

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 7, 2020

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session April 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Jeff Baldus, Chair
 Polly Glynn
 Tim Gabrielson (via phone)
 Jerry Reinartz
 Mike Ankeny
 Trish Harren, County Administrator

Kristen Nelsen, County Attorney was present (via phone).

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

A Public Hearing was held in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Josh & Katie Felten, applicant, to construct a single-family home located at Lot 12 Block 2, Thills Creek View Addition, City of Rose Creek, Minnesota (PIN 30.015.0220).

Trish Harren, County Administrator, reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present at the time this matter was presented and acted upon by the Board. No one spoke for or against the Joshua Felten housing tax abatement application. A few minutes following the adoption of the following Resolution, Applicant Joshua Felten phoned in and spoke on his own behalf regarding the approved application for parcel 30.015.0220.

Date: April 7, 2020

Res. #29-20

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held April 7, 2020 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Joshua A. Felten and Katie M. Felten are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 12, Block 2, Thill's Creek View Addition in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 25, Township 102 North, Range 17 West, City of Rose Creek, Minnesota (PIN 30.015.0220)

WHEREAS, Joshua A. Felten and Katie M. Felten have made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on April 7, 2020 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Joshua A. Felten and Katie M. Felten have met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the single-family home.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.
3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the

“original value.” Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye.

Passed and approved this 7th day of April, 2020 with a vote of 5 – 0.

A Public Hearing was held in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Daniel & Nicole Dahl, applicants, to construct a single-family home located at E656.17FT N400.02FT S1133.71 SE ¼ NW ¼ DOC#633791 & 633792, Section 26 Racine Township Minnesota (PIN 15.026.0020).

Trish Harren, County Administrator, reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant Daniel Dahl was present via phone and spoke on his own behalf. No one else spoke for or against the Dahl housing tax abatement application for parcel 15.026.0020.

Date: April 7, 2020

Res. #30-20

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held April 7, 2020 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Daniel and Nicole Dahl are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

E656.17FT N400.02FT S1133.71 SE¼ NW¼ DOC#633791 & 633792, Section 26 Racine Township MN (PIN 15.026.0020)

WHEREAS, Daniel and Nicole Dahl have made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on April 7, 2020 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Daniel and Nicole Dahl have met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the single-family home.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.
3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the "original value." Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye.

Passed and approved this 7th day of April, 2020 with a vote of 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to table the following conditional use permit public hearings scheduled for today to May 5, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.

CUP #895 application of Unisite LLC; Janice Wilson Revocable Trust to amend CUP #553 for existing telecommunication tower by changing a ground lease to a perpetual easement, located in Section 2 of Windom Township

CUP #896 application of Northern Natural Gas (applicant) and Theodore Hinrichs, Revocable Living Trust and Rodney & Cynthia Bakke (landowners) for the construction of a "Town Border Station" to serve as a new custody transfer point between Northern Natural Gas and Austin Utilities; site, as proposed, includes installation of two essential structures that will serve as protection for regulation and metering equip; and two permanent driveways to allow for pull-through ingress/egress to the site located in Section 6 of Austin Township

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to postpone the public hearing scheduled for today regarding the intention to make changes / amendments to the Mower County Subsurface Sewage Treatment (SSTS) Ordinance to a later date to be determined. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

The Board discussed recycling services. Cedar Valley Services Executive Director Rich Pavek was present via phone. Mr. Pavek informed the Board that he had discussed the recycling program with Solid Waste Officer Jeff Weaver. Cedar Valley has not been able to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the employees that work the recycling program. Mr. Weaver is also attempting to obtain the PPEs needed. Because recycled materials are sorted by hand and due to COVID-19 and the potential contamination, PPE is needed for the safety of the staff. Cedar Valley Services is hopeful to obtain the necessary protective equipment by May 1. Cedar Valley is also working on safety protocol and operating procedures to minimize the risk to staff and the public once recycling re-opens.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to extend the suspension of Mower County Recycling services (including curbside, recycling center and drop-off sites) through May 4, 2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mike Hanson, Public Works Director, presented bid information received for the following projects:

Roadway Projects:	Township Bridge Projects:	Seasonal Projects:
CP 50-20-01: CSAH 21 from CSAH 28 to a point 9132' North Thereof	SAP 050-599-163: New Bridge 50K74 in Leroy Township	CP 50-20-03: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
CP 50-20-02: CSAH 28 from West County Line to TH 105	SAP 050-599-165: New Bridge 50K76 in Marshall Township	CP 50-20-04: Roadway Paint Striping
SAP 050-604-024: CSAH 4 from 1630' west of CSAH 7 to CSAH 7	SAP 050-599-166: New Bridge 50K77 in Windom Township	CP 50-20-05: Bituminous Material for Sealcoat
SAP 050-604-025: CSAH 4 from CSAH 7 to CSAH 9	SAP 050-599-167: New Bridge 50K78 in Udolpho Township	CP 50-20-06: Roadside Spraying
SAP 050-607-040: CSAH 7 from 150th Street to CSAH 3	SAP 050-599-168: New Bridge 50K75 in Dexter Township	CP 50-20-07: Roadway Aggregate Delivered
SAP 050-609-010: CSAH 9 from South County Line to CSAH 6		

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to award the bids to the low bidders as follows for the following projects:

ROADWAY PROJECTS

Roadway Projects:	Awarded to Low Bidder	With Bid
CP 50-20-01: CSAH 21 from CSAH 28 to a point 9132' North Thereof	Rochester Sand & Gravel	394,710.11
CP 50-20-02: CSAH 28 from West County Line to TH 105		678,285.03
	Total	\$1,072,995.14

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

SAP 050-604-024: CSAH 4 from 1630' west of CSAH 7 to CSAH 7	Rochester Sand & Gravel	71,191.68
SAP 050-604-025: CSAH 4 from CSAH 7 to CSAH 9		1,863,758.61
SAP 050-607-040: CSAH 7 from 150th Street to CSAH 3		2,072,942.90
Total		\$4,007,893.19
SAP 050-609-010: CSAH 9 from South County Line to CSAH 6	Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$ 267,921.03,

and have the projects commence. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the bids to the low bidders as follows for the following projects:

Township Bridge Projects:	Awarded to Low Bidder	With Bid
SAP 050-599-163: New Bridge 50K74 in Leroy Township	Fitzgerald Excavating	175,547.00
SAP 050-599-165: New Bridge 50K76 in Marshall Township	Fitzgerald Excavating	216,376.50
SAP 050-599-166: New Bridge 50K77 in Windom Township	Fitzgerald Excavating	234,589.50
SAP 050-599-167: New Bridge 50K78 in Udolpho Township	Fitzgerald Excavating	110,722.00
SAP 050-599-168: New Bridge 50K75 in Dexter Township	Fitzgerald Excavating	180,774.00

and have the projects commence. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to award the bids to the low bidders as follows for the following seasonal projects:

Seasonal Projects:	Awarded to Low Bidder	With Bid
CP 50-20-03: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel	Baudoin Oil Co. Inc.	33,425.00
CP 50-20-04: Roadway Paint Striping	Sir Lines-A-Lot	164,480.00
CP 50-20-05: Bituminous Material for Sealcoat	HG Meigs LLC	176,576.00
CP 50-20-06: Roadside Weed Spraying	Sunshine Ent. LLC	18,225.00
CP 50-20-07: Roadway Aggregate Delivered	Skyline Construction, Inc.	239,867.00

and have the projects commence. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Commissioner Glynn informed the Board that the Finance Committee had met with the Auditor-Treasurer, Assessor and Finance Manager to discuss property tax penalty abatement. Businesses are requesting some type of relief but the State, at this time, is unwilling to provide guidance to counties due to the individuality of tax consideration of each taxing authority. The Association of Minnesota Counties has provided a checklist of items the counties should consider. After discussions with the Finance Committee, staff prepared for the Board's consideration a Covid-19 amendment to the existing application for tax abatement of penalties for persons to request forgiveness of the tax penalties based on criteria established with the extension of tax payments from May 15 to July 15. A

discussion followed that included topics of which classifications could be or should be included in proving hardship of paying property taxes due to Covid-19. At what time should application be made and how soon decision made following application? No decision was made. Since the abatement of taxes also affects the other taxing authorities in Mower County, a survey of the Townships, Cities, School Districts, conservation and watershed districts as well as the housing authorities will be surveyed for their input.

There was a brief discussion on whether the County should consider procuring rooms at local lodging facilities for the purpose of isolating employees that may have been exposed to COVID 19. No action taken on this discussion.

Commissioner Ankeny on behalf of the Personnel Committee informed the Board that the Committee had reviewed a policy presented by the Human Resources Director which addressed the new leave laws put into place by the Federal government. This policy incorporates the requirements set forth in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The policy lists positions to be excluded from a portion of the law as well as the lifting of PTO accrual caps due to the difficulty in employees being able to take time off from work due to COVID-19. The Committee recommends adopting the interim policy.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to adopt Interim Policy 2020-01 COVID – 19 Program for Employees effective April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The language for this Policy is as follows:

Interim Policy 2020-01: COVID-19 Program for Employees

Purpose

In response to the community spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, Mower County has declared a local emergency. The County Board believes in the importance of a healthy workplace and wellness and wants to work together with employees to ensure essential functions are operational, services can be provided, and employees are supported. In order to assist employees with health concerns and issues related to the current public health environment, this COVID-19 Policy will be in place effective April 1, 2020. Portions of this policy are a direct requirement of Federal Law.

Mower County recognizes that the evolving nature of the pandemic will likely create the need for this Policy to be amended, updated, and replaced. This policy is numbered in order to identify the most current policy. It is expected that, in the event this Policy is amended, updated, or replaced, a new policy number will be issued and the prior policy will be automatically withdrawn.

Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Mower County Human Resources is charged with implementing the requirements of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. The following are a general summary of each of the Acts. **These provisions are effective April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.**

Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act: Emergency Paid Sick Leave is available for employees who are unable to work (or telework) due to a need for leave because:

- The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or is caring for an individual subject to such an order.
- The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 or is caring for an individual advised to self-quarantine.
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
- The employee is caring for a son or daughter if the school or place of care of the son or

daughter has been closed, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.*

- The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act states that full-time employees will be paid for up to 80 hours of work. Part-time employees will be paid for the equivalent of two weeks of work. Leave is paid at 100% for an employee's own isolation, diagnosis, or treatment and 2/3 pay for taking care of a family member. Payment is not to exceed \$511 per day or \$5,110 in the aggregate for self-care and \$200 per day or \$2,000 in the aggregate for care of a family member or child. Mower County, however, will allow employees to supplement any 2/3 pay with the employees accrued leave. *Certain Emergency Responders required to take advantage of alternate daycare available to Emergency Responders.

Emergency Paid Sick Leave will be utilized prior to other leaves that may be available. Paid Sick leave is available one time (for a maximum of 80 hours), for any of the qualifying reasons.

Family and Medical Leave Act (E-FMLA): E-FMLA is only available for employees whose child's school or care center has been closed due to COVID-19 AND the employee is unable to work or telework AND the employee must care for the child, up to age 18. The Bill expanded application of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover employees who have been employed for the previous 30 days to take care of children due to school or childcare closings and the employee cannot telework. E-FMLA allows for 12 weeks of paid time off. In the event that the employee takes time off for a school closing or daycare closing, the first 10 days is unpaid, but the employee may elect to use sick leave or PTO. The remaining leave will be paid at 2/3 of the employee's hourly salary up to \$200 per day and \$10,000 in total. Leave may be taken on an intermittent basis.

Please note that these benefits and requirements as outlined in federal law are intended to be limited in time. They are intended to expire at the end of the year. Pursuant to federal law, these benefits do not vest, will not be paid out upon separation and may not be carried over from year to year except as required by federal law.

Short-term Disability Leave

Full-time employees may be eligible for Short-Term Disability if they have proper documentation from a health care provider. Applying for Short-Term Disability due to COVID-19 is the same process as applying for Short Term Disability as any other illness that prevents one from working.

Schedule Changes and Working Remotely From Home

Department Heads are asked to establish temporary work from home arrangements and/or flexible work hours in an effort to balance the needs of employees and to ensure critical/essential functions will continue. Department Heads are asked to consult with the Human Resources Director when establishing work from home and/or flexible work hours for their staff.

Telecommuting and working from home is not appropriate for all positions, and no employee is guaranteed the opportunity to work from home. Based on business need, staff will be given assignments and may be required to have Virtual Private Network (VPN) access in order to work from home or another remote location when assigned by their supervisor. This may include staff who are subject to quarantine. Staff may be reassigned to perform other duties as needed.

Employee Displaying Contagious Symptoms

Any employee who is sick should stay home.

Employees should refrain from discussing a coworker's condition due to data privacy laws. If an employee has concerns, they should speak privately with their supervisor or contact the HR Director.

A supervisor may not ask employees about medical diagnoses, but employees may choose to voluntarily share this information. If an employee is displaying symptoms of contagious disease, supervisors should speak privately with the employee.

A supervisor may require an employee to leave the workplace, as a safety consideration for the health of other employees and the public, if the employee displays symptoms of a contagious illness. Such decision shall be part of a consistent plan that treats all employees with such symptoms similarly. While supervisors should not make judgments about a medical diagnosis, they may rely on symptoms to make a determination to send an employee home. For example, the CDC recommends that employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) stay home and not return to work until they are symptom free and free from fever (temperature above 100.4° F) for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. Supervisors should consult with the Human Resources Director before sending employees home for these reasons and must notify the Human Resources Director immediately if any employee is sent home because of displaying contagious symptoms. An employee who is sent home for these reasons is eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave.

Notifying Other Employees of a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

As recommended by the CDC, if an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, the Minnesota Department of Health will conduct a contact investigation and employees will be notified if they had possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. To protect privacy as required by state and federal law, Mower County will not identify by name an individual who has contracted the disease. Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure. Mower County will work closely with medical health providers and rely on guidance from federal and local authorities about transmission risk and containment.

Workers' Compensation

COVID-19 will be treated the same as other illness or injury. If an employee is concerned they contracted COVID-19 from exposure at work, the supervisor must be notified and a First Report of Injury will be filed and submitted. The insurer will review the information to make a compensability determination.

Exclusions to FFCRA

Emergency Responders

Pursuant to the provisions of federal law, Mower County has excluded Emergency Responders from Federal Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (E-FMLA) policy and, therefore, they are not eligible for the additional E-FMLA benefits available to employees who are not Emergency Responders under Mower County's Policy on the Federal Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

*Emergency Responders excluded (not eligible) from E-FMLA are licensed peace officers, 911 dispatchers, emergency management employees, and jail and court security staff.

In lieu of benefits under the E-FMLA, Mower County will provide the following benefits to eligible Emergency Responders:

Emergency Responder Leave: Full-time Mower County eligible Emergency Responders are entitled to 40 hours of paid Emergency Responder Leave in recognition of the need for these staff to continue to provide first responder and other public safety services during the COVID-19 emergency. Part-time eligible Emergency Responders that work more than 20 hours per week shall be eligible for Emergency Responder Leave on a pro-rated basis as determined by the number of hours they regularly work in a bi-weekly payroll period divided by 80. This paid Emergency Responder Leave may not be utilized until the Governor has determined that the state of emergency (as determined by federal, state, or City authorities) is over. At such time, requests to utilize Emergency Responder leave shall be treated the same as requests for other accrued leave. However, if an Emergency Responder contracts COVID-19 or is subject to quarantine (subject to verification by a positive test result or diagnosis by a healthcare professional) prior to the expiration of the state of emergency, they must use this Emergency Responder Leave during the state of emergency after they have exhausted their Emergency Sick Leave. All Emergency Responder Leave would need to be used by December 31, 2021.

Emergency Responder Leaves are limited to use as additional paid time off. They are not Comp Time or PTO and, therefore are not subject to the employee's ability to elect to be paid for unused time as

may exist. Further, no payment shall be made to an employee who separates from service before using all of the Emergency Responder Leave for which they were eligible.

Other Emergency Responders:

Additional positions may be added to the list of excluded positions. The list of positions that can be excluded are based upon the Governor’s list of “Critical Sector Work”. Refer to this link for list of work that has been deemed as “Critical Sector Work” https://mn.gov/deed/assets/critical-worker-definitions-ACC_tcm1045-425195.pdf

Accrual caps on PTO/Vacation

During this time of crisis it is recognized there are limitations placed on many employees which prevent taking time off from work. In order to prevent employees from maxing out on their accrual of PTO/Vacation, the accrual caps will be temporarily lifted beginning April 12, 2020, until the County Board lifts the peacetime emergency order.

In order to access the leave provided in this policy, one or both of the attached forms (depending on the leave being requested) needs to be completed, signed, and returned to Human Resources. Any employee found to have misused paid leave under this policy, is subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Under Other Committee Reports, Commissioner Glynn informed the Board that a complaint / request had been received by a couple who built a home in Racine in 2018 and wasn’t aware of the housing tax abatement offered by the County. Ms. Glynn informed the Board that cities and townships were made aware through letters of the County’s intent to adopt a housing tax abatement and then the adoption of the policy. Commissioner Glynn also attended many of the council meetings and school board meetings explaining the adopted policy to get the word out through the communities. Even though many of these entities did not adopt the policy for their portion of taxes, they have been made aware that this is available for the County portion of taxes. The Board discussed how can individuals be made more aware of the abatement policy? It is unfortunate that some persons have missed the opportunity.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to approve the minutes of March 24, 2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the following Commissioner warrants for payment:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	14,516.68	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	5,726.50
Anoka County Corrections	11,579.29	Mower County Agric Society	27,849.22
Beckleys	2,052.70	Office Of Mn It Services	2,447.49
Benchmark Behavioral Health Systems	14,725.00	Potach & Mitchell Dental Office	2,869.13
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	15,639.16	Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc	5,557.95
Election Systems & Software, LLC.	4,824.08	SeaChange Print Innovations	3,984.59
Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc	6,526.02	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	5,601.00
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,044.15	TOWMASTER	118,615.00
MCHS SE Minnesota	18,665.70	78 Payments less than 2000	39,157.29
		Final Total:	310,380.95

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Score Grant Agreement related to funding from the MPCA for the solid waste program / recycling program and to authorize the chair to sign the agreement. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the request of the Cedar River Watershed District to waive the \$500 application fee for CUP #897 for a flood control project in Section 30 Dexter Township. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to authorize the Sheriff's Department to submit a grant application for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program from the US Department of Justice. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to amend Res. #26-20 dated March 18, 2020 and as amended on March 24, 2020 that declares a peacetime state of emergency to extend the local state of emergency through May 4, 2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 p.m. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:
By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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