housing.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:15.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer