

The Board of County Commissioners of Fillmore County, Minnesota met in regular session this 14th day of January, 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, Larry Hindt, Randy Dahl, Mitch Lentz and Duane Bakke,. Also present were: Bobbie Vickerman, Administrator/Clerk; Lori Affeldt, Finance Director; Todd Froberg, Department of Natural Resources; Heidi Jones, Auditor/Treasurer; Kevin Olson, Social Services Manager; Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer; Kristina Kohn, Human Resources; Sheriff John DeGeorge; Mitch Boyum, Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Timothy White, USDA WS; Kevin Johnson; John Zanmiller; Nancy Bratrud; Bonita Underbakke; Mike Simpson; George Spangler; Pam Seebach; Dean Aponte-Safe; David Stoeger; Kay Wold; Gretchen Mensink, Republican Leader and Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

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

1. January 7, 2020 County Board minutes

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

Commissioners' Warrants		
Fund	Name	Amount
1	County Revenue Fund	\$ 215,726.67
13	County Road & Bridge	\$ 35,367.07
14	Sanitation Fund	\$ 2,166.35
23	County Airport Fund	\$ 1,386.74
73	Greenleafton Septic Project	\$ 3,895.00
91	Economic Development Auth.	\$ 10,120.25
	Subtotal	\$ 268,662.08
Finance Department Warrants		
1	County Revenue Fund	\$387,669.07
13	County Road & Bridge	\$3,388.94
14	Sanitation Fund	\$5,500.48
23	County Airport Fund	\$ 192.28
87	State Revenue & School Fund	\$5,024.50
	Subtotal	\$401,775.27
Totals		\$670,437.35

The Finance Department warrants were reviewed. Bakke made note that the lack of hauler's dumping will be having an effect on the Winneshiek Landfill Contract.

Todd Froberg from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources updated the Board on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) efforts in Fillmore County.

A motion was made by Bakke and seconded by Dahl to adopt a resolution to allow DNR access to some of the County Farm land for the purpose of disease control on the health of deer in Fillmore County for the time frame of January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020. The Chair called for a vote: Commissioner voting "aye": Bakke, Dahl, Hindt, Prestby. Commissioners voting "nay": Lentz. The motion prevailed. **RESOLUTION 2020-003:** DNR access to some of the County Farm land for the purpose of disease control.

The Citizen's Input portion of the meeting opened at 9:32 a.m.

Nancy Bratrud spoke in support of Fillmore County Refugee & Immigrant Placement. Stating we should welcome refugees because we are Americans with a sense of duty and ethical standards. Fillmore County has the ethic of helping others with kindness and graciousness.

Pam Seebach, Pastor of Mabel, Harmony, & Newburg United Methodist Church, is in support of the refugee letters. Stating all of us came from someplace else way back when and that everyone brings something that enriches each other's lives. She asked to keep Fillmore County enriched.

Pastor David Stoeger, Preston & Wykoff United Methodist Churches, gave an example of people that passed away due to trying to pass into another Country. He asked the County Board to open the door of compassion, do justice and open the County to others.

George Spangler, provided a written letter and urged the County to follow Governor Walz example by welcoming the resettlement of refugees. Immigration issues can go both ways, this can be a positive addition to society.

Mike Simpson, Holt Township resident, spoke regarding CWD and the effect of the disease. He has attended the presentations, the bad news is we have the CWD disease and the good news is we can address it. He encourages the Board and DNR to do a more aggressive distribution of information. Need to be aware of what is going on and how we can move forward. Encourages keeping the public informed and public meetings. Doesn't want us to wait and see what happens. Encourages greater emphasis on the process.

Kevin Johnson and John Zanmiller, Bristol Township, requested a regrade of County 15 on behalf of the township, they encourage going further than grind/overlay due to amount of truck traffic. They requested to hold off on that road so that they can seek out funding from the state. They have a plan to reintegrate rural America and would like to change the Granger area.

Bonita Underbakke, Holt Township resident, spoke regarding the executive order. She doesn't want our county to act like a Sundown County.

Kay Wold, retired Pastor from Lanesboro urges the County Board to allow refugees.

Dean Aponte Safe, Henrytown Lutheran Church Pastor also urges the Board to support the welcoming of refugees who are underserved. Our tight knit relationships here can be a beacon for a new way of live.

The Chair thanked the public for their comments and closed the citizens input portion of the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Heidi Jones, Auditor/Treasurer was present.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Lentz, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:
RESOLUTION 2020-004: Establish Absentee Ballot Board for 2020 Election Year

Auditor/Treasurer Jones requested to hire an intermittent temporary Election Technician to assist with the Presidential Nomination Primary. Noted the cost for temporary help would be reimbursed by the MN Department of State. Carrie Huffman is fully certified and trained as well as having years of experience.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved to hire Carrie Huffman at \$40/hour, not to exceed \$5,000 as intermittent temporary Election Technician for the Presidential Nomination Primary.

Kevin Olson, Social Services Manager was present.

Kevin Olson, Social Services Director requested approval and acceptance of the Refugee Resettlement in Fillmore County. Discussion ensued regarding the impact to Fillmore County and the funding that follows the refugees. Lentz noted that he did not want to take a position as a County Board. Bakke noted that per the Executive Order there was no choice but to take a position, as doing nothing takes a position to not allow the current process where refugees are allowed and funding follows. Social Services Manager Olson noted that Fillmore County has not had a refugee placed.

A motion was made by Dahl and seconded by Bakke to accept the Refugee Resettlement in Fillmore County. The Chair called for a vote: Commissioner voting "aye": Bakke, Dahl, Hindt, Prestby. Commissioners voting "nay": Lentz. The motion prevailed.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 10:14 a.m. and resumed back in session at 10:21 a.m.

Sheriff DeGeorge explained the needs for the vehicle setup and equipment that was questioned during the Commissioners' Warrants, noting that almost all of his equipment was transferred to the new vehicle except the antenna. He also noted that the equipment request was brought forth in the December 3rd meeting.

Ron Gregg, Highway Engineer discussed the Surface Reconditioning Projects for 2020, noting the projects include CSAH 15 from CSAH 44 to Granger and CSAH 34 from the West City limits of Mabel to TH 44.

The Commissioners decided to discuss both projects (CSAH 15 from CSAH 44) at the next meeting January 28, 2020.

Gregg reviewed the handout and gave "The State of Fillmore County's Infrastructure Report 2019" presentation.

Kristina Kohn, Human Resources was present.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved to hire Aimee Rodger for the Public Health Registered Nurse position, effective February 18, 2020 at Grade 11/Step 3, \$27.06/hour, due to experience, as requested by the Director of Nursing.

Bobbie Vickerman, County Administrator was present.

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

RESOLUTION 2020-005: adjust Resolution 2019-024 for DNR land purchased. The adjustment reflects a correction in the acreage from .9 acres to .84 acres and changed land description.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Bakke, the Board unanimously approved the agreement to provide interim

Assessor duties between Fillmore County and Winona County, giving Vickerman the authorization to seek signatures with any minimal changes by the Winona County Board, noting that any major changes must be brought back to Board for review.

Vickerman provided a list of 2020 Legislative Priorities for Fillmore County noting that the Legislators will be attending the Fillmore County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 28th.

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

Bakke: One Watershed One Plan meeting held on January 9th, he noted next meeting will February 24th

Hindt: Winneshiek County Landfill – no rate increase for 2020

Lentz: EMS, Workforce Development, CJCC, DAC, Bluff Country HRA

Dahl: didn't make SEMCAC

Hindt/Prestby: EM/Safety, Officers, First Aid – limited number of kits and down to one vendor.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Lentz, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.