

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

August 10, 2021

This is a preliminary draft of the August 10, 2021, 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 regular session this 10th day of August, 2021, 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, Larry Hindt, Randy Dahl, Mitch Lentz and Duane Bakke. Bobbie Hillery, Administrator/Clerk; Mike Bubany, David Drown & Associates; Jason Resseman, Mayor of Lanesboro; Michelle Peterson, Lanesboro City Administrator; Joe Goetzke; Geoffrey Griffin, GGG, Inc.; James Fenske, Jail Administrator; Lance Boyum, Chief Deputy; John DeGeorge, Sherriff; Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste Administrator; Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer; Lindsie Engle, Human Resources Officer; David Kiehne, Recorder; Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator; Brett Corson, Attorney; Bonita Underbakke and Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal.

Also, present via WebEx: Tara Kraling, Accounting Technician; Lori Affeldt, Finance Director; Jason McCaslin; Assessor; Kristi Ruesink, Accounting Technician; Chris Hahn, CEDA; Jessica Erickson, Director of Nursing; and Tom Kaase

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approve the Agenda.

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

1. August 3rd, 2021 County Board minutes
2. City of Lanesboro Street Closure for Coffee Street East From Hwy 250 to Alley East of Bank- Sept 18, 19, 25,26 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Highway Alive event
3. City of Lanesboro Street Closure Coffee Street East from Hwy 250 to Old Village Hall- Sept 11, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Taste of the Trail event

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the Commissioner's Warrants.

The Finance Department warrants were reviewed.

Public Hearing for Tax Abatement for Lanesboro opened for discussion at 9:05 a.m.

Mike Bubany, David Drown & Associates and Jason Resseman, Mayor of Lanesboro were present.

Bubany explained the reason there was a need for an abatement to complete this project. Bubany explained that the abatement is set up so that it has a time frame. The abatement is risk free for the County, however the County is being asked to provide a tax abatement that includes interest.

Resseman noted that this was an important project for the City and the City Council has approved the abatement project.

No other Persons spoke during this time.

The Public Hearing for a Tax Abatement was closed at 9:20 a.m.

John DeGeorge, Sheriff and Lance Boyum, Chief Deputy were present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved an IES 911 Maintenance Quote for June 2021-June 2022 in the amount of \$12,511.08.

Citizens Input opened 9:30 a.m.

Bonita Underbakke was present to make Commissioners aware about her concerns regarding the spraying of roadside

ditches. She noted that spraying ditches for wild parsnip is a waste of taxpayer dollars and that counties such as Winneshiek County in Iowa protect their native plants and have a great process that Fillmore County could learn from.

Citizens input was closed at 9:34 a.m.

Geoffrey Griffin, GGG, Inc. was present and discussed why he is seeking the tax abatement and that his intentions are to start development immediately.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: **RESOLUTION 2021-038:** Property tax abatement related to G-Cubed Development, Inc. Housing Project 2021 in Lanesboro.

John DeGeorge, Sheriff was present.

Sheriff John DeGeorge presented his proposed 2022 Budgets for Sheriff, Jail and Emergency Management. Noting that not much has been added or changed from last year besides salaries and insurance. Discussion ensued regarding needs for radios and equipment. Hillery noted that the overall County could do a Capital Improvement Plan to ensure the Board remains aware of upcoming projects and equipment purchases for planning purposes in the future.

Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste Administrator was present.

Solid Waste Administrator Mr. Hatzenbihler presented his proposed 2022 Budgets for Solid Waste and Resource Recycling. Hatzenbihler noted that his proposed levy for his budget has increased by 1.29 % from last year.

Jessica Erickson, Director of Nursing was present.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved Public Health Workforce Grant for \$160,000. Erickson noted that they would split the Grant with Houston County if Houston County chooses to apply.

Erickson provided an update regarding COVID. She noted that we are seeing a rising trend in COVID cases, and the CDC recommends vaccinated and unvaccinated to wear masks. She stated that Fillmore County has been in the red zone for about a week straight and the Administration Office will be tracking cases for Fillmore County employees. Discussion ensued regarding requiring masks in County buildings. Bakke noted that he hoped County employees would do the right thing on their own. By consensus, it was recommended to wear masks, in the County buildings, especially for non-vaccinated staff, but not required.

Ron Gregg, Highway and Airport was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: **RESOLUTION 2021-039:** Township Bridge Replacement Project SAP 23-599-209 in Sumner Township.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: **RESOLUTION 2021-041:** For Agreement to Fund Local Bridge Bonding Funds on County State Aid Highway No. 29 Bridge Replacement Project SAP 23-629-010 Newburg Township.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved an agreement between Fillmore County and the City of Rushford for the design and construction of a Canoe Launch Access Road.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Bakke, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: **RESOLUTION 2021-040:** Joint Powers Agreement for an extension between Fillmore County and MN Dot for sharing the Chatfield Shop Facility.

Lindsi Engle, Human Resources Officer was present.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt the Board unanimously approved the request to transfer Roxane Alden from Property Appraiser in the Assessor's Office to the Records Office as an Accounting Technician Lead, at the same wage per grade 9, effective October 1, 2021 as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the request to move Kayla Pierce as an Accounting Technician to Property Appraiser at Grade 9, Step 1, in the Assessor's Office effective August 23, 2021 as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved request to seek an Accounting Technician for the Assessor's Office from the current Administration Accounting Technician candidate pool as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

The Board would like to hold off on advertising for a Part-Time Temporary or Interim County Surveyor to give Engineer Gregg some time to evaluate the needs or possibilities for that role as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved, with thanks, the resignation of Troy Soiney, Highway Maintenance Specialist effective August 17, 2021.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved a request to advertise for replacement Highway Maintenance Specialist as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator was present.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ramona Johnson to the Extension Committee-District 2.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the low uniform quotes from Aramark for all County employees who wear uniforms.

Hillery provided a spreadsheet noting that the entire budget has been entered in and currently are at a 10% increase from 2021 to 2022 levy. She noted that insurance will be reduced due to numbers that are coming in and she will start looking at opportunities to cut the budget.

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

Duane Bakke/Mitch Lentz- Wellness meeting on August 4- September grill out planned for the last Tuesday in September if COVID cases rise we will revisit. Match the baby picture with the employee game will be rolling out soon. Biometric testing this fall with Brenda Pohlman and Jessica Erickson at the Public Health building. Discussion about TED talks, we are trying to get more employees involved. Desk decorating seasonal competition.

Larry Hindt/Randy Dahl- Facilities meeting Terry Schultz had some quotes for cement pads for replacing bikes, and they are in the process of moving and setting generators. Public Health- changed out all of their chairs, so we have extra chairs if offices are in need. Looking at adding handicap automatic door openers for public bathrooms.

Mitch Lentz- Final Jail Needs Assessment Committee members to come back tentatively on September 7.

Mitch Lentz/Duane Bakke/Larry Hindt- were present at the Veterans Ground Home Breaking on August 9. They noted that they had a great turnout for the event.

Randy Dahl- Semcac has a new accountant she has been on the job for 6 weeks and is doing great. Everything is moving forward with COVID and Semcac has been helping people during the pandemic. Dahl commended all of the Semcac employees for all they have done during the pandemic. Dahl noted that to comply with Semcac Bylaws - Commissioners have 12 years to rotate positions or resign.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Lentz, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.