

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 13, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.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 Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda adding 1) declare surplus property for disposal. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 9:01 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:01 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Austin HRA, applicant, to construct a single-family home located at Lot 6, Block 1, North Pointe, Austin, Minnesota (PIN 34.509.0060).

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one else spoke for or against the Austin HRA housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:02 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Austin HRA, applicant.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:02 a.m.

**Date: July 13, 2021**

**Res. #48-21**

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

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 July 13, 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, Austin HRA is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 6, Block 1 North Pointe, Austin, MN (PIN 34.509.0060)

WHEREAS, Austin HRA has 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 July 13, 2021 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Austin HRA has 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021 and July 6, 2021 Work Session. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the following Commissioner warrants for payment:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3D Specialties Inc	2,162.05	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	10,448.14
Aaa Striping Service Company	53,693.64	Petersen Professional Services LLC	9,000.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	15,030.57	RDO Vermeer, LLC	67,948.00
Ancom Technical Center, Inc.	38,383.69	Road Machinery & Supplies Co.	3,403.96
Bustad Dozing & Excavating Inc	8,527.70	SGTS Inc	2,518.03
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	3,181.50	Tiny's Body Shop	2,358.82
Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	7,478.40	Vertiv Corporation	3,478.00
Mayo Clinic -Rochester	30,608.27	Village Ranch Inc	10,369.98
Mayo Clinic Rochester	89,803.75	60 Payments less than 2000	29,015.88
		<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>387,410.38</b>

Motion carried.

**Date: July 13, 2021**

**Res. #49-21**

**RESOLUTION**

On motion of Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held July 13, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2021 St. John the Baptist Church presented a request for a Minnesota Lawful Gambling License for gambling to be conducted at the St. John the Baptist Church, Adams, Minnesota on September 12, 2021.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mower County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the issuance of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling License to St. John the Baptist Church for gambling at St. John the Baptist Church, Adams, Minnesota on September 12, 2021.

Passed and adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to amend the 2021 approved staffing levels to add two full time Corrections Officers for the jail/sheriff's department. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to appoint Cindy Jensen as Interim County Recorder effective August 1, 2021. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve proceeding with the steps necessary to move the County Recorder position from an elected position to an appointed position and publish notice for public input in response to the Board's intent to take this action. Motion carried.

Mower County has been invited to participate in an Environmental Achievement Award recognition program with the City of Austin, Soil & Water Conservation District, Austin Utilities and Freeborn/Mower Utilities. The purpose is to recognize individuals and/or businesses that make a positive impact on the environment. Olmsted County has a similar program and the entities could model a Mower County program similar to the Olmsted model and the costs associated would be divided among the participants.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to table possible participation in an Environmental Achievement Award recognition program and refer to Finance Committee for review and recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the following list of surplus property for disposal:

Quantity	Item	Department
1	Dishwasher and miscellaneous scrap metal	Building

Motion carried.

**HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve payments in the total amount of \$301,571.75 to vendors for Human Services Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson introduced new staff and/or staff in new positions: Craig Gwin, Social Worker (MN Source) and Lori Wills promoted to Social Worker Supervisor (Adult Protection). In addition, Ms. Peterson provided Human Services Legislative Highlights, Southeast Regional Crisis Center (SERCC) updates and COVID updates. There have been many legislative changes and the information is just starting to trickle into the department regarding DHS mental health payment mistake, court appointed attorneys and the Families First Preventative Act. The department will know more about the changes at a future date. SERCC is having a ribbon cutting event on July 26, 2021. The number of Covid cases has increased slightly to about 5 – 6 new cases per day with 4737 cumulative cases and 33 deaths in Mower County. The Delta variant has not yet been detected in Mower County. The vaccination rate in Mower County is at 63.7% of the population age 16 and older. Public Health may hold a vaccination clinic during the fair.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the following renewals of Purchase of Service Agreements effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022:

<b>Fraud:</b>	North Woods Fraud Investigations, Inc.		
<b>Housing Support:</b>	Adams Senior Living Solutions	Cedars of Austin	Colony Home
	Cardinal of Minnesota, Ltd.	Cottages of Dakota	Our House
	Legacy of Brownsdale, LLC	Sacred Heart Care Center	MSOCS
	St. Mark's Lutheran Home	Whispering Pines Ranch	Primrose
	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota		

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Social Service Actions. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting at 10:08 a.m. Motion carried.

**COUNTY BOARD**

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

**Date: July 13, 2021**

**Res. #50-21**

**RESOLUTION**

On motion of Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held July 13, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number CP 50-21-07 completed by Bruening Rock Pdts 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: \$ 197,554.50  
Final Amount: \$ 199,738.84 [100%]  
Final Payment: \$ 9,986.95

Passed and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to authorize the Public Works department to rent a roller from Zieglers for approximately one month. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson gave a brief road construction project and Lansing Bridge update.

Under Committee Reports the Personnel Committee noted that interviews had been conducted for the Assessing Technicians. Finance Committee set August 4, 5 and 6 for the days for the initial 2022 budget meetings with departments and outside agencies. Any departments with new personnel requests are to meet with Personnel Committee on July 28. Building Committee noted that the dishwasher for the jail is finally scheduled for installation and the 4-H building roof issue is being analyzed. Solid Waste Committee noted that staff is reviewing the septic process and establishing procedures for tracking solid waste matters. The new conveyor for the Recycling Center has not yet received. The Solid Waste Officer has been working with community events and town celebrations for methods of collecting recyclables.

It was noted that the Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for July 20, 2021 at the Hormel Institute from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Attest:**

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

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