

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 19, 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, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

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

Miller moved, Branstad 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—\$61,188.62; Solid Waste Fund—\$432.00; Ditch Fund—\$34,375.15; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$37,258.15; to approve payment of the following credit cards: General Fund—\$7,737.97; Solid Waste Fund—\$23.14; Library Fund—\$250.01; Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,961.47; and the Ditch Fund—\$134.03; and to approve the August Disbursements listing as presented.

Land Management Director David Haler and Solid Waste Administrator Kyla Schломann were present to discuss purchasing the pickup truck from the SWCD for \$25,000, to be used by Solid Waste. The price was based off the Kelley Blue Book trade-in value.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the purchase of the 2016 F-150 truck from the SWCD for use by Solid Waste.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present and reviewed completed construction projects and 2024 projects. Bids would soon be let for the Madelia Township Bridge project. The State was interested in snow fencing along Highway 4 south of St. James. He inquired if there would be any objection if it was placed within the trail right-of-way.

Pettis checked into membership in the Minnesota Transportation Alliance. Dues would be \$2,150. The Alliance does lobbying and research. He also reviewed estimates if a County local option sales tax would be implemented, which could only be used for transportation funding.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve membership in the Minnesota Transportation Alliance.

Pettis reviewed the Detour Agreement for the Trunk Highway No. 4 project in 2024. The State would pay the County \$2,283.74 for use of C.S.A.H. 3, 32 and 5 as detour routes.

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

RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that Watonwan County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1054755 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway (C.S.A.H.) No. 3, County State Aid Highway No. 32, and County State Aid Highway No. 5 as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 4 from Armstrong Boulevard to Brown County State Aid Highway (C.S.A.H.) No. 18 under State Project No. 8302-48 (T.H. 4=084).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair and the Auditor/Treasurer are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Pettis reported that the window was open for applications for Local Road Improvement Plan (LRIP) funding. He had been contacted by two townships, and he recommended possible projects on CSAH 5 and CSAH 23. Consensus of the Board was to apply. The Base One stabilization projects began the previous week on CR 113, CR 123 and CSAH 18.

Pettis reviewed the need for snow blower replacement. Quotes would be obtained for possible purchase of a used blower in 2023. He noted that Federal funding for EV pickups was available with a match of approximately \$16,000, which he would pursue further.

The following quotes were received for 2023/2024 salt sand:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Tom Anderson Gravel	\$7.00/ton
Suess & Sons Construction	\$7.50/ton

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Tom Anderson Gravel in the amount of \$7.00/ton for the purchase of an estimated 2,500 tons of salt sand for the 2023/2024 season.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Drainage Tile/County Road Crossing Agreement with Jonathan Adrian for placement of a 21” diameter drainage tile across the right-of-way of CR 133 in Section 7, Odin Township.

Pettis proposed selling two rubber tire rollers, a 2005 Ford F250 Pickup, and a 1999 Ford F150 Pickup on MinnBid. Commissioner Melheim inquired whether the rollers could be donated to the Fair Board.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve advertising the 1997 Cat rubber tire roller, the 2005 Ford pickup and 199 Ford pickup on MinnBid and to donate the 1988 Cat rubber tire roller to the Fair Board.

The suggestion was made to check into the cost of fixing the 1997 roller prior to selling.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve holding a Public Hearing on the Flood Plain Ordinance on October 17 at 9:30.

Discussion was held regarding setting the 2024 proposed budget and truth-in-taxation date. Alternate quotes were received from MHC for health insurance with a higher deductible.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on December 7 at 6:00.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by Kelly Pauling, David Haler, Shirley Coleman, Jared Bergeman and Ryan Visher.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for James Hodge, Laura Quiring, Rebecca Senf and Brandon Sprenger.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve a pay step increase for Teri Hall upon the satisfactory completion of her probationary period.

Commissioner Melheim had financial reports available from the Fair.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to recess at 11:15 until 9:30 on September 20.

The meeting was reconvened on September 20, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. in the Human Services community room. All members were present.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the JD 18 W&B joint ditch meeting for September 27th at 8:30 A.M.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the proposed 2024 levy at \$12,144,743 reflecting an 8% increase over 2023.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the 2024 HRA proposed levy at \$109,651.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:50 A.M.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

Kelly Pauling, Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer