

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
March 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Lori Gunnink, James Kluis, David Thiner and Dennis Welgraven. Commissioners; Molly Malone via Zoom. Also present in person was General Assistant, Samantha McClellan, Human Resources Director, Ronda Radke. County Attorney, Travis Smith, via Zoom.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda, there were no additions.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve the agenda as presented.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022, meeting.

OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present for open forum.

APPROVAL OF EDA LOAN

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve a loan in the amount of \$16,000 from the EDA Revolving Loan Fund to Thomas Salentiny for purchase of Feed Shak.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink and passed that all claims as presented were approved for payment. The Chairman was authorized to sign the Audit List dated March 15, 2022 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 167600 through 167658:

County Revenue Fund	62,654.18
County Road & Bridge Fund	22,584.16
Self-Insurance	155.00
Hospital	220.00
Sunrise Terrace	1,000.99
SAWS	159.00
Total	86,773.33

SUBORDINATION REQUESTS

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Thiner and passed to approve a subordination agreement for Murray County Tax Parcel ID# 20-003-0090 for a Murray County Septic Lien (Recorded Document #263713), further moving to authorize the Auditor-Treasurer and Vice-chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve a subordination agreement for Murray County Tax Parcel ID# 07-025-0042 for a Murray County Septic Lien (Recorded Document #245019), further moving to authorize the Auditor-Treasurer and Vicechair to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

CITY CONTRACTS

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve the 2022 City Contracts, with the exception of Iona, and give authorization for the Board Vice-chair and Chief Deputy to sign the contracts on behalf of Murray County.

MURRAY COUNTY FEEDLOT REPORT

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve the Murray County feedlot report with the name change from Lyon to Murray County in the letter from the Environmental Specialist Watershed Division.

MINNESOTA REPETITIVE OF NAISMA REQUEST

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink and passed for Jon Bloemendaal to represent Minnesota and Murray County in NAISMA.

INCREASED VALUES UPDATE

Assessor, Marcy Barritt, gave an update on land values increasing. Agriculture land will be going up 10-15%, and residential 20-30%. She informed the board that if the county does not increase the values the state will.

CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EAW

Jean Christoffels presented the Murray County Planning Commission's recommendation for a negative declaration for an EIS for the CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) Improvement Project EAW.

Commissioner Thiner presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2022-03-15-01
NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR CSAH 13 (VALHALLA ROAD) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Rules, Chapter 4410, part 4410.1000, Subpart 3, Murray County as the responsible governmental unit completed and Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the project as identified in the CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) Improvement Project EAW; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota EQB Rules, Chapter 4410, and as a result of common ownership and connected actions, the project meets the thresholds for an EAW for Public waters, public waters wetlands, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, copies of the EAW were distributed to all persons and agencies on the official EQB mailing list prior to February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, notice of the availability of the EAW for public review for a 30-day comment period was published in the *EQB Monitor* and on the Murray County website on February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of the CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) Improvement Project EAW and comments received on the EAW have generated information adequate to determine whether the proposed project has the potential for significant environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) Improvement Project is expected to comply with all Murray County and review agency standards; and

WHEREAS, based on the criteria established in Minnesota Rules 4410.1700, the project does not have the potential for significant environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions, the project does not have the potential for significant environmental impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Murray County Board of Commissioners, Murray County, Minnesota as follows:

That it should and hereby does make a negative declaration on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the CSAH 13 (Valhalla Road) Improvement Project EAW.

Adopted in regular session of the Murray County Board of Commissioners, of Murray County, Minnesota held this 15 day of March, 2022.

Dennis Welgraven, Vice Chair

Attest:

Samantha McClellan, General Assistant

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Gunnink and thereupon being put to a vote, all members of the Board voted for its adoption.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX DISCUSSION

Zoning/Environmental Administrator, Jean Christoffels, led a discussion on the decreased wind production tax. Murray County received approximately \$439,000 less than what was estimated for 2021 wind production tax. Jean contacted the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; they suggested that the county contact Fenton Power Partners directly or file a letter of concern directly onto the E dockets. After some discussion about the reduction, the board agreed to wait until after the Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting on March 28, 2022, before moving forward.

DEPUTY SHERIFF

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve a contingent offer to Derek VanDam as a full-time Deputy Sheriff, at a labor grade 11 step 1 with a start date to be determined and contingent on: (1) Satisfactory results of a criminal background check (2) Satisfactory results of a pre-employment drug test (3) Satisfactory results of a psychological evaluation (4) Satisfactory results of a physical agility testing (5) Satisfactory results of a medical evaluation. Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve a contingent offer to Touhoua (Tommy) Lee as a full-time Deputy Sheriff, at a labor grade 11 step 1 with a start date to be determined and contingent on: (1) Satisfactory results of a criminal background check (2) Satisfactory results of a pre-employment drug test (3) Satisfactory results of a psychological evaluation (4) Satisfactory results of a physical agility testing (5) Satisfactory results of a medical evaluation. Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

SUNRISE TERRACE MEAL SERVER

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve hiring Joyce Lupkes as a part-time Sunrise Terrace Meal Server at a labor grade 1, step 10. With at start date of March 18, 2022. Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check and a pre-employment drug test.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Thiner and passed to approve hiring Chantal Redar as a part-time Sunrise Terrace Meal Server at a labor grade 1, step 10. With a start date of March 25, 2022. Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check and a pre-employment drug test.

DEPUTY ASSESSOR CMA

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve promoting Karla Ray to a Deputy Assessor CMA at a labor grade 9, step 1 effective March 4, 2022.

RESIGNATION

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink and passed to accept the resignation of the Jail Administrator per agreement effective March 4, 2022.

RESIGNATION AND RECRUITMENT OF SUNRISE TERRACE DIRECTOR

Human Resources Director, Ronda Radke informed the board that Carol Veldhuisen gave notice of her resignation effective April 29, 2022.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve the recruitment process for a regular full-time Sunrise Terrace Director.

COMMITTEE UPDATES FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 20 – MARCH 5, 2022

Molly Malone gave an update on the Casey Jones Trail having a bill for \$1,490,000.00 in the House and Senate, if anyone wants to call and show more support, more coauthors could be used.

Commissioner Welgraven reported that his township meetings were mostly positive. The biggest concern of discussion was the wind production tax.

It was moved by Kluis seconded by Gunnink and passed to approve the committee updates for the period of February 20 – March 5, 2022.

10: 00 A.M. WORK SESSION – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT

The board held a work session to discuss moving forward with the hiring of a new administrator.

Commissioner Malone expressed interest in hiring an interim to get feedback and set expectations off a County Administrator who has extensive experience.

Commissioners Gunnink felt that the focus of the interim would be to help the board get a better understanding of the role of the County Administrator. Commissioners Gunnink and Commissioner Welgraven reached out to the retired County Administrator from Jackson County to get feedback from her on the pros and cons of an interim.

The board asked that Human Resources Director, Ronda Radke send out the County Administrator Job Description to the board to review.

Commissioner Gunnink brought up concerns regarding the employees the County Administrator supervises. Those employees currently do not have a direct report. Commissioner Thiner feels the chair and vice-chair should take on that role for the time being. Commissioner Malone would like to look at who the County Administrator oversees.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve advertising for the County Administrator position locally, with the current job description.

The board gave consensus to look into hiring an interim.

The meeting adjourned 10:20 a.m.

ATTEST:

Samantha McClellan, General Assistant

Molly Malone, Chairman of the Board