

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD  
JULY 18, 2023  
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 18, 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, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Land Management Director David Haler was present to review proposed updates to the Floodplain Ordinance to coincide with the new FEMA maps. Public Hearings would need to be held prior to adoption.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to move forward with the process for adopting the Floodplain Ordinance.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the July 5 regular meeting.

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—\$63,956.94; Solid Waste Fund—\$6,899.72; Ditch Fund—\$17,179.58; Agency Fund—\$340.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$132,766.68; and to approve the June Disbursements listing as presented.

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

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Jordan Schultz as Administrative Assistant for the Court Services Office.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Jamie McGuire as Mechanic for the Public Works Department.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Kristin Flathers as Children's Services Coordinator for the Library.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation in good standing of Jamie Kielas from the position of License Center Clerk.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the labor agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Local 513 Jail Administrator and 911 Dispatch Supervisor unit effective March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023, which included: 100-hour comp time bank, \$300 per year uniform allotment, placement on the

reclassified pay schedules on March 1, 2022, night differential and weekend premium of \$0.75, 3% added to the pay schedule January 1, 2023 with two steps removed from the bottom and two added to the top, and incumbents place at the new step that reflected a 3% adjustment plus one step; and to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Local 513 for the 911 Dispatch Supervisor to receive retentive incentive payments from November 2022 through December 2023.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman was present and reported that the County would receive Public Safety Grant funds of \$201,000. He reviewed quotes from North Country GM in the amount of \$45,675 to replace the Sheriff's vehicle and \$48,887 to replace the Chief Deputy's vehicle. Outfitting them would be approximately \$19,000 plus \$3500 for graphics for a total of \$117,062.00

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of North Country GM in the amount of \$94,562 for the purchase of two 2023 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Trucks, plus outfitting and graphics.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present and reviewed progress on construction projects. He would be meeting with the City of Lewisville regarding their proposed reconstruction project. He has been working with consultants for bridge project proposals on CSAH 9 and in Nelson Township. They planned to do a Base 1 Stabilization project in the fall, and would like to obtain quotes. Obtaining quotes was approved by general consensus.

Further discussion was held regarding the CSAH 25 right-of-way mapping. The issue occurs with future plats, and the intention would be to correct the plat to reflect the County's right-of-way. It was recommended to have a meeting with the affected landowners.

Commissioner Melheim expressed his thanks to the Public Works staff for their assistance at the County Fair.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to enter closed session at 10:07 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) for attorney-client privilege regarding pending litigation, and M.S. § 13D.05, Subd. 2(a)(3) regarding a Human Services client. County Attorney Stephen Lindee and Human Services Director Amy Pluym were present.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to open the meeting at 10:20.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Chair's signing of a release of information relating to a Human Services client.

Discussion was held regarding the recycling shed situation at Madelia. It was proposed to request that the City take care of moving it in a flood situation.

Commissioner Melheim reported that the County Fair was a success and ended in the black. He noted that none of the bathrooms are handicapped accessible, and a request was received for changing tables in the men's restrooms. Both items would be checked into. The electrical upgrades were successful as well.

Commissioner Miller reported on the Minnesota Valley Action Council meeting he attended, and reviewed assistance statistics. He also noted that he was elected second alternate for District 7.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the County Jail to open an account at Pioneer Bank, which would eliminate cash at the jail.

Budget meetings were scheduled for August 28 and 29.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess the meeting until July 19 prior to the Human Services Board meeting.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday, July 19 at 9:45 in the Human Services meeting room. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller and Jim Pettersen. Absent: Scott Westman.

Emergency Management Director Ryan Visher was present and reviewed the following quotes for a pickup truck:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
North Country GM	\$45,530.00
GM	\$60,240.00
Madelia Ford	\$55,400.00
Ford	\$49,500.00

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of North Country GM in the amount of \$45,530.00 for the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Truck, funded through the ARPA Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:54.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman  
Watsonwan County Board

Kelly Pauling, Clerk  
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer