

This is a preliminary draft of the July 28, 2020, minutes as interpreted by the Clerk of the Board for use in preparing the official minutes. It is expected that there will be corrections, additions, and/or omissions before the final minutes are reviewed and officially approved by the County Board.

The Board of County Commissioners of Fillmore County, Minnesota met in special session this 28th day of July, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, Fillmore County Courthouse, in the City of Preston.

The following members were present: Commissioners Marc Prestby

The following members were present by Webex: Commissioners Larry Hindt, Randy Dahl, Mitch Lentz and Duane Bakke. Also present were: Bobbie Hillery, Administrator/Clerk; Kristi Ruesink, Office Support Specialist, Sr.; Lori Affeldt, Finance Director; Sara Sturgis, Historical Society; Jeff Brand, Surveyor; Jason McCaslin, Assessor; Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste; David Kiehne, Recorder; Terry Schultz, Maintenance; Ron Gregg, Highway; Heidi Jones, Auditor/Treasurer; Kristina Kohn, Human Resources; John DeGeorge, Sheriff; Jessica Erickson, Director of Nursing; Chris Hahn, Economic Development Authority; Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal; Gretchen Mensink, Chatfield Newspaper; Jerrold Wolf, Bonita Underbakke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda:

- 1. July 14, 2020 County Board minutes

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the Commissioners' Warrants.

The Finance Department Warrants were reviewed.

Sara Sturgis, Historical Society was present.

Sara thanked the Board for their continued support and gave an update of the Historical Society operations throughout the year and during this COVID-19 pandemic. Sara requested appropriations for 2021 at the same level as the prior year in the amount of \$46,800.

The Historical Society newsletter will be sent electronically to all County Commissioners.

Jeff Brand, Surveyor presented the proposed 2021 budget for the Surveyor Department.

Jason McCaslin, Assessor, presented the proposed 2021 Assessor Department budget. Bakke noted that he appreciated the detail provided and hoped that other departments followed that guideline.

The citizens input portion of the meeting was opened at 9:31 a.m.

Jerrold Wolf came before the Board to express his concerns for on-going Executive Orders due to COVID-19. He noted concerns regarding the State wide mask mandate, requesting that the County Board consider a legal document that would declare the Executive Order unconstitutional.

The citizens input portion of the meeting was closed at 9:41 a.m.

Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste Administrator, presented the proposed 2021 Sanitation Department budget.

Terry Schultz, Maintenance Supervisor was present.

Schultz presented the proposed 2021 Maintenance Department budget and Infrastructure Fund budget.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the new lease agreement for the mail machine with the low quote from Pitney Bowes as recommended by the Maintenance Supervisor.

David Kiehne, Recorder, presented the proposed 2021 Recorder Department budgets.

Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer was present.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Lentz, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION 2020-033: final payment for bridge project on the CSAH 4, Project No. SAP 023-604-005.

The Highway Committee report was given, with updates regarding projects. It was noted for Hillery to research what funds were allocated by the Board for the County Office Building parking lot and street parking reconstruction, Bakke noted that he thought the Infrastructure Funds were to be used.

Heidi Jones, Auditor/Treasurer was present.

Jones presented the proposed 2021 Auditor/Treasurer Department budgets.

Jones noted that there are CARES Act dollars available specifically for elections. Each precinct has dollars allocated. She would like to work with each precinct regarding those dollars. She provided a list, but noted two of the precincts have already determined they will go to mail-in ballots for the general election. It was noted that a change could be made to her original request to remove those two precincts from receiving those dollars. Bakke noted that if they would not have the cost associated with have a physical voting location that they could be excluded just like the others that are not on the list that already have mail-in ballots.

A motion was made by Lentz and seconded by Dahl, to adopt the following resolution as originally presented: **RESOLUTION 2020-034:** 2020 CARES Act Grant County – Municipality Agreement. The Chair called for a vote: Commissioners voting “aye”: Dahl, Lentz, Hindt, Prestby. Commissioners’ voting “nay”: Bakke. The motion prevailed.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and resumed back in session at 10:49 a.m.

Jones gave an update of the election process noting that a major change this year is that they must consider and allow postmarked absentee ballots up to the day before the canvassing, noting that full election results would then not be available on election night. She also noted that the Board of Canvassing has been scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Bakke will serve as a canvassing judge.

Jones informed the Board of an error with the Tax Increment Financing adjustments. Supplemental disbursements will be made accordingly.

Kristina Kohn, Human Resources was present.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved to hire Erin Amdahl, Case Aide in the Public Health department at Grade 7/Step 1, \$21.13/hour, effective 9/1/2020 as requested by the Director

of Nursing and recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Bobbie Hillery, Administrator was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved a letter, to U.S. Senate and House, supporting swine farmers impacted by COVID-19. It was noted that all sectors have been impacted but this is the request that was presented.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Hindt, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:
RESOLUTION 2020-035: 5th Extension of the State of Emergency Declaration, through September 1st, due to COVID-19.

Discussion ensued regarding COVID-19, Hillery noted items that have been determined to qualify for reimbursement through the CARES Act Grant funding. She also reviewed options for helping local private business, non-profit organizations and schools.

It is the consensus of the Board to have Administrator Hillery contact city and township officials as well as school superintendents to inform them of possible options for reimbursements through CARES funding.

Jessica Erickson, Director of Nursing, noted they are preparing for a possible supply shortage should a vaccine become available.

A review of the calendar was done with the following committee reports and announcements given:

Prestby – nothing

Dahl – nothing

Lentz – interviews, Wellness, SEMN Broadband, EM Communications

Hindt – nothing

Bakke – Wellness, Planning Commission

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Lentz, the meeting was closed at 11:44 a.m. pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03, for 2021 Local #49 labor contract strategy session. All members were present. Also present were Bobbie Hillery, Administrator/Clerk; Kristina Kohn, Human Resources Officer.

On motion Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Chair re-opened the meeting at 11:55 a.m. All members, the Administrator, and Human Resources Officer were present.

Hillery noted that the closed meeting was held to determine how the negotiations would move forward. The Board decided to continue with the process that has been most recently in place where the entire Board will negotiate in a public setting.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board chair adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.