

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
MAY 2, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 2, 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.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman was present and requested to order two 2024 squad vehicles from the State bid list. They needed to be ordered a year in advance and final prices were not yet available but were estimated at \$42,017.68 each.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve ordering two 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicles (PPV's) from the State bid list when available.

The final numbers were available for the two 2023 squad vehicles. Bergeman noted that they plan to sell the two Ford Explorers.

Pettersen moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the final purchase from North Country GM in the amounts of \$40,301.52 and \$39,883.52, for two 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV's.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the April 18 regular meeting.

Miller moved, Branstad 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—\$24,732.44; Solid Waste Fund—\$630.07; Road and Bridge Fund—\$631.24; Soil & Water Conservation—\$3,211.64; Ditch Fund—\$1,860.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$44,219.16.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to table action on the National Center for Public Lands Counties Contribution pending further review.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Ryan Visser and Kelly Pauling.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Rubi Altamirano, Nicholas Kielas and Adelaida Esqueda.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Melissa Haseman's satisfactory completion of her promotional probationary period.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase of Jayger Danhoff for the satisfactory completion of his probationary period.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Samantha Crowley as Administrative Assistant for the Extension and Veterans Service Offices.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve recruiting for the position of Property Appraiser II and eliminating the Trainee level, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

County Engineer Darrell Pettis was present and reviewed a proposed map for the annual road tour. By general consensus, the Board approved conducting the tour on June 20 at 1:00.

Pettis reviewed the Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement submitted by Robert Cunningham to place 12-inch diameter drainage tile in the right of way of County Road 25, in Sections 10 and 11 of Long Lake Township.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement with Robert Cunningham as submitted.

Pettis reviewed a priority listing of roads that needed gravel. The need was projected at over \$500,000 which had not been budgeted. The budget had included \$200,000 for a BaseOne project.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training request of Darrel Pettis.

Commissioner Melheim reported on the Fair Board meeting with Emergency Management Director Ryan Visher to discuss emergency plans during the Fair.

Discussion was held regarding the Madelia recycling shed and the search for a location.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:05.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer