

This is a preliminary draft of the December 14, 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 14th day in December, 2021 at 3:00 p.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.

Others present: Bobbie Hillery, Administrator/Clerk; Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste Administrator; Chris Hahn, EDA Director; Colleen Foehrenbacher, Eagle Bluff Executive Director; John DeGeorge, Sheriff; Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator; Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer; Lindsie Engle, Human Resources Officer; Julia McCaslin, Account Technician; Christy Smith, Auditor/Treasurer; Pam Schroeder, Highway/Airport Office Manager; Nick Prestby, Jill Huffman; Darren Moser; Joe Goetzke; Bonita Underbakke and Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal.

Also, present via WebEx: Sharlene Schobert, Jason McCaslin, Assessor; Tom Kaase

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

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

1. Approve November 23, 2021 County Board minutes

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

The Finance Department warrants were reviewed.

Drew Hatzenbihler, Solid Waste Administrator was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the SCORE Grant agreement effective July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2026.

Chris Hahn, EDA and Colleen Foehrenbacher, Eagle Bluff Executive Director was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved request for EDA to host Fillmore County Agriculture Summit, February 24, 2022 at Eagle Bluff

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the letter of support for the Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program grant submission by the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.

Christy Smith, Auditor/Treasurer was present.

Smith reviewed the County fee schedule with the County Board noting that modification have not been made for a few years. She noted that she had worked with all of the Department Heads. She will be sure to follow up again prior to the first meeting of 2022 when the Fee Schedule needs to be adopted per statute.

Citizens input was opened at 3:30 p.m. with Tom Kaase speaking via WebEx. Kaase spoke on the agenda request for an additional day off for county employees. Kaase opposed the request and is concerned about private sector employees. He felt the county already offered a very generous benefit package. Citizens input closed at 3:35 p.m.

John DeGeorge, Sheriff was present.

DeGeorge requested to purchase a 2022 Ford Explorer Squad Car, along with the equipment for the squad. DeGeorge was not able to order the Dodge Charger previously approved by the board. DeGeorge noted that the \$70.50 annual maintenance fee in the quote is an error and will be removed.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the purchase and setup of a 2022 Ford Explorer Squad Car, with a lease from enterprise at \$35,483.00 and equipment from EATI at \$5,789.21, as recommended by the Sheriff.

DeGeorge provided quotes for replacement of the Jail Camera DVR system as the current DVR recording unit has been malfunctioning and is unreparable. DeGeorge suggested Ban-Koe Systems Group Inc. in the amount of \$9,877.15.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the replacement of Jail Camera DVR system with the use of \$3,000.00 of civil finger printing fees, \$4,000.00 of jail equipment budget and \$2,877.15 from the unallocated expense budget line item as recommended by the Sheriff.

Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved an access permit to widen the existing field drive for Justin Boyum, Section 13 of Arendahl Township.

Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer and Pam Schroeder, Highway/Airport Office Manager were present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the Airport AWOS Companion Grant approval **RESOLUTION: 2021-059:** for the "Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition," for State Project No. **A2301-36**, at the Fillmore County Airport.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the **RESOLUTION: 2021-060** to purchase 0.29 Acres for the Airport AWOS location.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved awarding low bid contract to Neo Electrical Solutions for the moving of the AWOS in the amount of \$90,760.00.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the Bridge Replacement Project on CSAH 30, SAP 023-630-008 using Minnowa Construction for \$283,338.80.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the Bridge Replacement Project on CSAH 26, SAP 023-626-009 using Minnowa Construction for \$267,353.45.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the Bridge Replacement Project on CR 105 in Arendahl Township LOST 88938-105 using Minnowa Construction for \$147,192.50.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the Bridge Replacement Project in Newburg Township, SAP 023-599-164 using Minnowa Construction for \$121,300.00.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the two bridge replacement under one contract in Sumner & Norway Townships, SAP 023-599-208 & SAP 023-599-211 using Minnowa Construction for \$221,830.00.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the low bid for the Surface Reconditioning Project on CSAH 30 from TH 139 to the Niagara Cave, SAP 023-630-006 using Rochester Sand & Gravel for \$873,085.56.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the final payment **RESOLUTION 2021-061**: for the Bridge Replacement project on CSAH 15 Carimona Township, SAP 023-615-015.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the final payment **RESOLUTION 2021-062**: for the Surface Reconditioning Project on CSAH 18, 23, & 25, SAP 023-618- 010, 023-623-030 & 023-625-015.

Lindsay Engle, Human Resources Officer was present.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the request to hire Alexandra Meldahl as a Social Worker for the Social Services Department in Community Services at Grade 12/ Step 1 effective 01/03/2022 as recommended by the Hiring Committee.

Bobbie Hillery, Administrator was present.

Hillery did a breakdown on American Rescue Plan Act expenditures. She noted that the board has used \$425,000 of \$4.2 million.

Darren Moser from AcenTek presented on a proposed fiber project in Canton. Acentek is requesting \$850,265 (35%) ARPA funds. AcenTek would contribute \$1,579,064 (65%). The project would start in 2023 and be completed in 2024. This will provide fiber to approximately 267 residences, businesses and farms in the Canton telephone exchange.

Hillery continued discussion by requesting to add five positions by using ARPA funds; Income Maintenance, Attorney Paralegal, Floater, Sheriff Deputy and Jailer positions. Hillery asked the board if this is something they want to move forward with. Dahl noted the positions have been talked about at the personal committee.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the request to advertise for a Paralegal as requested by County Attorney and recommended by the Personnel Committee with the use of American Recovery Act dollars.

DeGeorge spoke on the Sheriff Deputy and Jailer position. DeGeorge talked about the current struggles of scheduling and staffing during COVID. DeGeorge expressed concern with fewer applicants and future retirements. Lentz noted this as an opportunity to secure good part-time people into full-time positions.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the request to allow Sheriff DeGeorge to move a current part-time deputy to a full-time deputy position.

DeGeorge spoke on the jailer position and having the same difficulties scheduling and staffing as the deputies. DeGeorge currently has one overnight jailer shift and requesting a second jailer shift to help cover the overnight. Discussion on the new positions will continue and be put on the next agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding advertising the RFP for Jail Architectural services and setting up a committee to review the proposals once submitted. The RFP will need to be posted in the paper for 2 weeks and Hillery will reach out to architects that she is aware of that are interested.. Dahl agrees with the RFP. Lentz thinks the entire board should be involved in the proposals. Hillery wants in person interviews to take place in early February. Bakke would like the Chair and Vice Chair to handle the interviews. The Board will determine the committee for application review and interviews at their next meeting.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the request to advertise for RFP for a Jail Architect.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the ATV ordinance.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Daniel Terbeest for District 3 for the Extension Committee

The chair recessed the board meeting at 5:35 p.m. and resumed back in session at 5:43 p.m.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the **RESOLUTION 2021-063:** Updated City of Lanesboro Abatement Agreement

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the **RESOLUTION 2021-064:** Opioid Settlement

Hillery requested for additional 8 hour employee time off option. Hillery gave a background on the reasoning for the request. With staff shortages, keeping good employees and building moral; this is a great way to show appreciation. Hillery noted that some staff had to use some or all of their PTO from having COVID or being exposed. Hillery noted that the county cannot buy gifts or give bonuses due to being a government entity. The ARPA funds could be utilized for incentive pay. Hindt noted that a lot of counties have a staffing crisis and this would be a good will gesture for an extra day off over the holidays. Prestby disagreed with an additional 8 hours, noting the county has an attractive benefit package and 72 percent of employees were able to work from home during the pandemic.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board approved the request for 8 hours additional PTO for employees to use between December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and December 30, 2021 with Department Heads being responsible for administering the use; Dahl, Lentz, Hindt and Bakke – Aye and Prestby – Nay.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the request for Nessus Scanner System for Human Services from Marco, Inc., not to exceed \$12,390.00 as recommended by the Administrator.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the request for Lumen Phone Contract for a 3 year agreement for the IQ Managed Data Bundle for the Courthouse and County Office Building for \$580.00/month for 3 years and the IQ SIP Trunk for \$738.17/month for 3 years for the Courthouse and County Office Building as recommended by the Administrator.

The following announcements, calendar review and committee reports were given: Truth in Taxation hearing at 6:30 p.m.

On a motion by Hindt and seconded by Prestby, the Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

