

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JUNE 6, 2023
8:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 6, 2023 at 8:00 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 Agenda as amended.

Drainage Ditch Attorney John Kolb was present regarding a Petition for Environmental Assessment Worksheet regarding the improvement of JD 11. It was filed by 100 citizens, not from the County, claiming that the Watonwan and Blue Earth Rivers would be impaired by the project causing significant environmental effects. Previously, an intervention had been filed which raised issues before the project could move forward. His firm would assist with the response, and provide evidence whether an Environmental Assessment is required. He recommended that ISG, the engineers for the project, wait on filing their final engineering report, which was approved by general consensus.

I.T. Director Jeff Tetzloff was present to review camera, alarm and access control quotes for the Courthouse, to replace the current systems which are at end of life. The following quotes were received:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Convergint	\$ 99,555.26
Alpha Wireless	\$117,804.60

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Convergint in the amount of \$99,555.26, less sales tax.

Petterson moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May 16 regular meeting as corrected.

Land Management Director David Haler was present with Phil and Karen Skow regarding their application for a Plat Approval for seven residential lots in Long Lake Township to be named The Grove. County Recorder Karla Doll was also present. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

Miller moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Grove Plat, described as 12.79 Acres – Part of Government Lots 2 and 3 in Sec. 10 of Long Lake Township.

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—\$16,623.17; Soil & Water Conservation—\$647.15; Ditch Fund—\$981.74; and the Road

and Bridge Fund—\$92,799.31; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$8,071.76; Solid Waste Fund—\$328.92; Road and Bridge Fund—\$451.17; Library Fund—\$97.35; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$636.13.

The following quotes were received for the purchase of a 2023 Ford Explorer:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Chuck Spaeth Ford	\$37,590.00
Madelia Ford	\$38,777.00

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed 4 to 1 with Pettersen opposed, to approve accepting the quote of Chuck Spaeth Ford in the amount of \$37,590.00 for the purchase of a 2023 Ford Explorer, with inquiry as to whether financing is allowable, which would lower the cost by \$1,000.00.

MN Department of Corrections District Supervisor Sarah Eischens was present with Probation Agent Courtney Rannow to review activities of the probation department. Their Mission is “Transforming Lives for a Safer Minnesota”. Two felony agents are fully paid by the State, two are joint funded, and the County funds one support staff. Eischens presented a PowerPoint with statistics and highlights for the past year.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to convene a Public Hearing at 9:35 regarding changes to the Sheriff’s Civil Process Fee Schedule. No members of the public were present.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to close the Public Hearing.

Westman moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Sheriff’s Civil Process Fee Schedule effective June 7, 2023.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present and reviewed Minnesota Statute 162.17 regarding agreements with municipalities. The proposed agreements for maintenance and snow removal would pertain to the Cities of St. James and Madelia. There are roughly 4 miles of Municipal CSAH roads in each city that they currently take care of. The Statute provides that the County pays toward the maintenance of those roads. He would proceed with working with the two cities.

Pettis reported that the City of Madelia received State Bond Funds for the Center Avenue project. It was decided to delay the CSAH 24 Joy and Main project due the size of the Center Avenue project.

The CSAH 27 Bridge project at the curve by LaSalle is on the waiting list, and borrowing ahead was approved. The project will most likely be delayed because the detour would need to be TH 4, which was scheduled for construction in 2024.

Pettis noted that Base 1 priorities were scheduled for CR 123, CSAH 18 and CR 113. Work was underway with repairs due to the spring flood damage. JD 11 was damaged due to the flooding, and he would pursue FEMA funding for repairs, even though it was up for possible replacement. They found some aggregate at the Frederickson Pit, but stripping it would depend on determinations by BWSR.

It was noted that the Board of Appeal and Equalization was scheduled for Monday, June 12 at 6:30 P.M.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting a preliminary hearing on the Engineer's preliminary survey report for improvement of Watonwan County Judicial Ditch 26 at 10:00 A.M. on June 27, 2023 in the Commissioners' Room.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Watonwan County Ag Association for the period of the County Fair, from July 13 to 16, 2023.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a Lease Agreement with Kari Bohnert for rental of the Fairgrounds Roller Rink Building for a vendor fair on August 12.

Kelly reported that quotes were being obtained for recycling sheds for Madelia for location at the compost site. Commissioner Melheim suggested that shipping containers be considered and retrofitted, for a lower cost. Commissioners Melheim and Miller volunteered to go check them out.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve observing Juneteenth as a paid holiday starting June 19, 2023 due to a legislative change to the effective date.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Meggie Munsterman (with market adjustment), Amanda Sill and Mike True.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to accept the resignation in good standing of Mechanic David Mead.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve increasing all Library Pages to the Minnesota minimum wage of \$10.59.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve increasing Jessica Suess temporarily to License Center Office Manager until a new employee is trained.

Commissioner Branstad reported on the ISG Tour he attended near Lake Washington.

Commissioner Melheim reported that in the past the County provided two staff members to be present during the tractor pull at the Fair. He was wondering if the two unused rollers in need of

repair at the Highway Department could be donated or sold to the Fair Board and they would perform repairs and provide operators. Further checking would be done.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:55.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer