

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 9, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session March 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Polly Glynn, Chair
Jerry Reinartz
Jeff Baldus
Mike Ankeny
District One Seat Vacant
Trish Harren, County Administrator

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agenda with the addition to authorize the Public Works Director to request \$1.4 million to be included in the 2021 bonding bill for interstate bike trail to connect Shooting Star Trail and the Iowa Wapsi Great Western Line. Motion carried.

County Administrator Trish Harren introduced the new Facilities Supervisor, Jason Murphy.

Sheriff Steve Sandvik provided the Board with a department update. The inmate population has risen to an average daily population of 60 which is a population that is harder to manage to isolate for possible COVID exposure. Sheriff Sandvik expressed concern regarding the implementation of The Safe Facility Act. Sheriffs are working together in a state-wide committee to keep correctional facilities operating safely through rules rather than law. A change to law would also increase liability. The Dispatch center is currently fully staffed with two dispatchers on duty at all times. There was a large increase in the number of calls handled by dispatch in 2020 over 2019. The department has a fully staffed patrol unit and the two patrol contracts for the cities of Adams and LeRoy are going well. There is a concern with a potential federal bill that would change personal liability protection peace officers currently have if operating within law and policy. The department is responding to a change in the use of force statute. Concern, the situation may not allow time for the additional questions to be asked especially in suicide calls or highly volatile crimes with weapons involved.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve Human Services accounts payables totaling \$140,052.02. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the contract agreement with Southland Public School for foster care transportation. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson provided the Board with an update on a federal Child Support Audit which yielded no mistakes or improvement plans. Ms. Peterson then provided a Covid 19 update. There have been 4134 cumulative cases in Mower County and 31 deaths. The department's focus continues to be immunizations.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the following Purchase of Service Agreements: Funeral Assistance - Hindt Funeral Home – renew effective 1/1/21 – 12/31/21 and Group Residential Housing - Cottages of Minnesota effective 3/13/21 – 6/30/21. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 10:08 a.m. for regular business items.

Bill Spitzer, Planning and Implementation Coordinator for APAC (Austin Positive Action Coalition) provided the Board with its annual report of the organization's activities. The focus of the group is for how the positive impacts prevention. The focus is to educate young people to narrow the perception gap with the knowledge that in fact most of their fellow students do not use alcohol or drugs. Current grant expires in September. However, APAC received a 5-year Drug Free Communities grant so the program will be able to continue.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson presented several items for approval.

Date: March 9, 2021

Res. #25-21

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held March 9, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number CP 50-20-01 & CP 50-20-02 completed by Rochester Sand & Gravel, has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premise.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Mower and authorize final payment as specified herein:

Contract Amount: \$ 1,072,995.14
Final Amount: \$ 1,040,226.12 [96.95%]
Final Payment: \$ 52,011.31

Passed and approved this 9th day of March, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to authorize Public Works' purchase of a GPS unit at the quoted state bid price \$35,818.06. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to authorize the Public Works Director to request \$1.4 million to be included in the 2021 bonding bill for interstate bike trail to connect Shooting Star Trail and the Iowa Wapsi Great Western Line. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021, regular and work session. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, 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	2,128.00	Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	11,026.28
AT&T Mobility	2,939.94	KRIS Engineering Inc	6,654.00
Careceuticals	4,638.00	League of Minnesota Cities	2,250.00
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	3,604.55	OnSolve LLC	8,513.40
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	12,915.00	RTVision, Inc.	3,625.00
Dave Lucas Consulting	7,981.25	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	5,335.80
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP	4,453.50	56 Payments less than 2000	22,629.11
		Final Total:	98,693.83

Motion carried.

The Board was informed that a dangerous dog appeal had been received. Previously the County Board had served as the appeals Board. Staff is recommending that an attorney be appointed to serve as the appeal officer.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to appoint Dan Donnelly of Donnelly Law Office to serve as dangerous dog appeal officer and have him work with the appellant on appeal received. Motion carried.

Under committee reports there wasn't any report from Personnel or Finance. For Building Committee Trish Harren reported that the City of Austin is inquiring about parking in the County lot near the B&J. The agreement has been reviewed and items being requested are already agreed upon. Some new signs may be needed. Additionally it was reported that the Fair Board is interested in using the property commonly referred to as the Sterling Park and the City's attorney is looking to obtain a quit claim deed with the owner. Under Solid Waste there was a brief discussion on correspondence from Environmental Services regarding the permitting of landfills and services of Dave Lucas. Under other committee reports there was a brief discussion on the status and process of moving parcels to tax forfeited properties. In addition there was a brief discussion on the County's responses to complaints of properties accumulating junk. Commissioner Baldus reported that the Library Board (Austin Library) is attempting to acquire a grant for some building improvements. Commissioner Ankeny attended the Fair Board meeting and discussions and

plans progress with the hope of hosting the fair in the fall but it will be dependent on vaccine rates, the governor's orders and insurance.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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