

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 8, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session March 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda to add 1) approve amendment to the Combination of Parcels Policy and 2) Human Resources Director requesting approval for position description for Director of Land Records and Tax Services. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Sheriff Steve Sandvik provided the Board with a department update and thanked the Board for its support. Sheriff Sandvik had Deputy Jamie Meyer come to Board and display his many awards received as one of the top DWI enforcement officers in the state. Deputy Meyer is active in training other officers to recognize drug and alcohol impairments. In addition, Jail Administrator James Brown presented to the Board the 2021 jail population report. Overall numbers are down from pre-Covid with an average population of 61 but the female census has increased from an average of 4-5 to 12-15 female inmates. It was also noted that the jail has approximately 40 volunteers that help throughout the jail. There are future plans to recognize them.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$173,809.11. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Division Manager Fiscal Services Val Kruger presented information pertaining to the Health & Human Services use of transportation for medical and waiver clients and the distinction between the two types of transportation and associated costs.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson introduced two new staff:

Social Worker Allison Braaten and Eligibility Worker Eric Sippel. She also briefly discussed the formula recall. The department communicated with clients and worked with the stores regarding substitutions. As an update she reported that the Mental Health Workgroup is progressing and has contracted with a consultant, Courtney Lawson, who is assisting in reaching out to independent mental health providers to acquire data to analyze looking for trends and gaps in mental health services needed. The Community Health Workers are making connections and assisting the non-English speaking populations to navigate our systems from driver's licenses to SEMCAC utilities, etc. Lastly Ms. Peterson reported that there have been 11,745 cases and 69 deaths related to Covid in Mower County. In Mower County 65.1% of the population has received at least one dose of vaccine. The State average is 70%.

The Board recessed from the Health & Human Services Board at 10:03 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:03 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement application of Roger and Shirley Gordon to construct a single-family home located Block 1, Lot 2 Subdivision Cd21016, Boe Subdivision, Adams, MN (PIN 21.016.0020)

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one else spoke for or against the Roger and Shirley Gordon housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:04 A.M. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement application of Roger and Shirley Gordon.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:04 a.m.

**Date: March 8, 2022**

**Res. #21-22**

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

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held March 8, 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, Roger and Shirley Gordon are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Block 1, Lot 2 Subdivision Cd21016, Boe Subdivision, Adams, MN (PIN 21.016.0020.)

WHEREAS, Roger and Shirley Gordon 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 March 8, 2022 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Roger and Shirley Gordon 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

The Board reconvened its Health & Human Services Board at 10:05 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve for Purchase of Service Agreement for guardian/conservatorship services from Alternative Resolutions effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The Commissioners

voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve social service actions. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 10:08 a.m. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

### **COUNTY BOARD**

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 10:09 a.m. for regular business items.

Human Resources Director Kris Kohn reported the county is ready to take the next steps following the needs assessment conducted by David Drown and Associates for formulating a Land Records/Tax Services division. Ms. Kohn presented for approval and authority to advertise a position description for Director of Land Records and Tax Services.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the job description of Director of Land Records and Tax Services (DMB D71) and authorize the position to be filled. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Waste Management solid waste hauler license effective February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

**Date: March 8, 2022**

**Res. #22-22**

### **RESOLUTION**

On motion of Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held March 8, 2022 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, Mower County has applied to host an AmeriCorps member from the Minnesota GreenCorps, a program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), for the 2022-2023 Program year; and

**WHEREAS**, if the MPCA selects Mower County, the organization is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the host site application, and in accordance with prescoped position description; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPCA requires that Mower County enter into a host site agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms, conditions, roles and responsibilities;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Mower County hereby agrees to enter into and sign a Host Site Agreement with the MPCA to carry out the member activities specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the Host Site Agreement and authorizes and directs the Mower County Board Chair to sign the grant agreement.

Passed and approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor Valerie Sheedy presented to the Board for approval a proposed 2022 meeting calendar for the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment meetings.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Planning Commission / Board of Adjustment 2022 calendar for scheduled meetings. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to amend the Combination of Parcels Policy by adding clarifying language to Section C. Guidelines subparagraph 7 as highlighted below:

7. Same subdivision or same section; see Minn. Stat. §272.46, Subd. 2;
  - a. There are mitigating circumstances that may allow the combination of certain lands that do not follow these guidelines; however, this is at the discretion of the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the County Board for approval. If this situation does apply, then the following must occur:
    - A new deed must be created and recorded encompassing all legal descriptions that describe the parcels to be combined prior to the County combining the PIN only if the original deed does not include all of the legal descriptions that describe the property.
    - Note that numbers 1 through 6 indicated above still apply—no exceptions to these rules whatsoever.

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Auditor-Treasurer Scott Felten requested the Board set a date for a public hearing regarding a county redistricting plan.

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to set April 5, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. for a public hearing to receive public comment on commissioner redistricting plans. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the minutes of March 1, 2022 including work session minutes. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, 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	37,130.25	Falkstone Llc	2,202.06
Ancom Technical Center, Inc.	39,882.72	Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	12,050.13
AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE LLC	3,444.55	MATTHEW BENDER & CO., INC.	2,040.28
Austin Electric Inc.	3,995.00	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	3,829.00
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	3,636.55	Qualified Presort Services, LLC	14,000.00
Central States Wire Prod	4,228.50	WatchGuard, Inc.	14,020.00
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	4,725.00	55 Payments less than 2000	18,667.77
Dave Lucas Consulting	4,151.25		
		<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>168,003.06</b>

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Mueller aye; Commissioner Reinartz aye; Commissioner Glynn aye; Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Glynn reported having attended two Personnel Committee meetings. Commissioner Baldus reported having attended the Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) meeting that included some discussions pertaining to watermarking ballots, cooperative based purchasing and senior property tax deferral expansion.

County Administrator Trish Harren reported that the County will receive some funding from the overall Opioid \$1.2 million settlement distributed to counties over 18 years. The County's portion will need to spent on prevention / programing.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**Attest:**  
**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk/Administrator**

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