

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
OCTOBER 17, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 17, 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, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as amended.

Miller moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the October 3 regular meeting.

Branstad moved, Pettersen 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—\$195,472.00; Solid Waste Fund—\$368.24; Soil & Water Conservation—\$518.16; Ditch Fund—\$53,196.91; Agency Fund—\$170.00; Forfeited Land Fund—\$175.72; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$127,904.60; and to approve the September Disbursements listing as presented.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Notice of Funds Available 2024 - #2 for Employment and Training to receive additional funds of \$64.00 for SNAP Support, and \$558.00 for SNAP E&T Services.

By general consensus, the Board approved a request by Court Services to update their name to Probation.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Merlin Tordsen as I.T. Specialist.

Commissioner Branstad reviewed the Minnesota Rural Counties meeting he attended.

County A/T/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reviewed a draft CDL training program where the County would pay the upfront cost, and the employee would agree to pay back the funds if they didn't stay for two years. No action was taken pending further review.

Minnesota State Representative Bjorn Olson was present to introduce himself to the Board, noting that he represents half of Watonwan County. He responded to various topics that were brought forward.

A Public Hearing was called to order at 9:33 to review the draft Floodplain Ordinance. Land Management Director Dave Haler and Assistant Zoning Administrator Kyla Schломann were present. No public comment was received. The purpose of the Ordinance is to regulate development in the flood hazard areas of the County, and to maintain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance as presented.

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

RESOLUTION FOR
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID

WHEREAS, 2014 Session Law Chapter 308 enacted by the Legislature provides Minnesota counties a County Program Aid grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. The amount designated for each county is based on the number of watercraft trailer launches as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Watonwan County was allocated approximately .32% of the total, which equates to approximately \$31,885 for 2023 and \$31,758 for 2024 and years following; and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires that Watonwan County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county; and

WHEREAS, the county may appropriate the proceeds directly or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section; and

WHEREAS, the county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Watonwan County, Minnesota, designates oversight of the County's AIS prevention efforts to the Watonwan County Land Management Department and delegates to them the responsibility to prepare, implement and report annually a plan to allocate the funding in accordance with the above legislation.

St. James Economic Development Authority Director Brianna Sanders was present to review the 2022 Annual Report. She reviewed new businesses, expansions and relocations that took place in 2022. She stressed the importance of businesses having an online presence. She assists with grant writing and was working on the issue of workforce housing.

Public Works Director Darrell Pettis was present and reviewed 2023 completed projects and various upcoming projects. A kickoff meeting for the Kansas Lake County Park Plan was scheduled for October 31.

The following quotes were received for cutting edges:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Kris Engineering, Inc.	\$51,110.50
H&L Mesabi	\$51,840.00

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve accepting the quote of Kris Engineering in the amount of \$51,110.50 for the purchase of cutting edges.

Pettis reviewed an Agreement with MnDOT for a lighting system on TH 4.

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

RESOLUTION

IT IS RESOLVED that Watonwan County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1054748 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide ownership, operation, and maintenance of Lighting System at on Trunk Highway No. 4 at County State Aid Highway No. 6 and County Road 206, County State Aid Highway No. 1, and County State Aid Highway No. 3 and County State Aid Highway No. 55. The contract construction is to be performed under State Project No. 8302-48 (T.H. 4=084).

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

Pettis noted that the pedestrian bridges at Eagles' Nest Park were in process and would require formal bids. He inquired about the Township Road funds that go out to the townships at \$30/mile. Research would be done as to the purpose of the funds.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the annual pay step increase for Caleb Hoffman.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:15.

Jim Pettersen, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer