

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

September 1, 2020

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on September 1, 2020 at 1:52 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

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

Also present: Val Kruger, Crystal Peterson, Steve Sandvik, Donna Welsh, Loni Swenson (virtually)

The Board held a discussion concerning the 2021 Budget & Levy. Finance Manager Donna Welsh presented to the Board the current spreadsheet for the preliminary budget and levy. Some expense numbers are still included as estimates. The County is currently in union negotiations. The current estimated levy increase is 1.25%. There has been a desire to be at 0% increase but would require more use of cash reserves. There continues to be the unknown results of the second half tax collections for 2020, the outcome of union negotiations and the possible continued impact of COVID. A barebones budget and levy may have a negative long-term impact. The Sheriff requested that the Board remember that the employees serving the public are a County asset that needs to feel appreciated for their contributions.

The Board held a discussion regarding employee length of service recognition in light of COVID parameters. A list of potential alternative options was presented by the Executive Assistant for the Board's review and consideration. A discussion followed. The Board would like to continue to serve a breakfast with some alterations to prior recognitions due to COVID. The employees to be recognized will be invited in smaller groups for a breakfast and recognition. A non-Board day has been selected and will be set at the next Board meeting.

Under open discussion Commissioner Reinartz inquired about the CUP for a vet clinic that has been postponed with the other CUPs from today's meeting. A neighboring property owner has expressed concern for lower property value if the clinic were to be approved. There was also a concern expressed concerning the receipt of notice of the public hearing.

Commissioner Gabrielson left at 2:56 p.m.

A short discussion concerning the neighbor's expressed concerns continued.

There was a brief discussion on political signs.

The work session was adjourned by the Chair at 3:03 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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