

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD  
AUGUST 2, 2022  
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 2, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen and Bob Rinne. Absent: Jim Branstad. 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, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the July 19 regular meeting.

Fair Board member Sue Craig was present to review the 2022 County Fair. She said it was very successful. Pioneer Bank sponsored free entrance to the Fair, which covered judging fees. Two grants were received through MN Agricultural and Legacy and used for barn repairs, livestock care supplies, and a variety of bands for entertainment.

Pettersen 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—\$24,212.70; Solid Waste Fund—\$19,571.46; Building/Equipment Fund—\$11,678.00; Ditch Fund—\$9,746.02; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$32,515.53; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$5,407.87; Solid Waste Fund—\$112.84; Road and Bridge Fund—\$356.09; Library Fund—\$144.77; and Soil & Water Conservation—\$852.34.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Commissioners Melheim and Pettersen to serve on the Canvassing Board for Congressional District 1 on August 10 at 1:00 P.M.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Deb Grote, David Haler and Lisa Schumann.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Jessica Suess and Andrea Wellnitz.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Daniel Estrada as a Dispatcher, dependent on satisfactory background check.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed the TH 4 Resolution for a 10-ton route. She noted that MnDOT had asked her to come speak with them.

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

WATONWAN COUNTY  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A 10-TON ROUTE DESIGNATION  
FOR TH 4 FROM BROWN COUNTY LINE TO SAINT JAMES, MN

WHEREAS, TH 4 is designated as a Rural Minor Arterial with a 2021 ADT of 1127 and serves as a major North-South corridor for commerce and agriculture for the communities in Brown County, Watonwan County, Martin County, and other surrounding counties, and;

WHEREAS, TH 4 is restricted as a 7-ton route during annual spring load restrictions which limits commerce and agricultural movement and;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has a planned project in 2023 on this corridor which will not bring TH 4 up to the current 10-ton design standard, and;

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has parallel routes to TH 4 that are designed and designated as 10-ton routes year-round, and;

WHEREAS, TH 4 not having a 10-ton designation places an increased amount of traffic and loading onto Watonwan County's parallel 10-ton routes which decreases the design life of those roads;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Watonwan County, Minnesota, that the project planned in 2023 for TH 4 does not meet the needs of Watonwan County constituents, limits commerce and agricultural movement, and places an unnecessary burden onto Watonwan County's parallel 10-ton routes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Minnesota Department of Transportation re-evaluate the 2023 TH 4 project and design the corridor to meet the 10-ton standards, and is constructed to a 10-ton standard now, and in the future.

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

RESOLUTION BY THE  
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WATONWAN COUNTY  
REQUESTING COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY FUNDS ADVANCE

WHEREAS, the County of Watonwan is planning to implement County State Aid Street Project(s) in 2022 which will require State Aid funds in excess of those available in its State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account, and

WHEREAS, said County is prepared to proceed with the construction of said project(s) through the use of an advance from the County State Aid Construction Fund to supplement the available funds in their State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account, and

WHEREAS, the advance is based on the following determination of estimated expenditures:

Account Balance as of date 6/3/202		\$1,445,996.56
Less estimated disbursements:		
Project # 083-605-043	\$ 82,099.45	
Project # 083-607-016	\$388,654.70	
Project # 083-613-021	\$599,822.45	
Project # 083-652-002	\$ 34,455.28	
Project # 083-612-020	\$716,815.98	
Project # 083-613-019	\$413,903.55	
Project Finals (overruns-if any)	\$225,375.14	
Total Estimated Disbursements		\$2,479,126.55
Advance Amount (amount in excess of acct balance)		\$1,033,129.99

WHEREAS, repayment of the funds so advanced will be made in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 162.08, Subd. 5 & 7 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8820, and

WHEREAS, the County acknowledges advance funds are released on a first-come-first-serve basis and this resolution does not guarantee the availability of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved: That the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve this advance for financing approved County State Aid Highway Project(s) of the County of Watonwan in an amount up to \$1,033,129.99 in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subp. 9. I hereby authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular/Municipal Construction Account of said County from future year allocations until fully repaid.

The following quotes were received for dust control materials:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
S W Dust Treatment	\$31,737.60
Freeborn Co-Op	\$27,579.00

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the bid of Freeborn County Cooperative in the amount of \$1.00/per gallon in the total amount of \$27,579.00 for 27,579 gallons of Magnesium Chloride for dust control.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:40.

Bob Rinne, Chairman  
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer