

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JUNE 20, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on 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, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Regional Extension Director Bonnie Christiansen was present with 4-H Educator Michaela Kellner and introduced new Administrative Assistant Samantha Crowley. Kellner gave an update on 4-H activities in the County, including Adopt-A-Lamb, Adopt-A-Pig, Robotics Club and Pollinator Ambassadors. They've experienced growth in the program, with 208 members.

County Recorder Karla Doll was present to review Daniel's Law and Property Fraud Alert. Daniel's Law shields the property records of federal judges. Property Fraud Alert is a free online subscription service that tracks possible fraudulent activities related to property transactions.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the June 6 regular meeting.

Miller 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—\$136,427.59; Solid Waste Fund—\$336.12; Soil & Water Conservation—\$885.51; Ditch Fund—\$41,426.85; Forfeited Land Fund—\$165.72; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$74,869.93; and to approve the May Disbursements listing as reviewed.

The quotes for the Courthouse cameras, alarms and access controls were revised as follows with removal of sales tax:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Convergint	\$ 99,334.28
Alpha Wireless	\$117,804.60

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the corrected quote from Convergint in the amount of \$99,334.28 for the Courthouse projects.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the application to conduct charitable gambling/bingo for Butterfield Summer Sizzler at Voss Park on July 1, 2023.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reported that the breaks locked up on the TMT Dodge Caravan and it was recommended for disposal.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve disposing of the Dodge Caravan.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the promotion of Macy Lorenz to the position of Property Appraiser II for the County Assessor's Office.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Sylvia Kunz to the position of License Center Officer Manager.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Nancy Rossbach to the position of Administrative Assistant for the Auditor/Treasurer/HR offices.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase of Connie Petersen.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing Kate Christenson from the position of Administrative Secretary/Community Service Coordinator for Court Services.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Cole Durham from the position of I.T. Specialist.

Tom Anderson was present to request to pump water from his gravel pit into the County's Helling pit so he could conduct a project. He noted that the water levels would eventually return to current.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Tom Anderson's request to pump water into the Helling Pit, provided that the water levels return or can be pumped back if necessary.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present and updated the Board on current projects and maintenance activities. The funding letter was received for Madelia Township Bridge 4009 over Elm Creek. CR 119 has box culverts that need replacement. ISG will provide a hydraulics and plan for the project.

Pettis reviewed information related to road width dimensions needed for diagonal parking on both sides of a street.

Commissioner Branstad reviewed a complaint regarding the fees charged for burning permits. He noted that some neighboring counties still don't charge, but others do.

The copier at the Resource Center was no longer operating. The following quotes were received for a new copier:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Marco	\$9,384.05
Gordon Flesch, Co.	\$8,659.00

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Gordon Flesch Company, Inc. in the amount of \$8,659.00 for the purchase of a Canon ImageRunner Advance multifunctional printer/copier.

Land Management Director David Haler and SWCD Assistant Manager Carrie Schultz were present to discuss a possible building for their equipment. They suggested a 40 X 100 X 18 building with two overhead doors. Commissioner Melheim suggested tearing down a building at the Fairgrounds and make it large enough to accommodate some Highway Department equipment in the winter as well. Consensus of the Board was to have the Fairgrounds Building Committee look into it.

Haler reviewed a request to opt out of the Blue Earth River Watershed planning process due to the small size of the affected area in the southwest corner of the County. He also requested adoption of a resolution of support for the Minnesota River – Mankato Watershed project.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Chair's signing of a letter to opt out of the Blue Earth River Watershed comprehensive planning process.

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

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A MINNESOTA RIVER - MANKATO WATERSHED
ONE WATERSHED. ONE PLAN PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Minnesota River - Mankato watershed, as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Watonwan County recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Watonwan County welcomes the opportunity to support the Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Minnesota River - Mankato Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Watonwan County supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and fully supports the Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Minnesota River - Mankato Watershed, who will collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

County Ditch Inspector Schultz reviewed a proposed policy for the control of beaver within the County, setting out guidelines for the removal of the animals and their dams from public or private ditch systems when deemed a nuisance.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Beaver Control Policy as presented.

Schultz also reviewed a proposed drainage repair policy. She contacted other counties with questions, and several have a dollar amount that allows the Ditch Inspector up to \$25,000 per repair project in emergency situations, such as damage from the recent flooding. Commissioner Westman expressed the importance that all contractors who've expressed interest in providing quotes be offered the opportunity. No action was taken pending further review.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess the meeting at 10:25. The Board reconvened at 1:00 for the Annual Road Tour, followed by adjournment.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer