

This is a preliminary draft of the November 23, 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 23rd day in November, 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.

Others present: Bobbie Hillery, Administrator/Clerk; Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer; Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator; Lindsie Engle, Human Resources Officer; Julia McCaslin, Account Technician; Chris Hahn, EDA Director; Christy Smith, Auditor/Treasurer; John DeGeorge, Sheriff; Jerry Cleveland; Mary Miner; June Hammell; Jill Huffman; Deb Erickson; Steve Erickson; Steve Hartwick; Bernie Hammell; Terry Schultz, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Bonita Underbakke and Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal

Also present via WebEx: Lori Affeldt, Finance Director; Kristi Ruesink, Accounting Technician; Jason McCaslin, Assessor; Nicole Schulte; Brett Corson, County Attorney; Tom Kaase; Jessica Erickson, Public Health Director

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the Amended Agenda with the following additions: purchase a Ford pickup underneath the Highway section and an additional section for Zoning with three access permits.

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

1. Approve November 9th, 2021 County Board minutes
2. Temporary closure of CSAH 21, City of Canton, Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for its annual lighted parade.
3. Approve renewal liquor license for Isle of Dreams LLC.

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

The Finance Department warrants were reviewed.

Christy Smith, Auditor/Treasurer was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the Snowmobile State of Minnesota Grant Contract for Tri-County Trail in the amount of \$19,254.77.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the Snowmobile State of Minnesota Grant Contract for Bluff Valley Trail in the amount of \$25,342.89.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the Snowmobile State of Minnesota Grant Contract for Hiawatha I & II in the amount of \$31,838.83.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the Snowmobile State of Minnesota Grant Contract for Mabel Trail Busters in the amount of \$15,205.73.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the sale price for each tax forfeiture property: Rushford City 06.0196.000 at \$1,000.00; Canton Township 08.0156.010 at \$100.00; Canton Township 08.0181.020 at \$100.00; Canton City 09.0195.020 at \$1.00; Canton City 09.0172.000 at \$500.00; Lanesboro City 19.0136.000 at \$15,000.00; Forestville Township 28.0385.000 at \$5,000.00; Ostrander City 34.0034.000 at \$1.00; Spring Valley City 36.0282.000 at \$800.00; Spring Valley City 36.0727.00 at \$4,100.00; Mabel City 02.0093.000 at \$1,000.00; Rushford City 06.0103.020 at \$100.00.

On motion by Lentz and seconded by Hindt the Board unanimously approved the Auditor/Treasurer to apply for the 2021 Voting Equipment Grant VEGA-3 for the replacement of the existing Automarks.

Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved to advertise the surface reconditioning project on CSAH 3, SAP 023-603-005.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved to advertise the surface reconditioning project on CSAH 39, SAP 023-639-003.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved to advertise for the 2022 Chip Seal Program.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz the Board unanimously approved to advertise for RFP for a Contracted County Land Surveyor as recommended by the County Engineer.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of 2022 Ford F-150 4X4-Super Cab in the amount of \$32,867.17.

Highway committee report was discussed with an update on the 2021 close out of projects and the upcoming 2022 projects. Bakke noted that the Local Option Sales Tax 10 year plan will need to be updated and approved by the Board. Gregg appreciates the Board and their support in trying new things.

Citizens Input was opened at 9:48 a.m. with Jerry Cleveland noting that he agrees on the need for a new jail for Fillmore County, but expressed concerns about the type of structure. He proposed a dome structure noting it would be an option that many may not propose or think about and he provided some advantages such as cost, appearance and ability to last longer. Citizens input closed at 9:54 a.m.

Public hearing for ATV Ordinance was called to order by Chair Dahl at 9:55 a.m.

Sheriff John DeGeorge was present and Attorney Brett Corson was present via Web Ex to answer questions. Bernie Hammell asked about Township roads and how this ordinance deals with township roads. DeGeorge explained the ordinance is for county roads and has no bearing on township roads. Steve Hartwick asked about organized trail rides, open containers, and if Department of Natural Resources had been in contact with DeGeorge. DeGeorge has not been contacted by the Department of Natural Resources. Corson explained a ticket would be issued on open containers.

The Public Hearing was closed by Chair Dahl at 10:24 a.m.

The board will revisit the ATV ordinance on the board meeting December 14 and consider whether the ordinance will be adopted.

The chair recessed the board meeting at 10:24 a.m. and resumed back in session at 10:32 a.m.

Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the Access Permit for Aaron Martinez on County 108 for access to a new building site.

Adkins requested an Access Permit for Justin & Jana Boyum on County 25 for better access to cropland. The board did not grant and asked that it be brought back at a later date, asking for clarification regarding the other driveway.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the Access Permit for John M. Hochstetler on county 30 to widen an existing driveway access.

Lindsi Engle, Human Resources Officer was present.

On motion by Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved to hire Ashley Johnson as the Public Health Case Aide at Grade 7 / Step 1 effective 12/13/2021.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the request to promote Jarad Carolan to County Surveyor's Assistant at Grade 12 / Step 8 effective 11/26/2021.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved the request to advertise for Engineer in Training at Grade 13 / Step 1.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Hindt, the Board unanimously approved the request to hire Jacob James as Highway intermittent employee at Grade 3 / Step 1 as recommended by County Engineer and personnel 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. Hillery noted LTD Broadband had talked about different projects, but made no specific dollar amount requests. Mediacom talked about Wykoff and Ostrander projects. Harmony talked about two projects and would appreciate any grant. EDA Director Chris Hahn appeared in person and noted AcenTek will possibly present on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Hillery discussed adding more positions using ARPA dollars at the request of some department heads. The new positions would be Income Maintenance, Attorney Paralegal, Floater, Sheriff Deputy and Jailer. The board had approved a Social Worker, a Registered Nurse and a Case Aide.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Terry Schultz was present and provided estimates for HVAC in the courthouse at \$364,000, office building at \$180,000 and jail at \$640,000, due to ventilation issues that can be directly related to bacteria and humidity.

Other suggested uses of the funding included furniture layout in Administrator's office, Automatic Doors for the bathroom, and replacing the radio equipment for jail and sheriff's department.

Hillery will bring specific recommendations back to future Board meetings.

Sheriff DeGeorge discussed the jail. The next steps would be reaching out to architects with an understanding that the new jail would meet the basic needs and be in compliance with the Department of Corrections. Lentz would like to move forward with an architect and get quotes. Dahl wants to keep moving forward and opposes spending money on the old jail. Hillery noted we are in agreement with a set up like Howard County Jail and wants to keep the RFP simple. Discussion will continue at the December 14th board meeting.

The following announcements, calendar review and committee reports were given: Bakke-Wellness, SWCD-Administrator Christiansen resigned; History Center – working on facility upgrades; Lentz-Emergency Communications, Zumbro Valley Mental Health, Wellness; Hindt - Public Health Advisory discussed the large number of infections and setting up vaccinations; EDA - Eagle Bluff looking for letter of support for grant.

On a motion from Hindt and seconded by Lentz, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:22 pm.