

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 10, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, John Mueller, Jerry Reinartz and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Austin Daily Herald Editor Eric Johnson and Citizen John Ryther.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the agenda with the following additions: 1) liquor License – The Church of St. John of Adams, 2) liquor license – Echo Lanes; 3) Letter to Gov. Walz, request disaster assistance – Taopi and 4) Letter of Support and Resolution for I-90 bridge projects / Austin. Motion carried.

County Attorney Kristen Nelsen provided a department update. Ms. Nelsen praised her staff for their dedicated work on the ever-increasing number of cases. Ms. Nelsen is in support for legislation for additional funding for training. Jury trials are commencing and there have been some strides in the backlog due to the Covid restrictions.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Valerie Kruger provide information to the Board about the services received through Workforce Development. Emergency assistance and employment assistance including training are provided for clients.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$143,392.78. Motion carried.

Date: May 10, 2022

Res. #42-22

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 10, 2022 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has published a Request For Proposals to provide health care services to recipients of Medical Assistance and Minnesota Care in the 80 Greater Minnesota counties including Mower; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has requested County evaluations and recommendations regarding the RFP proposals from each respective county; and

WHEREAS, Blue Plus, Medica, UCare, South Country Health Alliance, and United Healthcare submitted proposals to provide managed health care services in Mower; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Mower County Health & Human Services have reviewed and evaluated the proposals; and

WHEREAS, UCare, Medica and Blue Plus have submitted proposals suitable to meet our needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners supports the recommendation of Mower County Health & Human Services approving UCare, Medica and Blue Plus as Managed Care Organizations (MCO(s)) providing managed health care services in Mower County.

Passed and approved this 10th day of May, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement with Timothy Hunter, Independent Contractor for mental health services effective 05/09/2022 through 12/31/2022. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson gave the Board a brief update on the mental health “Day of Data” event in which area organizations and business that work with mental health cases shared data and insights in how to serve persons experiencing mental health crisis. In addition, Ms. Peterson indicated that the Federal Covid waiver has been extended through July 15 but once lifted staff will need to review 12000 medical assistance cases to determine if clients are still eligible.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 9:50 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:52 a.m. for regular business items.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the minutes of May 3, 2022. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the May 3, 2022 work session minutes. Motion carried.

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>
Above All Cleaning, Inc	5,902.23	Leadership Development Resources	2,229.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	35,661.57	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	5,445.66
American Solutions For Business	5,591.15	Rolling Green Fencing, Inc	2,500.00
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	3,604.55	Ronco Engineering Sales Co., Inc.	4,942.09
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	16,414.67	Schilling Supply Company	2,644.59
Dakote Wood-Grinding Inc.	33,515.00	Sign Solutions USA	3,333.22
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	7,417.00	SKB Environmental	6,655.98
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,819.75	Southern Minnesota Seamless LLC	3,392.00
Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	5,309.40	Thompson Sanitation, Inc.	13,110.40
Joshua Parks Construction, LLC	13,000.00	Ulland Brothers Inc.	2,526.51
Kruckeberg Services	4,650.00	54 <small>Payments less than 2000</small>	27,677.91
		Final Total:	216,342.68

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to JCW acknowledging and approving their additional loan request to Horicon Bank for \$2,000,000 due to mechanical over-runs on the Nu-Tek project. Motion carried.

Date: May 10, 2022

Res. #43-22

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 10, 2022 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County, like other parts of the state and nation, is experiencing a housing shortage; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Community Action is proposing to redevelop a blighted area in the City of Austin and create a housing project to meet housing needs identified by the community; and

WHEREAS, this is a 40-unit apartment building with a mix of one, two, three and four bedroom units, a property management office, a supportive services office and a community room; and

WHEREAS, this housing project will provide workforce housing to low and moderate-income individuals and families (at or below 60% area median income); and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Management will provide property management services to the property; and

WHEREAS, if funding is secured in the 2022 Minnesota Housing RFP, construction would start in the fall of 2023 and units would be leased in the fall of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Community Action plans to submit an application for an allocation of Minnesota's Housing tax credits in the July 2022 Multifamily RFP for this project; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Community Action is requesting the City of Austin, Mower County, and the Hormel Foundation to contribute TIF and other financial resources to make this new apartment development feasible; and

WHEREAS, Mower County is committed to providing safe and affordable housing for residents: and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board has allocated \$250,000 of its American Rescue Act Funds for a low income housing project:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mower County does hereby support the Three Rivers Community Action Application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the approval of the Minnesota Housing tax credit funding, the County agrees to provide funding in the amount of \$250,000 as a grant to Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. to be contributed to the housing project.

Passed and approved this 10th day of May, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the application of The Church of St. John of Adams, Minnesota for a temporary liquor On Sale license effective July 10, 2022. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the renewal application of Grafing Company, Inc. d/b/a Echo Lanes for a full on sale and Sunday liquor license effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Grand Meadow Wind Repower Agreement between Mower County and Xcel Energy subject to final review of the County engineer and County Attorney. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to replace the County Engineer's vehicle with the purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer from the local dealer negotiating the best possible value with a trade-in. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 2022 MPDG Program for I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project in Austin, MN and approve the following corresponding Resolution of support. Motion carried.

Date: May 10, 2022

Res. #44-22

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A MULTIMODAL PROJECT DISCRETIONARY
GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE I-90 AUSTIN BRIDGES IMPROVEMENT &
MOBILITY PROJECT**

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 10, 2022 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant “MPDG” Opportunity provides dedicated, discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure projects of significant national or regional impacts or to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is soliciting applications for \$2.85 billion in FY 2022 MPDG opportunity funds, authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, of which up to \$1 billion will be made available for the Mega program, up to \$1.55 billion will be made available for the INFRA program, and up to \$300 million will be made available for the Rural funding opportunities program; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2022 MPDG round will be implemented, as appropriate and consistent with law, in alignment with the priorities in Executive Order 14052, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (86 FR 64355), and will focus on supporting projects that improve safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, and climate and sustainability consistent with the Department’s strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for MPDG include surface transportation capital projects including highway, bridge, or other road projects as well as public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, port infrastructure investments, and intermodal projects; and

WHEREAS, the minimum award for MPDG funds under INFRA small project category is \$5 million; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is seeking funds to replace or rehabilitate nine bridges along Interstate 90; reconstruct associated roadway improvements; and to construct a network of multimodal trails and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will improve the state of good repair of the existing structures, improve the mobility and safety of surrounding corridors, accommodate future growth and support economic development opportunities, and construct multimodal connections that will remove the existing barrier in regional connectivity; and

WHEREAS, Mower County will provide funding towards the local match and partner with MnDOT to contribute to the overall local match and project funding as identified in the MPDG application, which includes the use of funding programmed for maintenance, secured funding through other grant programs, and additional program funding as applicable; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mower County supports and approves the application towards FY 2022 MPDG Opportunity for MnDOT’s I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement & Mobility Project.

Passed and approved this 10th day of May, 2022.

The Board recessed at 10:04 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:04 a.m. regarding the Housing Tax Abatement application of Isaac Wolfgram for a single-family replacement home located in Section 35 of Racine Township E264FT S330FT SE¼ SE¼ BK317-554 (PIN 15.035.0031).

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and did not recommend approval due to the fact that construction has commenced.

The applicant Isaac Wolfgram was not present. No one spoke for or against the Wolfgram housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:07 a.m. regarding the Housing Tax Abatement application of Isaac Wolfgram (PIN 15.035.0031).

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:07 a.m. regarding the Housing Tax Abatement application of Todd and Sydney Weisinger single-family home located S½ SW¼, EXC W940.5FT, & EXC TRI PC ON W SIDE, Section 13 Windom Twp (PIN 20.013.0010).

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant Todd Weisinger was present and spoke on his own behalf. No one else spoke for or against the Weisinger housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:10 a.m. regarding the Housing Tax Abatement application of Todd & Sydney Weisinger (20.013.0010).

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:10 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to deny the housing tax abatement application of Isaac Wolfgram due to the fact that construction has started. Motion carried.

Date: May 10, 2022

Res. #45-22

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

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 10, 2022 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, Todd & Sydney Weisinger are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

S½ SW¼, EXC W940.5FT, & EXC TRI PC ON W SIDE, Section 13 Windom Twp (PIN 20.013.0010)

WHEREAS, Todd & Sydney Weisinger 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 May 10, 2022 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Todd & Sydney Weisinger 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.

Passed and approved this 10th day of May, 2022.

Environmental Services Supervisor Angie Lipelt presented to the Board for discussion the possibility of waiving zoning permit fees and septic certificate of compliance

requirements for replacement or repair of structures damaged in the April 12, 2022 storms (tornados). In the area, nine homes in the City of Taopi and two outside the City were damaged beyond repair and are in need of replacement. The City of Taopi is its own zoning authority. There is the possibility to waive fees and/or inspections of the parcels as the Board approved for the properties damaged in the December 2021 storms but this situation is unique due to Taopi's zoning authority. The homes damaged within the City of Taopi all had new sewer systems installed in 2007, which should still be compliant systems if the replacement homes have the same number of bedrooms as the destroyed home. For the two damaged homes outside the City of Taopi, there are not any sewer system records. These parcels will need to be checked but a \$750 voucher towards to the inspection could be offered to these property owners.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve waiving zoning permits and/or septic system compliance requirements for the parcels under County Authority which suffered damage in /around the Taopi area on April 12, 2022 outlined as follows:

Non-residential Structures / Under County's Authority

1. Zoning permit fees and septic system compliance inspection requirements shall be waived until February 28, 2023, when:
 - a. The property is not located in a shoreland overlay area; and
 - b. When the county has record of a septic system on file, which does not constitute an imminent public health threat (IPHT) per septic design review.
2. For those properties with septic system design records reflecting an IPHT; a low interest loan packet, waiver document and/or septic system voucher; shall be offered to those individuals for compliance and replacement of the septic system;
3. For those systems which the County does not have record of a septic system, or the landowner cannot provide record of a permitted septic system; the County shall offer a septic system compliance voucher (valued up to \$750.00 for a compliance inspection to be completed by a licensed septic contractor of the landowner choosing) or the landowner can waive this requirement by signing a compliance waiver which defaults the system as non-compliant and shall have 10 months to replace the septic system. If non-compliant (or waiver is signed); the landowner shall be provided a low interest loan packet if they wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

Residential Structures / Under County's Authority

1. Zoning permit fees and septic system compliance inspection requirements shall be waived if the system is less than 15 years old and the new dwelling has equal or less bedrooms than what existed. Bedrooms or potential bedrooms shall be counted as defined in the County's septic ordinance.

County SSTS Review - When applicable within the City of Taopi

1. For Septic systems in the City of Taopi which were installed in 2007 as part of the community project, for which the City of Taopi will issue zoning permits for replacement residential, commercial or industrial sites for which there may be connection to an existing septic system.

2. Compliance Inspections of the septic system shall be waived if the replacement structure's anticipated flows and/or bedrooms in the dwelling, are less than or equal to what previously existed to the tornado of 2022. Bedrooms or potential bedrooms shall be counted as defined in the County's septic ordinance.

a. Dwellings or other structures that increase in flow, may require expansion, redesign, upgrade or replacement of their existing septic system. Mower County shall inform the landowners of the importance of matching sizing of the residence to which the septic system was designed for and require review of floor plans to assure septic design and home "match up" for anticipated flows in accordance with MN Rules 7080-7082.

i. Compliance vouchers shall be available to these landowners;

ii. Low interest loans shall be available for any septic system that is found to be failing. Loan funds can be used for replacement, but not expansion of the septic system in accordance with the AG BMP contract with Mower County.

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to accept the 2022 Voting Equipment Grant (VEGA-3) (\$80,484.51) for optical scan precinct counters and assistive voting devices. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to accept 2022 Election Security Grant (HAVA) (\$28,557.48) for election security and/or local match portion of election equipment purchases. Motion carried. *(Commissioners would like a report on how the grant funds were utilized.)*

Emergency Manager Amy Lammey along with Sheriff Sandvik, Captain Pike and Deputy Lynch provided the Board with a Storm Damage report for the April 12, 2022 tornado in Taopi summarizing the Disaster, the Response and Recovery.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to authorize the chair to sign a letter to Governor Walz requesting disaster assistance for the City of Taopi storm damage. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Sicora Consulting agreement effective for 18 months at a cost of \$38000 and use ARPA funds for the service. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Mueller reported that he (along with Commissioner Ankeny) had attended the Fair Board meeting and a drafted property management agreement was reviewed and discussed and will be on the next Board agenda. Commissioner Ankeny reported that the solid waste committee will be meeting to discuss complaints. Commissioner Baldus reported that he had attended the Library Board meeting on May 9 and there were many applications received for the open positions of youth services librarian and library assistant. The library will be closed on May 21 due to staffing. There is a review to look at art culture events and a material recovery program for "lost" library items. In addition, Commissioner Baldus attended the Minnesota Rural Counties meeting and transportation was the primary topic. Commissioner Mueller reminded everyone about the electronic recycling event being hosted at the fairgrounds on Saturday on May 14.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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