

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 20, 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.

The Agenda was accepted by general consensus.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Minutes of the September 6 regular meeting.

Jake Oldenburg of NuWay was present regarding a purchase agreement for the County's parcel adjoining their Ormsby location, due to setback issues from the anhydrous storage tanks. The County would be given the option to purchase the land back in order to put the trail in once the tank is moved. He also reviewed an Acknowledgement that the boundaries are appropriate.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Vacant Land Purchase Agreement to sell approximately .86 acres to NuWay-K&H Cooperative for \$1,500.00.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the County Auditor/Treasurer's signing of the Acknowledgement of Watonwan County Regarding Boundary Location.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Option Agreement with NuWay-K&H Cooperative to purchase the property back, with an end date of December 31, 2023.

Sarah Scheffert, Philanthropy and Communications Coordinator with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, was present to review their programs. Their major focuses are Early Childhood, Economic Development and Community Vitality. She noted that Madelia Schools received free books through a Literacy Grant, free trainings and technical assistance were provided to local professionals and businesses, and several monetary grants were awarded.

Pettersen 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—\$135,607.31; Solid Waste Fund—\$31.98; Soil & Water Conservation—\$896.24; Building/Equipment Fund—\$11,569.00; Ditch Fund—\$47,738.23; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$47,581.78; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund—\$12,611.27; Solid Waste Fund—\$93.46; Library Fund—\$454.43; Soil & Water Conservation—\$583.98; and the Ditch Fund—\$219.65.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the August Disbursements listing as reviewed.

Rinne moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve ratification of the Professional Services Agreement between MCCC and Strategic Technologies, Inc. for the maintenance and support of MCAPS, the records management system utilized by the County Attorney's Office.

County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reviewed the 2023 proposed levy worksheet. Fund balance would also need to be used to meet projected expenditures.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the proposed 2023 levy at \$11,245,132 reflecting a 3.5% increase over 2022.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the 2023 HRA proposed levy at \$107,500.00.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to set the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing, Thursday December 8 at 6:00 P.M.

Rinne moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests submitted by David Haler and Lisa Schumann

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the satisfactory completion of probationary period and annual pay step increase for Monique Hoffmann-Urban.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Jamie Sharp, Macy Lorenz, Teresa Helland, and Melissa Haseman.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve changing the employee Vision plan for 2023 from Avesis to VSP.

Land Management Director David Haler was present to review the Conditional Use Permit application from Schwartz Family LLC construct a new 3300 swine barn in Long Lake Township. They received the State permit, with no public comment. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval with the conditions of pit additives and 72-hour notice to neighbors within 1 mile prior to pit pumping.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve issuing a Conditional Use Permit to Schwartz Family LLC to construct a new feedlot in Section 17 of Long Lake Township with the recommended conditions.

Robert Cunningham was present regarding his Application for Rezoning and plat approval of 6.21 acres in section 10 of Long Lake Township. The current use is ag and it would be rezoned to residential including storage. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Plat for Lakeview North and the Rezoning Application submitted by Robert Cunningham for 6.21 acres in Section 10 of Long Lake Township.

Cunningham reviewed an assessment issue with his parcel on County Road 104. Compeer Financial did a land description that showed different acres than what he was assessed for. He requested retroactive credit to 2017. County A/T/C Pauling reported that the Assessor's Office policy requires survey by a licensed land surveyor in order to make such a change.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present to review operations.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:50.

Bob Rinne, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer