

This is a preliminary draft of the August 3, 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 3rd 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; Dave Kiehne, Recorder; John DeGeorge, Sherriff; Terry Schultz, Facilities Maintenance; Jason McCaslin, Assessor; Cristal Adkins, Zoning; Jill Huffman, Chief Operating Office at Harmony Telephone Company- Alissa Stelphlug; Nicole Schultz; Jerry Ritter; Susan Ritter; Lauren Hanson, Court Administrator; Bonita Underbakke; and Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal, Anna Nelson, Public; John B. DeVries, Jail Committee

Also, present via WebEx: Tara Kraling, Accounting Technician; Lindsi Engle; Human Resources Officer; Lori Affeldt, Finance Director; Kristi Ruesink, Accounting Technician;; Chris Hahn, CEDA; Bailey Peterson; Paralegal; Jessica Erickson, Director of Nursing; Tom Weber, consultant; Christy Smith, Auditor/Treasurer; and Tom Kaase

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

1. July 27, 2021 County Board minutes
2. Approve Application for Liquor License for Preston Servicemen's Club

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

The Finance Department warrants were reviewed.

Second Public hearing regarding option for Recorder position to be appointed rather than elected, no public members provided input.

Jill Huffman and Alissa Stelphlug of Harmony Telephone Company were present.

Huffman reviewed the current projects that are taking place throughout Fillmore County. She noted that they are about to break ground on the Border to Border grant project that Fillmore County has already supported. She noted that they are currently in a waiting mode for other service areas to come available to possibly take over the internet projects to upgrade underserved areas in Fillmore County. She noted as they review the available grants they will certainly reach out to Fillmore County for possible partnerships.

Cristal Adkins, Zoning Administrator was present.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved an access permit for a new drive for Elliot Rustad, section 15 of Amherst Township.

Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator was present.

Hillery provided a review of MACA technical meeting. She noted that the meeting contained presentations on emergency management, redistricting, COVID response and ongoing operations and American Recovery Act dollars.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Board unanimously approved the resolution to appoint, rather than elect the Recorder position beginning January 2, 2023.

Citizens input opened 9:30 a.m.

Anna Nelson was present to make Commissioners aware of a dust control issue at her farm that she moved into in 2008.

She noted that she lives near a rock quarry operated by Bruening Rock Company. She stated that dust issues have been extreme for the past few years. She noted that complaints have been made directly to the company, to the drivers and to the County. She said that sometimes they do follow up with dust control near their home but it never is enough to control the dust. She stated trucks drive by their home at high rates of speed, which is also concerning. She did state that she called one of the owners and was hung up on once she mentioned the MPCA. She will provide videos to Administrator Hillery to share with the Board. She asked the Board if they could provide assistance for this issue.

Citizens input was closed at 9:43 a.m.

Jail Needs Assessment Committee members John Zanmiller and Sheriff John DeGeorge were present before the Board with other members present in the audience and on Webex.

John Zanmiller presented a summary power point that summarized the larger Jail Needs Assessment report.

Commissioners provided appreciation for the committee's work which consisted of a lot of data research, meetings and informational meetings for the public. It was noted that time is needed for the Commissioner to fully review the report and discuss at a later date.

Terry Schultz, Building Maintenance Supervisor was present.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Schultz presented his 2022 proposed Building Maintenance Budget and Infrastructure budget noting specific projects.

Jason McCaslin, Assessor was present.

Assessor McCaslin presented his 2022 proposed Assessor Budget.

The Board noted that they appreciated McCaslin's detailed report for line items for his budget.

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

Hillery noted that the Fall Conference is September 16 & 17th asked members who would be attending. She also noted the Annual Conference is December 6th – 8th if they could also check calendars and let her know who can attend. It was noted that there has been a recent uptick in COVID cases. Some areas are requiring masks. Hillery asked Board members if they wish to require masks at this time, it was noted that they would discuss at the next meeting to see where we are at.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Lentz, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.