

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
OCTOBER 3, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 3, 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 Petterson and Scott Westman. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Branstad moved, Petterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as amended.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present to discuss the approval of the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Madelia, for infrastructure improvements to Center Avenue South from Old Highway 60 Southeast to Main Street, Main Street from Center Avenue South to Center Avenue North, Center Avenue North from Main Street to the northern city limit. State grant funds will flow to the County and be paid to the City when payment requests are made.

Branstad moved, Petterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Madelia.

Facilities Manager Matt Durham was present to discuss a proposal to address improvements to the heating system in the Public Works Building. The original boiler system is still working and is original to the 50-year old building. Matt Durham will get quotes on a couple different options to replace the boiler.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the September 19 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—\$20,311.57; Solid Waste Fund—\$450.00; Road and Bridge Fund—\$275.00; Ditch Fund—\$1,494.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$37,666.76.

Two quotes for asbestos removal at 708 1st Avenue South, St. James, were obtained from the Institute for Environmental Assessment, Inc. (IEA). The quotes were as follows:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
MAVO Systems	\$48,750.00
EnviroBate, Inc.	\$34,500.00

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the quote of EnviroBate, Inc. in the amount of \$34,500.00 for the removal of the asbestos.

The Watonwan Co. Fair Board rented bleachers for the past 3 years and reimbursement was not requested from the County. The cost to rent them is \$10,000/year, which translates to \$30,000 that has not been reimbursed.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to reimburse the Watonwan County Ag Association in the amount of \$30,000 for the previous 3 years of bleacher rental.

Commissioner Miller asked permission from the Board to look into adding fencing on the edge of the head-start playground where it meets the sidewalk next to the street at the Human Services building on 2nd Avenue, St. James to prevent the children from getting to the street. Commissioner Miller will work with Matt Durheim on getting a price to see what a fence would cost.

Petterson moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the training requests for Karla Doll and Heidi Engel.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual salary step increases for Julie Kelley, Richard Reckow, Virgil Goltz, Leah Heffele, Cheryl Lindell, Mary Jo Schroeder and Kristine Jaycox.

IT Director Jeff Tetzloff requested purchasing a ticketing software system for the County, that is cloud-based and could be integrated with the current system. The software is not in the current budget but Tetzloff said that it could be obtained for \$500/yr. and installed on an administrator's system. It would cost \$1500/yr. for 3 administrator's computers (2 would be in the IT department).

Branstad moved, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve purchasing the cloud-based ticketing software.

There was a discussion about obtaining electricity at the Madelia recycling site. It was requested to get specifications and a quote on installing a pole in order to get electricity hook-ups on the pole. The County would be required to purchase the lights. The recycling building is complete, but the site was not completely level so more material was ordered to be spread to alleviate the problem.

The AMC meeting will be on October 25th, from 8:00 am – 12 pm. Commissioners Miller and Branstad and Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling will attend.

MN House Representative Bjorn Olson will be at the next Board meeting on October 17, 2023.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to close the meeting at 9:45 pursuant to M.S. § 13D.05, Subd. 2, Part (4)(b) for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to their authority.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to come out of the closed session at 9:50.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:51.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Nancy Rossbach, Administrative Assistant
Auditor/Treasurer

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer