

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 4, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the agenda with the additions to 1) approve a subordination on the Jerry & Gwyn Morse septic loan and 2) review and approve the February & March 2021 Investment reports. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reinartz, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, indicated that the Personnel Committee had reviewed a proposed Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement as well as a revision to the Employment statement pertaining to the same. The Committee discussed the importance of creating an environment that is welcoming to people from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. The Committee feels it is important and recommends adopting language that supports Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, effective immediately to adopt the following Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement:

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement

Mower County is dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of all people and to building an inclusive culture where difference is valued. We will not tolerate any form of discrimination. We believe we will reach our full potential as a society when we live up to the ideal that we are all created equal. Mower County will support and foster a culture that encourages and celebrates diverse voices by upholding the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as striving to create a workplace that reflects our communities.

as well as the following revised Employment statement:

Employment statement

Mower County embraces being an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and walks of life. Employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), parental status, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or other status protected by law.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Baldus on behalf of the Finance Committee reported that the Committee had met with the Solid Waste Officer and the Environmental Services Supervisor regarding a request to replace a baler and conveyor in the recycling center. The Committee recommends purchasing the baler and the conveyor.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the purchase of a baler and conveyor with a used hydraulic cart/box dumper, delivery and installation from Apex Equipment, LLC with a low quote \$108,490 as well as the cost to install appropriate electrical (Fox Electric) \$6655. (Apex quote is \$112,490 if a used hydraulic cart/box dumper is unavailable.) Motion carried.

Commissioner Baldus reported that the Finance Committee had received two quotes for replacing the HVAC at the fairgrounds office. The Committee recommends approval to the low quote Greenman HVAC with a quote of \$3,000 noting there is an available \$300 utility rebate and that, if required, there may be electrical costs. However, the Fair Board is asked to clarify the G&G Heating & Air Condition quote to determine if the higher quote includes electrical wiring that is not included on the Greenman quote.)

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the purchase of a new furnace for the Fair Office based on the overall lowest quote in comparison of furnace cost, installation and utility rebate determined at the discretion of the Ag Society. Motion carried. Commissioner Mueller abstained.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the monthly investment report for the months ending February and March 2021. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reinartz reported that the Building Committee is continuing to work with the Facilities Supervisor on various projects as reported during the last meeting.

The Board recessed at 1:31 p.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 1:32 p.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Jordan & Britt Fetterly, applicants, to construct a single-family home Lot 4, Block 2, Country Hills Estates, Racine, MN, Minnesota (PIN 06.034.0110).

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one else spoke for or against the Jordan & Britt Fetterly housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 1:33 P.M. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Jordan & Britt Fetterly.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 1:33 p.m.

Date: May 4, 2021

Res. #32-21

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

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 4, 2021 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, Jordan & Britt Fetterly are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 4, Block 2, Country Hills Estates, Racine, MN PIN 06.034.0110

WHEREAS, Jordan & Britt Fetterly 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 4, 2021 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Jordan & Britt Fetterly 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 4th day of May, 2021.

On behalf of the Solid Waste Committee, Commissioner Ankeny reported that SEMREX had submitted a grant application to the State regarding a regional (6 county) grant (\$115,000 requested) to formulate a regional comprehensive waste management plan. However, SEMREX only received \$57,500. The grant of \$57,500 would not cover the cost for a regional plan. Each county's portion would exceed the cost to create an individual plan. SEMREX voted not to accept the grant.

Commissioner Glynn shared a summary received from a meeting with Amy Klobuchar that other counties had attended regarding the Federal Government Funds that are to be received and what possible uses the money can be spent on in recovery efforts in the counties. Expanding broadband is a noted need in most counties.

Commissioner Baldus attended the MRC (Minnesota Rural Counties) meeting. Game processing continues to be a topic of conversation as well as possible taxes on electric vehicles.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021. 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>
Adams Township	3,297.00	Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	3,688.56
Brock White Co Llc	5,137.48	Leadership Development Resources	3,783.00
CDW Government	6,738.67	47 Payments less than 2000	22,361.94
Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc	22,051.58	Final Total:	67,058.23

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the following list of surplus property for disposal and/or auction:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>
71	800 MHz Mobile Radio Units (from trucks)	Public Works
8	IDA Remote 800 MHz Base Controllers Model 24-66	Public Works
2	Motorola 800 MHZ portable MRX8250-LS radios	Public Works
	<u>Survey Equipment:</u>	
3	Trimble R8 GPS Receivers (SNs: 5013422459, 4529153601, 4531154056)	Public Works
1	Trimble TSC2 Survey Controller (SN: SS14A08593)	Public Works
	<u>Ellis Tower Radio Equipment:</u>	
5	Motorola MTR2020 receivers	Sheriff
1	VHF Antenna/Coupler	Sheriff

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

1	Outdoor Storage Cabinet	Sheriff
1	Electric typewriter	
1	Electric typewriter	
3	Letter Vertical File cabinets	Vet/Ext/EmMgmt
4	Legal Vertical File cabinets	Vet/Ext/EmMgmt
8	Office chairs	Various
1	Ricoh C4535 Copier (SN K5151000448)	Jail Administration

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the liquor license applications of Deer Creek Speedway for a 3.2 On/Off Sale and a Wine with Strong Beer On Sale license effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Motion carried.

The County Board was presented with a request for the Jerry and Gwyn Morse property located at 58485 220th Street, Austin, Minnesota to be approved for subordination. The property owners are attempting to refinance their home but the provisions of the Mower County septic loan will not allow for the subordination. This is a request for an exception to the subordination on their septic loan that will allow for the refinancing of the home.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to make an exception on the septic loan and allow for subordination of the on the Jerry and Gwyn Morse property located at 58485 220th Street, Austin, Minnesota to allow Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Morse to refinance their home mortgage and authorize the Finance Manager to sign the subordination documents. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____

Clerk/Administrator

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