

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA  
November 5, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners Convened with the following members present: Molly Malone, Lori Gunnink, Jackie Meier, Dennis Welgraven, and David Thiner. Also present: County Administrator Carolyn McDonald, General Assistant Emily Ackerman and County Attorney Travis Smith Via Zoom.

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, adding item number 4.6.4 to Sheriff Landsman.

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, Commissioner Malone will abstain from voting on the Ditch inspection report for CD 24.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

**3 - CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 3.1 - Approve the October 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes, with revisions.
- 3.2 - Approve the Commissioner Warrants dated 11/05/2024 for the amount of \$114,599.37 numbered 175617 through 175678.

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

**4.1.1 – DITCH BILLS**

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Welgraven, to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

***SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LISTING***

**Ankrum Excavating**

21-685-6290	CD 29	<u>7,729.53</u>	#2024-052	ok'd T. Radke on 10/22/2024
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>7,729.53</u></b>		

**Engbarth Directional Drilling, Inc**

21-667-6290	CD 20	<u>17,935.00</u>	#2023-029	ok'd T. Radke on 10/21/2024
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>17,935.00</u></b>		

**Rinke Noonan**

21-681-6260	CD 27	778.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 2
21-801-6260	JD 2S	778.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 2
21-803-6260	JD 2N	769.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 2
21-845-6260	JD 20	127.50	(M-N) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 2
21-653-6260	CD 4	753.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-661-6260	CD 13	753.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-665-6260	CD 19	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-677-6260	CD 24	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-685-6260	CD 29	820.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-691-6260	CD 32	727.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-731-6260	CD 52	727.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-745-6260	CD 59	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-747-6260	CD 60	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-757-6260	CD 65	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-777-6260	CD 77	702.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-787-6260	CD 86	944.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-789-6260	CD 87	727.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-791-6260	CD 89	753.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-853-6260	JD 22	25.50	(M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 3
21-659-6260	CD 11	153.00	CD 11/State Hwy 30 - Legal
21-683-6260	CD 28	76.50	Petition to Abandon - Legal
21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	08-2024 Monthly Retainer
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>13,326.50</u></b>	

**Total Ditch Bills 38,991.03**

#### **4.2.1 – DITCH INSPECTION REPORT**

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Gunnink, and carried that the Commissioners in conjunction with the appointed ditch inspector in and for the County of Murray, have examined and inspected that portion of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, lying within the County of Murray, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given thereon at a Murray County Board of Commissioner's meeting, held in the Commissioners Room of the Murray County Government Center, Slayton, Minnesota

- Petition 2024-065 (CD67, Mason Twp. Sec. 34, District 1 - Malone)
- Petition 2024-066 (CD65, Holly Twp. Sec. 32, District 1 - Malone)
- Petition 2024-067 (JD20A, Shetek Twp. Sec. 2, District 1 - Malone)

It was moved by Meier, seconded by Gunnink, and carried that the Commissioners in conjunction with the appointed ditch inspector in and for the County of Murray, have examined and inspected that portion of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, lying within the County of Murray, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given thereon at a Murray County Board of

Commissioner's meeting, held in the Commissioners Room of the Murray County Government Center, Slayton, Minnesota, the motion passed with a roll call vote as follows

Malone: Abstain

Gunnink: Yea

Meier: Yea

Welgraven: Yea

Thiner: Yea

- Petition 2024-068 (CD24, Shetek Twp. Sec. 34, District 1 - Malone)

#### **4.3.1 – HOSPITAL UPDATE**

##### **People**

- Dr Sanchez has completed his Comprehensive Advanced Life Support training and continues to acclimate himself to the hospital. In November, he will start seeing inpatients in the backup rotation with the other providers.

##### **Quality**

- Ambulance – Had the opportunity to meet with Congresswomen Fischbach on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Senator Klobuchar on October 7th to showcase the Avel eCare system in our ambulance rigs and the success of the pilot project over the last year. Funding has been secured for the next 3 years.
- Epic - Annually we have an Executive Packet review with the Epic team to determine our utilization of the EMR and any opportunities we can work on to continue to improve patient care through Epic. The review will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- AI - We continue to explore different options to integrate artificial intelligence into our processes to improve performance and efficiencies. Dax Copilot is a system used to enhance provider documentation and coding to improve efficiencies and also reduce provider burnout. A pilot has been rolled out at several Sanford locations in 2024 and potentially expanding in 2025.
- Sanford Performance Improvement Symposium – We have submitted our PI project around heart failure management. The symposium will be held on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> and Amber Humphrey and Tracy Hansen will be presenting for MCMC.
- IV fluid shortage – With the recent hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida a plant that produced the IV fluids for medical centers was offline and is currently affecting the availability.

##### **Growth**

- Dr Clark, Dr Steffen and Dr Jaeger's first clinic days went well. Dr Larson had his first urology clinic day on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Strategic Planning – Our session will be held on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning a Provider Strategic Planning session on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Sanford's Annual Summit on the Future of Rural Health Care will be held on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and I am planning to participate virtually.

##### **Financials**

- X-ray Machine Replacement – We are in the process of getting updated quotes to

replace the machine. The replacement is going to require some renovation to the current radiology space to fit a new machine which will increase the costs of the project. Plan to complete early 2025.

- MN Debt Fairness Act – Became law as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Law creates further transparency in the debt collection process, prohibits providers from refusing care do to outstanding medical debts, prevents debts from being transferred to one's spouse, ensures medical debt does not impact credit scores, limits predatory collection processes, and adjusts wage garnishment caps.

## **Statistics**

- Acute - 12 admissions for 33 total patient days. YTD that is 25 more admissions and 88 more patient days then 2023.
- swing had 2 admits for 38 total patient days. 7 less admissions but 92 more patient days compared to 2023.
- Observation stays were at 12 patients compared to 13 last year. YTD we are down 20 total. Most of the decrease is related to the increase in acute admissions above.
- Surgery procedures were at 47 for the month compared to 28 the previous year. YTD we are +73 and surgery continues to build!
- ER visits were 130. YTD, we have seen 17 more patients in the ER compared to 2023.
- Clinic visits were at 741. YTD we are 726 ahead of 2023.

## **Balance Sheet**

- Our overall cash position increased by **\$294,474**. We currently have a total cash available of **\$9,931,351**
- We saw a decrease in patient receivables of **\$384,690** and total receivables is at **\$5,932,763**
  - Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = **53.2% or \$3,157,937**
  - AR Days decreased **4** days and currently sits at **64.9** days. Goal is to be under **50** days

## **Income Statement**

- Gross revenue was \$2,532,960 & below budget by **\$61,676**
  - Hospital IP revenue below budget by **\$121,922**
  - Hospital OP revenue above budget by **\$6,050**
  - Clinic revenue above budget by **\$54,197**
- Contractual adjustments higher than budget by **\$75,034**
- Expenses lower than budget by **\$9,025**
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = **\$-28,565 -1<sup>st</sup> negative in 2024**
- For the month we had a negative net income equal to **\$100,161** and YTD are a positive **\$267,214**

### **4.4.1 – HANDRAILS FOR NEW SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENTRANCE**

The Sheriff's Office entrance was reconstructed to address safety and usability concerns. The original project was funded under ARPA. At that time, handrails were not included with the project because the contractors who were willing to provide estimates asked to do so after the final project was completed. Nathan has obtained two estimates from contractors for the handrail

at the Sheriff's Office entrance. Based on the estimates, Nathan proposes a "Not to Exceed" cost of \$9,000.00 for the project.

Ahlers Welding and Fabrication \$6,822.83 (Alternate \$6,334.08)

Wendorff Welding and Fabrication \$10,475.00

<b>Budget Summary for:</b>	01-110-113-6640
	<i>(Originally budgeted in 114-6640, moved to 113-6640)</i>
<b>Budgeted in 2024:</b>	10,000.00
<b>2024 YTD Expenditures:</b>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance Available:</b>	<u>10,000.00</u>
<b>Quoted Price:</b>	<b><u>9,000.00</u></b>
<b>2024 Budget Balance (if approved)</b>	<u>1,000.00</u>

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink, to authorize the installation of handrails for the new Sheriff's Office entrance, and to accept the low estimate with a "Not to Exceed" cost of \$9,000.00, to be paid from account code: 01-110-113-6640. Motion Passed.

#### **4.5.1 – FAIRGROUNDS RENT FOR DAKOTA 38 RIDE**

The Dakota 38 Horse ride to Mankato will be coming through Slayton on December 19th. The ride consists of approximately 20-25 riders and 25 support people. They are looking to rent the 4-H building and horse arena to keep their horses overnight.

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Welgraven, to allow the Dakota 38 ride to rent the 4-H Building and Horse Arena to keep their horses overnight. Motion Passed.

#### **4.5.2 – SELF SERVICE KAYAKS AT SUNDQUIST PARK ON WEST LAKE SARAH**

The parks board has discussed the idea of getting a self-service kayak rental station put up at Sundquist Park on West Lake Sarah. Justin has been working with Chris Rosenberg with Rent Fun and he said if we want to get our rental station setup first thing in the spring we will need to get on the install list soon. If we wait until after the first of the year, we may be looking at an install date of late summer rather than early spring. Justin is looking for approval to get signed up on the install list to get an early install locked in. If we change our mind on this, we can get out of the deal at no cost (see contract wording below).

**1. PAYMENT CONTINGENT ON FUNDING APPROVAL.** Operator acknowledges that Landowner's ability to make payment under this contract is contingent upon the receipt of funding. In the event that Landowner does not receive the necessary board approval and funding, Landowner shall have the right to cancel this contract without incurring any cancelation fees or penalties. To exercise Landowner's right to cancel due to non-receipt of funding, Landowner must provide written notice to the Company by July 1, 2025, at the latest. Upon receiving valid written notice of cancelation as described above, this contract shall be considered terminated, and the Client shall have no further obligation to make any payments under this contract. All payments shall be made without deduction for withholding taxes. Late payments shall be subject to fees at the rate of 1.5% per month or, if lower, the maximum rate allowed by law. Such fees shall be deducted from the first Annual Revenue Share Payment sent to Landowner under Schedule B, Section C.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone, to sign the self-service agreement to get on the install list for self-service kayaks at Sundquist Park on West Lake Sarah. Motion Passed.

#### **4.5.3 – RACETRACK DIRT**

The racing association was contacted by Ground Zero to see if they were interested in some black dirt to put on the racetrack from a new substation that is being built south of Slayton. They will have approximately 1,000 yards of dirt for \$4.00 per yard. The last time the county paid to have dirt added to the track was about 6 years ago. There was \$10,000 budgeted under account code: 01-110-115-0000-6302 and only \$5,000 spent so far this year.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Gunnink, to purchase unto \$4,000 worth of dirt (1,000 yards) to put on the racetrack from Ground Zero. Account code 01-110-115-0000-6302. Motion Passed.

#### **4.6.1 – UPFITTING FOR UNIT #181**

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Gunnink, to approve up-fitting for unit #181 by Midwest Police and Command Vehicles for the estimated price of \$7118.82. Motion Passed.

#### **4.6.2 – ADDENUM TO LYON COUNTY JAIL CONTRACT**

Lyon County increased the contract price for jail services to \$65.00/day in 2024, Lyon County wishes to amend the contract for 2025 and increase the cost to \$75.00/day.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Meier, to approve the 2025 Lyon County Jail Addendum increasing the cost to \$75.00/day for inmate housing and authorize the Board Chair and the Sheriff to sign the agreement on behalf of Murray County. Motion Passed.

#### **4.6.3 – 2024 JAIL INSPECTION UPDATE**

Sheriff Heath Landsman presented an update on the 2024 Jail Inspection Report to the Board. This is the first year that Murray County has been on a 2-year jail inspection report since Sheriff Landsman has been employed with Murray County as they have been annual inspections in the past.

#### **4.6.4 – SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPOUND LOT IMPROVEMENT**

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone, to approve the estimate from Engelkes Electric in the amount of \$4,569.50 for the Sheriff's Office Impound Lot Improvements. Motion Passed.

#### **4.7.1 – APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT FOR MAINTENANCE STRIPING PROJECT CP 01-24**

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Meier, to approve final payment to Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC for maintenance striping project CP 01-24. Motion Passed.

#### **4.7.2 – FINAL PAYMENT FOR 2024 OVERLAY PROJECTS**

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Meier, to approve making final payment of \$244,693.26 to Duininck, Inc. for projects: SAP 051-601-017, SAP 051-604- 032, SAP 051-631-011, SP 051-604-031 & SP 051-605-010. Motion Passed.

#### **4.7.3 – DISCUSS SALE OF CURRIE SHOP**

There have been a few parties interested in purchasing the Currie Highway Shop.

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Thiner, to list the Currie Highway Department Shop and all of the items on the land as surplus property Parcel #23-150-0020. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Thiner, to approve putting the Currie Highway Department Shop up for sale, to local government units with the minimum price at market value with an option to increase at bid opening. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Meier, to set the bid opening for Tuesday December 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. with the right to reject all bids. Motion Passed.

#### **4.7.4 – ADOPT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 5-YEAR ROAD AND BRIDGE PLAN**

Discussion was had about the funding options for paving the parking lot at the Highway Department and other road projects for the next 5 years.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Meier, to approve the Highway Department's 5-year road and bridge plan. Motion Passed with a roll call vote as follows:

**Malone:** Nay

**Gunnink:** Nay

**Meier:** Yea

**Welgraven:** Yea

**Thiner:** Yea

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m.

The meeting came back into session at 9:51 a.m.

#### **4.8.1 – DOUG RUPP – PELICAN BAY 2<sup>ND</sup> ADDITION REZONING**

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on October 17, 2024, for this rezoning request.

The Murray County Planning Commission was split on this request such that there is no recommendation to be brought forward to the County Board. The County Board has the following two options:

1. Remand the Doug Rupp - Pelican Bay 2nd Addition Rezoning Request to the Murray County Planning Commission to gather additional information to adopt findings and make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to either approve or deny the request. With this option, the County Board must also adopt a 60-day extension as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 15.99 3(f) to extend the decision timeline by 60-days.

2. The Murray County Board of Commissioners must review all documents considered to be part of the record for the Doug Rupp - Pelican Bay 2nd Addition Rezoning Request, including but not limited to the public notice, the drafted Findings of Fact, the October 17, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes, and all submittals. Then, based on the application, the public hearing minutes, and all facts presented as part of the process, including the drafted findings of fact, make conclusions on the five rezoning questions before making a motion to either approve or deny the rezoning request.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink, to remand the Doug Rupp - Pelican Bay 2nd Addition Rezoning Request to the Murray County Planning Commission to gather additional information to adopt findings and make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to either approve or deny the request. With this option, the County Board must also adopt a 60-day extension as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 15.99 3(f) to extend the decision timeline by 60-days. Motion Passed.

#### **4.9.1 - SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2025 FEE SCHEDULE**

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven, to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the 2025 Fee Schedule on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. Motion Passed.

#### **4.9.2 – MEDICAL EXAMINER CONTRACT**

Costs in the Medical Examiner Contract will be increasing in 2025. Prices between Ramsey and Murray County have stayed the same for more than two decades; only the testing for toxicology, microscope stains, and bacterial cultures has increased, and they are billed directly. The increase will be an additional \$250 per autopsy and \$150 per external examination. The total cost for an autopsy with toxicology, microscopy, or bacterial cultures would be approximately \$3000 per case between the Ramsey County and River Valley Forensic Services invoices. The total cost for an external examination with toxicology or bacterial cultures would be \$1000 per case between the Ramsey County and River Valley Forensic Services invoices. There is also a homicide/treat suspicious upcharge beginning in 2025 for the additional materials and staff time. The upcharge will be \$250 per case.

The contract is written as a one-year contract; however, Murray County may consider a multiyear contract, which the Board may change on page 5 of the contract. Minnesota statutes allow a maximum of a four-year contract.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Meier, to approve the Medical Examiner Contract beginning January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2025. Motion Passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 13 – 26, 2024.**

#### **Malone**

- 10/14/24** SAWs
- 10/15/24** Commissioner Meeting, Investment Committee
- 10/18/24** Road Tour

**10/21/24** Water Planning

**10/22/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/23/24** MCMC  
**10/24/24** District 8

#### **Gunnink**

**10/13/24** Historical Society  
**10/14/24** SAWS  
**10/15/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/16/24** Plum Creek Library  
**10/18/24** County Road Tour  
  
**10/22/24** Commissioner Meeting

#### **Meier**

**10/15/24** Commissioner Meeting, Investment Committee  
**10/16/24** SWHHS  
**10/17/24** Casey Jones  
**10/18/24** Road Tour  
  
**10/21/24** Hospital Finance & Personnel  
**10/22/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/23/24** MCMC  
**10/24/24** District 8

#### **Welgraven**

**10/16/24** SWHHS  
**10/18/24** Road Tour  
**10/21/24** Water Planning  
**10/22/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/23/24** Personnel  
**10/24/24** District 8

#### **Thiner**

**10/15/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/17/24** Planning & Zoning  
**10/18/24** Road Tour  
  
**10/21/24** SMOC  
**10/22/24** Commissioner Meeting  
**10/24/24** District 8

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

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Jackie Meier, Board Chair