

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 28, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session September 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Polly Glynn, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, Mike Ankeny, Jeff Baldus, and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Austin Daily Herald Editor Eric Johnson, and SEMC student class with instructor Scott Swanek. A large number of staff, Austin Police Department officers, family and members of the public arrived in recognition of John Bachman's retirement from the Sheriff's department.

Prior to the Board meeting the County hosted a breakfast for employees being recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda with the addition of approving Health & Human Services Accounts Payable and approving the plan for expending the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Motion carried.

Sergeant John Bachman was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 24 years of service.

Sheriff Steve Sandvik provided the Board with a department update. There are significant staffing challenges in the jail. The Dispatch Center is currently down one employee. There is a hope that legislative changes professionalizing the position and classifying it as a first responder making it eligible for police and fire PERA retirement will increase the applicant pool. The Patrol division has responded to 10,160 calls for service so far this year and continues to follow Covid protocols when responding to medical calls. Processing civil papers has increased as the Courts address the backlog created by Covid-19. Nationwide there has been an increase in traffic related deaths.

The Board recessed at 9:29 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:30 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Lee H. and Joni L. Hansen applicants, to construct a single-family home Lot 1, Block 1, Dobbins Creek Estates No. 2, Austin, Minnesota (PIN 34.194.0010)

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one spoke for or against the Lee Hansen housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:31 a.m. in regard to the Hansen Housing Tax Abatement request (34.194.0010).

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:31 a.m.

Date: September 28, 2021

Res. #69-21

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

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 28, 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, Lee H. and Joni L. Hansen are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Block 1, Lot 1 Dobbins Creek Estates No. 2, Austin, MN (PIN 34.194.0010)

WHEREAS, Lee H. and Joni L. Hansen 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 September 28, 2021 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Lee H. and Joni L. Hansen 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 28th day of September, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021 for the regular and the 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>
Baudoin Oil Company	20,104.60	Greenman Heating & Refrigeration Inc	4,000.00
City Of Austin	4,208.12	Henry G Meigs, LLC	26,523.34
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	15,624.22	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	3,890.00
Damel Corporation Morem Tree Service	7,714.50	Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	5,231.25
DVS Renewal	4,468.62	Spyhalski/Paul	3,168.75
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	2,057.50	46 Payments less than 2000	22,483.25
		Final Total:	119,474.15

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$218,870.52. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded Commissioner Reinartz, to set the Annual Budget & Levy Public Hearing for Thursday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Room. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to set the 2022 Solid Waste Service Charge Fee at \$6.50 per point. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to reappoint Ryan VanPelt to the Extension Committee for a third 1-year youth term effective October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the monthly investment reports for the months ending April – August 2021. Motion carried.

Date: September 28, 2021

Res. #70-21

RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS
AGREEMENTS AND COURT SERVICES AMENDMENTS WITH THE COUNTY
OF MOWER ON BEHALF OF ITS
COUNTY ATTORNEY, SHERIFF, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

On motion of Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 28, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the County of Mower on behalf of its County Attorney, Sheriff, Correctional Services, and Housing and Redevelopment Authority desires to enter into Joint Powers Agreements with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to use systems and tools available over the State's criminal justice data communications network for which the County is eligible. The Joint Powers Agreements further provide the County with the ability to add, modify and delete connectivity, systems and tools over the five year life of the agreement and obligates the County to pay the costs for the network connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Mower, Minnesota as follows:

1. That the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements by and between the State of Minnesota acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Mower on behalf of its County Attorney, Sheriff, Correctional Services, and Housing and Redevelopment Authority are hereby approved.
2. That the State of Minnesota Court Data Services Subscriber Amendment To CJDN Subscriber Agreements by and between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, ("BCA") and the County of Mower on behalf of its Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office and Correctional Services Office, are hereby approved.
3. That the County Sheriff is authorized to sign any subsequent amendments or agreements that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

To assist the County Sheriff with the administration of the agreement, the Chief Deputy Sheriff is appointed as the Sheriff's authorized designee.

4. That the County Attorney is authorized to sign any subsequent amendments or agreements that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

To assist the County Attorney with the administration of the agreement, the Senior County Attorney is appointed as the County Attorney's designee.

5. That the Correctional Services Director is authorized to sign any subsequent amendments or agreements that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.
6. That the Mower County Housing and Redevelopment Director is authorized to sign any subsequent amendments or agreements that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.
7. That the Chair of the County of Mower and the County Administrator, are authorized to sign the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements and Court Data Services Subscriber Amendment To CJDN Subscriber Agreements.

Passed and approved this 28th day of September, 2021.

Michal Hanson, Public Works Director, presented quotes received for the delivery of aggregate to the Austin Shop and to the Adams Shop.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the \$98,992.50 (\$13.199/ton) low quote of Paulson Rock Products for the delivery of aggregate to the Austin Shop. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to award the \$86,242.50 (\$11.499/ton) low quote of Bruening Rock Products, Inc. for the delivery of aggregate to the Adams Shop. Motion carried.

Scott Felten, County Auditor-Treasurer, appeared before the Board and indicated that two applications for repurchase of tax forfeited parcels had been received. The repurchase applications were received for the following tax forfeited properties: 1) Parcel 31.003.0050, 112 Mildred St. SE, Sargeant, MN and 2) Parcel 27.001.0970, 308 2nd St., Lyle MN.

Date: September 28, 2021

Res. #71-21

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 September 28, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board of Commissioners has received an application for repurchase of tax forfeited property located at 112 Mildred Street SE, Sargeant, MN 55973 and legally described as Lots 7 and 8, Block 3, Reynolds and Browns Addition of Village of Sargeant, Mower County, Minnesota (PIN 31.003.0050); and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board has determined and classified the parcel as non-conservation land as provided for in Minnesota's Statutes 282.01; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board has determined the repurchase of the parcel by the former owner Keith L. Bartlett will promote the use of the land that will best serve the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners approve the repurchase of the tax forfeited property parcel #31.003.0050 by the former owner Keith L. Bartlett at the repurchase price of \$7,201.20 with the repurchase to be completed no later than December 15, 2021.

Passed and approved this 28th day of September, 2021.

Date: September 28, 2021

Res. #72-21

RESOLUTION

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 September 28, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board of Commissioners has received an application for repurchase of tax forfeited property located at 308 2nd Street, Lyle, MN 55953 and legally described as Lots 3, Block 9, Original Village of Lyle, Mower County, Minnesota (PIN 27.001.0970); and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board has determined and classified the parcel as non-conservation land as provided for in Minnesota's Statutes 282.01; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board has determined the repurchase of the parcel by the former owner Argus Nelson Properties, LLC will promote the use of the land that will best serve the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners approve the repurchase of the tax forfeited property parcel #27.001.0970 by the former owner Argus Nelson Properties, LLC at the repurchase price of \$3,702.48 with the repurchase to be completed no later than November 5, 2021.

Passed and approved this 28th day of September, 2021.

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Personnel, Building and Solid Waste Committees did not have a report.

The Finance Committee recommends setting the preliminary levy at a 3.9% increase over 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to set the preliminary proposed 2022 levy at \$23,576,627 for a percentage increase of 3.9% over the 2021 levy. The 2022 preliminary proposed budget is as follows:

	General	Public Works	Human Services & Public Health	Bonds	Capital Projects	Library	Changes	Total	% Increase
Expenditures	22,000,193	17,416,425	17,448,822		325,000	301,100		57,491,540	
Non Tax Levy Revenue	4,757,802	14,616,425	11,730,739		100,000			31,204,966	
Co Program Aid	2,512,565							2,512,565	
Assigned/Restricted Reserve Use	267,802				175,000			442,802	
Budgeted Changes to Required Res	139,645	105,775						245,420	
Tax Levy Needed	14,601,669	2,905,775	5,718,083	0	50,000	301,100	0	23,576,627	3.900

Motion carried.

The Board discussed the plans for the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the plan for the use of the ARPA funds.

Category	Preliminary Budget Amount
Public Health	\$1,150,000
Negative Economic Impacts	1,000,000
Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	2,000,000
Premium Pay	0
Infrastructure	2,000,000
Revenue Replacement	1,450,000
Administrative/Other	200,000
TOTAL ARPA FUNDS	\$7,800,000

Motion carried.

It was noted that Commissioner Glynn and Commissioner Mueller attended the Rural Energy Board meeting. There are some grants available for schools for solar projects.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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