

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 13, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session September 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, John Mueller, Jerry Reinartz and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Finance Manager Loni Swenson, Public Works Director Michal Hanson, remote Eric Johnson; Marcus Thompson; Val Sheedy.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda deleting the Taopi report by Amy Lammey and Finance Manager item 3 regarding the solid waste fee. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson provided a department update that included the status of road and bridge projects and box culvert supply chain delays. The department will assist with ditch work around/near the Chert Quarry. In addition, Assistant Public Works Director Valerie Sheedy updated the Board on Environmental Services activities including septic inspection and installation data; conditional use permits and variances; and solid waste inspections and abatements. Staff is reviewing the solid waste (recycling) point fee system for a possible recommendation to the Board for an increase in 2023. Lastly, Mr. Hanson introduced the new Public Works Accountant Becky Hanegraaf.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #104-22

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number SAP 50-599-172 completed by Midwest Contracting, LLC 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: \$ 119,740.00
Final Amount: \$ 121,600.23 [101.55%]
Final Payment: \$ 6,080.01

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #105-22

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 September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number SAP 50-599-170 completed by Fitzgerald Excavating Inc. 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: \$ 175,502.00
Final Amount: \$ 172,732.22 [98.42%]
Final Payment: \$ 1,727.32

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #106-22

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number SAP 50-599-173 completed by Fitzgerald Excavating Inc. 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: \$ 165,623.00
Final Amount: \$ 153,522.11 [92.69%]
Final Payment: \$ 1,535.22

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #107-22

RESOLUTION

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 September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number SAP 50-599-175 completed by Fitzgerald Excavating Inc. 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: \$ 281,111.00
Final Amount: \$ 294,467.14 [104.75%]
Final Payment: \$ 12,707.75

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #108-22

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 September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, project number SAP 50-604-027 completed by Fitzgerald Excavating Inc. 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: \$ 298,665.70
Final Amount: \$ 293,512.10 [98.27%]
Final Payment: \$ 2,935.12

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$212,522.26. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson provided the Board with department updates including 1) Opioid Funding; 2) Employee Flu Shot Clinic and 3) a report from Brian Krueger on Fraud Prevention Investigation. The County is expected to receive \$1.2 million dollars from the opioid funding settlement distributed over 18 years. The first payment of \$42,000 is expected soon. The settlement funds can be used for a number of programs including prevention, treatment, education, training and research. Mower County has not developed their Opioid Program. Community Health Manager Pam

Kellogg will be leading this program development and overseeing implementation, The employee flu shot clinic will also offer an option to receive a covid booster.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the following Purchase of Service Agreement (renewals effective 7/1/22-6/30/23 unless noted) for the following:

Housing Support	Funeral Assistance
St. Marks Lutheran Home Skinness, Julie	Dennis Funeral and Cremation (new effective 9/1/22 – 12/31/22)

Motion carried.

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

Brian Krueger, contracted to provide Fraud Investigation Services for the counties of Mower and Fillmore, provided the Board with a report on activities. Referrals for investigation are made by members of the public and HHS staff. Mr. Krueger has handled 89 cases since he was hired in October 2021 and averages 9 cases per month a 40% increase over the previous fraud investigator. In the first year \$63,000 was recovered.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 10:06 a.m. for regular business items.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the minutes of September 6, 2022 (regular and work session). Motion carried.

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

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name	Amount
Above All Cleaning, Inc	6,255.24	Marston Consulting Group, LLC	3,000.00
Anoka County Corrections	34,780.44	MEIGS PAVING	11,445.91
AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE LLC	2,703.01	Michaels Energy, Inc	5,500.00
Baudoin Oil Company	23,338.05	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	2,610.00
Development Corp Of Austin	5,087.08	Mower Soil & Water Conservation District	575,000.00
Election Systems & Software, LLC.	3,386.85	Nexus - Gerard Family Healing	2,148.44
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,423.37	Slowinski Flooring	2,360.00
Healthiest You	3,080.00	The Master's Touch, LLC	7,500.00
Insight Direct USA, Inc	11,006.36	45 Payments less than 2000	17,225.68
Leadership Development Resources	3,545.00	Final Total:	730,395.43

Motion carried.

Date: September 13, 2022

Proclamation #04-22

Proclamation

Mower County Historical Society Week

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Proclamation was unanimously passed and adopted by the Mower County Board

of Commissioners at a meeting held September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society's mission is: to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history of Mower County; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society is the only organization dedicated to the preservation of Mower County History; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society was founded in September of 1947; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society has been observing its Diamond Jubilee in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society is made up of dedicated volunteers and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Historical Society celebrates Fall Harvest each September,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeff Baldus, the chair of the Mower County Board of Commissioners, declare the week of September 19-26, 2022, to be Mower County Historical Society Week.

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the renewal of Professional Services Agreement with David Lucas Consulting for solid waste facilities, licensing and ordinance work. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve Fox Electric quote (\$20,931) for upgrades to generator for enhanced backup capabilities with the funding source to be determined (ARPA funds possibly used). Motion carried.

County Administrator Trish Harren provided an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) update as well as a Mower County Resiliency Grant program update. If the Board considers an additional \$100,000 in ARPA funds for the Resiliency Grant Program, all remaining applications qualified could be awarded a Mower County Resiliency grant up to \$5,000. This would bring the total funding for the MCRG program to \$700,000 for a total of 141 businesses and non-profits receiving grants. (75 businesses, 47 travel-tourism-hospitality, 19 non-profits)

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to allocate an additional \$100,000 in ARPA funds to the Mower County Resiliency Grant program to award funding to the remaining qualified applications. Motion carried.

County Assessor Candy Lahann provided information to the Board indicating that the Board can provide disaster relief for landowners who have sustained 50% or more in damage because of the Taopi storm in the form of a local option abatement for taxes payable in 2022 and also a local option credit for taxes payable in 2023. In addition, the Board can pass a resolution to request to the State Executive Council for reimbursement for these expended funds.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve a local option abatement for taxes payable 2022 for landowners who sustained 50% or more in structural damages related to the April 12, 2022, storm in Mower County. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve a local option tax credit for taxes payable 2023 for landowners who sustained 50% or more in structural damages related to the April 12, 2022 storm in Mower County. Motion carried.

Date: September 13, 2022

Res. #109-22

**MOWER COUNTY RESOLUTION REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT OF
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROVIDED UNDER SECTIONS 273.1231 - 273.1235**

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 September 13, 2022, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the County of Mower experienced a disaster on April 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, said disaster caused extensive property damage to residential and agricultural properties in the County of Mower; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board Chair declared a local emergency for Mower County under Minnesota Statute 12.29 on April 14, 2022, due to severe weather/rain event; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022 the Mower County Board of Commissioners ratified the Chair's declaration of a local emergency noting two corrections in the original April 14, 2022 declaration: 1) EF 2 Tornado with wind speeds of 2) 130 mph in the first **WHEREAS** paragraph; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231-273.1235 provide for property tax relief upon reassessment of properties damaged by disaster, and upon application to the Governor of the State of Minnesota and the Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, the minimum requirements of the aforementioned statutes have been met as demonstrated in the attached damage assessment reports;

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Mower that the County of Mower hereby requests that the property tax abatements and credits granted to property owners under sections 273.1231-273.1235 for the disaster that occurred on April 12, 2022 be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 273.1231- 273.1235.

Passed and approved this 13th day of September 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to set the preliminary proposed 2023 levy at \$23,700,927 for a percentage increase of 1.9% over the 2022 levy. The 2023 preliminary proposed budget is as follows:

	General	Public Works	Human Services & Public Health	Bonds	Capital Projects	Library	Changes	Total	% Increase
Expenditures	23,263,807	22,146,975	17,611,135		100,000	305,000	0	63,426,917	
Non Tax Levy Revenue	5,667,982	18,597,973	11,919,324					36,185,279	
Co Program Aid	2,446,939							2,446,939	
ARPA Funds	515,163	0					215,000	730,163	
Assigned/Restricted Reserve Use	238,285	350,000			0		105,000	693,285	
Budgeted Changes to Required Reserves	223,720	105,956						329,676	
Tax Levy Needed	14,619,158	3,304,958	5,691,811	0	100,000	305,000	(320,000)	23,700,927	1.900

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded Commissioner Reinartz, to set the Annual Budget & Levy Public Hearing for Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Room. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Reinartz attended a Senior Center meeting. Commissioner Mueller reported he has been attending township meetings and the Farm Bureau annual meeting (these are non-Board committee meetings). Commissioner Glynn attended the SEMCAC meeting via Zoom on the 12th. Purchase of the former KAAL building is pending inspection and funding.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:
By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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