

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
JULY 19, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 19, 2022 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 Bob Rinne. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022 regular meeting.

George Eilertson of Northland Securities was present to discuss Ditch Bonds for improvements to JD 9 and JD 18. Due to prepaid assessments a reduction of \$1,450,000 was made possible for a new bond amount of \$7.41 million with rates expected to be 3.5% or less. It would be a 20-year bond issue. In 2029 refinancing or prepayment of principal can take place. Bids would be opened on August 15. He noted that the County has a strong bond rating.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Municipal Advisory Service Agreement between the County and Northland Securities, Inc.

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

RESOLUTION OF WATONWAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, APPROVING
A NOTICE OF SALE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,410,000 GENERAL
OBLIGATION DITCH BONDS, SERIES 2022A

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Watonwan County, Minnesota (the "Issuer"), as follows:

Section 1. Authority. Under and pursuant to the authority contained in Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 475 and 103E, as amended (collectively the "Act"), the Issuer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds to finance a portion of the costs of improvements to Judicial Ditch 9 and Judicial Ditch 18 (the "Project"); and costs associated with issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds are valid and binding general obligations of the Issuer payable from special assessments against benefitted properties. The full faith and credit of the Issuer is pledged to their payment, and the Issuer has validly obligated itself to levy ad valorem taxes in the event of any deficiency in the debt service account established for the Bonds.

Section 2. The Bonds. The Board determines that it is necessary, expedient, and in the best interests of the Issuer's residents that the Issuer, as permitted by the Act, issue, sell and deliver its General Obligation Ditch Bonds, Series 2022A (the "Bonds"), in

one or more series, for the purpose of financing the costs of the Project and paying the costs of issuing the Bonds.

Section 3. Notice of Sale. The Issuer's administrative staff is hereby authorized and directed to work with Northland Securities, Inc., municipal advisor to the Issuer, and Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., bond counsel, to solicit bids and arrange for the sale of the Bonds in the amount of approximately \$7,410,000 in substantial compliance with the Notice of Sale attached hereto as Exhibit A, which Notice of Sale is hereby approved.

Section 4. Form and Terms of the Bonds. The form, specifications and provisions for repayment of the Bonds shall be set forth in a subsequent resolution of the Board.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Full Disclosure Dissemination Agent Agreement as required for publicly sold debt.

Solid Waste Administrator Kyla Schlomann was present to request hiring someone part-time to take care of cleaning up the eight recycling sheds around the County. Funding for the position is available through the Solid Waste Fund.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize creation of a part-time position to be a Solid Waste Assistant.

Brent Christensen of Christensen Communications was present to review a State grant for broadband they would like to apply for. It requires a public/private partnership. The project would be fiber to premises from St. James to Long Lake and Odin. The total cost would be \$1,393,313. Christensen was willing to put up half the cost, and was requesting \$139,331 from the County as a partner. General consensus was expressed, but County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling requested to recess until a later date to research proper protocols.

County Sheriff Jared Bergeman was present to request a veteran's discount on the fees for permit to carry. He recommended \$30 for the permit and \$30 for the renewal.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the permit to carry fee and renewal fee for veterans at \$30 each.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve increasing the jail meals at Hometown Cafe from \$5.50 to \$6.50 per meal.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising a 2018 Honda Civic vehicle forfeiture for public auction on Minnbid.

Pettersen moved, Miller 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—

\$46,389.16; Solid Waste Fund—\$7,808.29; Ditch Fund—\$48,330.71; Agency Fund—\$165.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$82,545.89.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the June listing of Disbursements.

Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Pauling reviewed engineering estimates from ISG for removal of the column in the meeting room at the Resource Center at \$4,200.00, and plumbing penetration in the Jail safety room at \$750.00 to engineer.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the proposal by ISG for engineering services for the Jail project in the amount of \$750.00, but not the Resource Center.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the MVAC Notice of Funds Available #1 for Employment and Training in the amount of \$30.00 for SNAP Support Services.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Master Agreement with MVAC for Employment and Training services effective July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

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

**WATONWAN COUNTY RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE MINNESOTA PREMISES PERMIT FOR LAWFUL GAMBLING**

WHEREAS, the American Legion Club Post 133 has submitted application to Watonwan County requesting County approval of a Minnesota Gambling Premises Permit application located at St. James Golf Course & Rivers Edge Grill LLC, 77818 State Hwy 60, St. James, MN; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that the organization is collecting gambling monies for lawful purposes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Watonwan County approves of the local gambling located in Rosendale Township at St. James Golf Course & Rivers Edge Grill LLC, 77818 State Hwy 60, St. James, MN.

Pettersen moved, Miller Steps seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Laura Escobar, Thomas Hanson, Megan Svalland, Cheryl Lindell and Carolyn Schultz.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period by Jacob Van Ryswyk.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period and annual pay step increase for Jalyn Woratschka.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Anthony Eidem as a Light Equipment Operator.

Commissioner Melheim reported that the Fair was a success, and noted that assistance from the Highway Department was appreciated.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement with Stephen Romsdahl to permit a 12” tile open cut crossing on CR 119 in Section 5 of Long Lake Township.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Crossing Agreement with Romsdahl as presented.

Spellman announced that the Watline Trail was now 100% federally funded, from CSAH 10 to Ormsby. It was due to start in July of 2024.

Ditch repair quotes were received as follows:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>JD7 HWY 60</u>	<u>JD7 SORENSEN</u>	<u>JD13 ELG</u>
Bryan Nelson	\$2,775.00	\$1,455.00	\$3,228.00
Nickel	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3-4,000.00

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quotes for the ditch work from Brian Nelson for JD 7 in the amounts of \$2,775.00 and \$1,455.00, and the quote of Nickel in the range of \$3,000-\$4,000.00 for the JD 13 as requested by the landowner due to familiarity with prior work.

It was discussed to have preliminary interviews for Emergency Management/Safety Director with Emergency Management Committee and narrow the candidates to 2 for full Board interviews.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess the meeting until 8:30 on Friday July 22 for further discussion on the Broadband grant project with Christensen Communications.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to reconvene the meeting at 8:30 on Friday, July 22 with all members present.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer’s signature on a letter of support of Christensen Communications in reference to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant. The County will partner with Christensen Communication by funding 10% (\$139,331) of the total \$1,393,313 project.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 8:35.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Kelly Pauling, Clerk
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer