

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
FEBRUARY 21, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 21, 2023 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, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen and Scott Westman. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 7 regular meeting.

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

Branstad moved, Melheim 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—\$109,827.78; Soil & Water Conservation—\$101.80; Ditch Fund—\$7,667.79; Forfeited Land Fund—\$55.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$14,640.02; and to approve the January Disbursements listing as presented.

The January Financials were reviewed.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve writing off Pay to Stay Jail fees as uncollectible in the amount of \$261,048.99.

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

WATONWAN COUNTY RESOLUTION
COUNTY BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE
OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of the Watonwan County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board Chair and the County Auditor are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Watonwan County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1052236, a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Application for Repurchase of Tax-forfeited Lands for Parcel #20.176.0750 located at 720 8th Avenue North in St. James, to the owner at the time of forfeiture.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reported that the used pneumatic tired roller in the amount of \$62,000 that was approved for purchase at the previous meeting was no longer available when Swanston Equipment was contacted. The decision was made to order the 2021 with 205 hours at \$72,000.00 in order to assure availability. The amount was still under the budgeted amount.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed 4 to 1 with Westman opposed, to ratify the change of equipment purchase from Swanston Equipment in the amount of \$72,000.00 for the purchase of a used 2021 pneumatic tired roller, due to availability issues.

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

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reviewed the proposed budget from the Wellness Committee for use of \$10,880.00 in funding through the South Central Service Cooperative. The proposed activities included mini massages, Convene Seminars, agency garden, health snack stations, purchase of Thera Cane Therapeutic Massagers for each building, and incentives for a wellness challenge.

Branstad moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Wellness Program budget as presented.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the probationary resignation of Library Children's Services Coordinator Allysa Kelston with proper notice.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Nicole Braun as a Dispatcher.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Jesse Bennington as a Dispatcher.

Branstad, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to acknowledge the dismissal of a probationary Dispatcher.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve reclassifying Bailiff Matt Ibberson as an on-call Deputy Sheriff.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of David Dahl as an on-call Detention Transport Officer.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Leave Without Pay request from Transit Director Allison Karau.

Commissioner Westman expressed the desire for guidelines related to purchasing. He was also interested in reviewing staffing levels, and the cost of hiring outside equipment. He would reach out to department personnel who could answer his questions.

Chairman Pettersen reported that the recycling shed in Madelia was being torn down. The concrete pad would be left and chain link fence would be put up for a temporary location for dumpsters.

Commissioner Melheim reported that he asked Sue Craig to get the quotes for the work to be done at the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Branstad reported on the Climate Smart Communities meetings he attended.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:00 A.M.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer