

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION

April 4, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on April 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller, Polly Glynn, and Dan Sparks. Also in attendance were County Administrator Trish Harren, County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, and Executive Assistant Denise Barthels.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.


Jail Administrator James Brown presented to the Board for discussion a notice received that Financial Recovery Services is discontinuing collection efforts on behalf of Mower County for inmate delinquent pay to stay accounts receivable. In 2022 the deposits for Pay to Stay were \$351 (but not from recovery efforts but from inmates on Work Release.) Possible options were discussed such as finding another collection agency, having staff attempt to recover the accounts receivable or to discontinue the Pay to Stay program. Several surrounding counties have discontinued collection efforts. Only three besides Mower continue some form of collection efforts. After discussion the Jail Administrator was asked to get information from Pioneer Capital Solutions regarding possible collection services and attempt getting reference from others using their services.

County Administrator Trish Harren provided the Board with an ARPA update. The County has received \$7,781,574 and there is \$970,760 remaining that has not been committed to a project. During discussions it was noted that five of the small cities did not apply for the ARPA funding offered to them from the County. The County Administrator was instructed to send them a letter giving them one more opportunity to apply for the available funds. Mower County received an additional \$100,000 of ARPA funding through LATCF. Mower County also received \$319,000 in unbudgeted wind revenue. It was agreed to add this to the ARPA funding for a total of \$8,200,604.09.

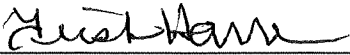
Jon Erichson appeared before the Board as a landowner with property near the airport to voice his concerns that the Joint Airport Zoning Board (of which the County has two representatives serving) is not communicating with the adjacent landowners concerning meetings being held at which plans and decisions are being made for zoning that would and/or has impacted the adjacent landowners especially on the south side of the airport. The rezoning impacting the ability for him to build on his 33-acre parcel and rendering his parcel as non-conforming. Height restrictions are also going to be imposed. There has been no offer to buy the property due to the imposed restrictions or even to pay for the trees that are above the height limit. Prior to 2022 the parcel was conforming with county and airport zoning regulations. County representatives on the Joint Airport Board will request hosting an informational meeting for impacted landowners prior to the public hearings.

The work session concluded at 2:17 p.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

BY:  **Chairperson**

**Attest:**

By:   
**Clerk/Administrator**