

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

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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.

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

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

Veterans Service Officer Deb Grote was present to request an increase in per diems for the Veterans Van Drivers from \$80.00 to \$100.00, which was more in line with rates paid in other counties.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to increase the Veterans Van Driver per diem to \$100.00 per trip.

VSO Grote reported that the veterans van needs to be replaced. She plans to scale down from a high-profile van to a mini-van. There is grant funding available in addition to donations on reserve.

Facilities Manager Matt Durham was present to review quotes for remodeling in the County Assessor's Office, and to wall off a private office for the Assessor. ARPA funds were available for the project. The following quotes were received:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Halverson Construction	\$5,790.00
L & B Contractors	\$7,414.00

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Halverson Construction LLC in the amount of \$5,790.00 for remodeling of the County Assessor's Office.

Bills were reviewed and discussion was held regarding an invoice for snow removal services in an emergency situation. Further review of the procurement policy would be done.

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—\$87,186.54; Solid Waste Fund—\$100.00; Road and Bridge Fund—\$1,709.34; Soil and Water Conservation—\$100.00; Ditch Fund—\$25,328.83; Agency Fund—\$180.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$23,631.55; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$7,185.41; Solid Waste Fund—\$38.68; Road and Bridge Fund—\$288.67; Library Fund—\$133.03; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$255.00; and to approve the February disbursements listing as presented.

Library Director Shirley Coleman was present and thanked the Board for allowing usage of a portion of the Reinhold Struhs bequest toward capital purchases. The Butterfield Library was remodeled and security cameras were installed in two locations. She submitted the following proposals for new A/V systems with Google Smart TVs for the meeting rooms in the St. James and Madelia libraries:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Bluum Technology	\$55,702.56
Electrical & Communication Specialists (ECS)	\$34,455.61

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Electrical & Communication Specialists (ECS) in the amount of \$34,455.61 for A/V systems for the libraries, plus additional costs in the amount of \$2,028.57 for two micro PCs and DVD players.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the reappointment of Kathy Guyer and Emily Norland to the Library Board.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Tobacco License to the Village Inn.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve an application for funding to the Southern Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee for a “Stop the Bleed” Scholarship for the Sheriff’s Department in the amount of \$150.00 to implement the program in the community and purchase bleeding control kits.

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the County of Watonwan is authorized to accept donations pursuant to M.S. § 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Madelia Lake Crystal Mutual Insurance has donated \$250.00 to the Sheriff’s Department toward K-9 expenses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the donation of Madelia Crystal Mutual Insurance to be used as specified.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve an Exempt Permit to the Godahl Recreation Association to conduct lawful gambling of Bingo and a raffle on September 4, 2023.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reported on plans to hire the Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA) to identify the asbestos in the County's building to be torn down on First Avenue South in St. James.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WATONWAN STAFF  
TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO ENSURE WATONWAN COUNTY'S  
PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTISTATE SETTLEMENTS RELATING TO  
OPIOID SUPPLY CHAIN PARTICIPANTS, AND IN THE MINNESOTA OPIOIDS  
STATE-SUBDIVISION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and numerous Minnesota cities and counties are engaged in nationwide civil litigation against opioid supply chain participants related to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Attorney General has signed on to multistate settlement agreements with several opioid supply chain participants, but those settlement agreements are still subject to sign-on by local governments and final agreement by the companies and approval by the courts; and

WHEREAS, there is a deadline of April, 18 2023, for a sufficient threshold of Minnesota cities and counties to sign on to the above-referenced multistate settlement agreements, and failure to timely sign on may diminish the amount of funds received by not only that city or county but by all Minnesota cities and counties from the settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Minnesota's local governments, the Office of the Attorney General, and the State of Minnesota have reached agreement on the intrastate allocation of these settlement funds between the State, and the counties and cities, as well as the permissible uses of these funds, which will be memorialized in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, as amended (the "State-Subdivision Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the State-Subdivision Agreement creates an opportunity for local governments and the State to work collaboratively on a unified vision to deliver a robust abatement and remediation plan to address the opioid crisis in Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Watonwan County supports and agrees to the State-Subdivision Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Watonwan County supports and opts in to all future multistate settlement agreements with opioid supply chain participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on March 21, 2023 Watonwan County authorizes Watonwan County staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure Watonwan County's

participation in the multistate settlement agreements, including the Participation Agreement and accompanying Release, and in the State-Subdivision Agreement.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Jared Bergeman, Kelly Pauling and Lisa Schumann.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Michelle Perez and Adam Butler.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Theodora Rudolph as Children's Services Coordinator for the Library.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Douglas Jones as Heavy Equipment Operator for the Highway Department.

Melheim moved Pettersen, seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Sara Sandtorf as Detention Officer for the Sheriff's Department.

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

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising for Summer Laborers and a Mechanic Intern for the Highway Department and a Summer Intern for Land Management.

Commissioner Branstad invited members to attend a meeting in St. James on March 29 at 3:30 in the Community Building for further discussion on climate initiatives.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a County Engineer to receive the State Aid allocations. County A/T/C Pauling reviewed the status of the ARPA funds and future projects.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:20.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman  
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer