

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 20, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Molly Malone, Lori Gunnink, Jim Kluis, Dennis Welgraven, and David Thiner. Also present in person, General Assistant Emily Ackerman, County Administrator Carolyn McDonald, County Attorney, Travis Smith via Zoom.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda, Auditor Heidi Winter requested that the cemetery assessments be added to the meeting on Thursday regarding the Redetermination of Benefits. Commissioner Thiner asked to get a work session scheduled.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve the agenda with additions.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Welgraven to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2022 meeting with changes. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to approve all claims for payment. The Board Chair was authorized to sign the Audit List dated September 20, 2022, with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 169126 through 169192. Motion Passed

County Revenue Fund	82,673.10
County Road & Bridge Fund	29,429.92
EDA	235.00
Ditch	95.91
Sunrise Terrace	1,174.61
SAWS	175.15
Total	113,783.69

See next page for listing

DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority. Motion Passed.

Bolton & Menk

21-674-6260	CD 22 Imp	20,112.00	Construction Management Services-
21-810-810-6260	JD 6 Imp	584.00	Engineering Services - Improvement
21-667-6260	CD 20	160.50	2021-029 Ok'd by T. Radke or 9/6/2022
21-829-6260	JD 14	160.50	2022-001 Ok'd by T. Radke or 9/6/2022
21-829-6260	JD 14	160.50	2022-002 Ok'd by T. Radke or 9/6/2022
	Subtotal	<u>21,177.50</u>	

Prairie View Farms, LLC

21-823-6290	JD 12	3,896.70	#2020-030 Ok'd by T. Radke or 9/8/2022
	Subtotal	<u>3,896.70</u>	

Rinke Noonan

21-657-6260	CD 7	452.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-663-6260	CD 14	884.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-667-6260	CD 20	298.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-669-6260	CD 21	452.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-675-6260	CD 23	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-679-6260	CD 26	318.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-693-6260	CD 34	298.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-701-6260	CD 38	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-705-6260	CD 41	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-717-6260	CD 45A	334.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-719-6260	CD 46	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-721-6260	CD 47	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-725-6260	CD 49	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-727-6260	CD 50	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-733-6260	CD 53	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-743-6260	CD 58	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-755-6260	CD 64	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-759-6260	CD 66	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-783-6260	CD 81	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-815-6260	JD 9	298.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-817-6260	JD 9A	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
21-833-6260	JD 16	277.50	Redetermination of Benefits-Group
	Subtotal	<u>7,221.00</u>	

Total Ditch Bills 32,295.20

COUNTY DITCH 22 IMPROVEMENT – PAY REQUEST #2

Bid Amount (approved 2/1/2022): \$377,521.52

Change Orders: 0.00

Contract Sum to Date: \$377,521.52

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone to approve the County Ditch 22 Improvement Pay Request No. 3 to Noomen Excavating, LLC for \$20,424.63. Motion Passed.

CHANGES TO HEARING ON THURSDAY FOR REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS

County Ditch 7 and County Ditch 26 have cemeteries within the benefited area. County Ditch No 7 runs concurrent with another county and will be discussed at another time. Auditor Winter will look into other cemetery assessments, if any, and suggest possible changes.

DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven 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. Motion Passed.

- Petition 2022-033 (CD 34, Ellsborough Twp. Sec.23, District 2–Gunnink)

APPROVE SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS & RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA

Commissioner Malone offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09-20-01

A Resolution Supporting

Local Control for Local Elections and Ranked Choice Voting for State and Federal Elections in Minnesota

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level where it would promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, eliminate the spoiler problem, reduce extremism, and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivizing compromise and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, RCV is used in elections in Maine and Alaska and in countries around the world, including Ireland, Scotland, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled Minnesota voters who use RCV consistently say that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;

- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning;
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns; and

WHEREAS, all Minnesota townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, Murray County supports Ranked Choice Voting for all state and federal elections. Murray County also supports removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

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. The resolution was passed with a 3 to 2 roll call vote:

Malone: Yes

Gunnink: Yes

Kluis: No

Welgraven: No

Thiner: Yes

ANCILLARY BENEFITS

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve switching to employer paid Long Term Disability with a 3-month elimination period and a change of company to The Hartford beginning January 1, 2023, the motion was passed with a 3 to 2 roll call vote as follows:

Thiner: No

Welgraven: Yes

Kluis: No

Gunnink: Yes

Malone: Yes

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink to approve changing Short Term Disability from a 6-month duration to a 3-month duration beginning January 1, 2023. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Kluis and passed to approve switching Dental Benefits from Health Partners to Ameritas with a \$1,500 per person maximum for beginning January 1, 2023. Motion Passed.

WORK SESSION DATE

It was discussed to have a work session on Tuesday September 27th, 2022 during the regular board meeting to discuss multiple projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF September 4 – September 17, 2022

Commissioner Malone: 9/6 Commissioner Meeting, 9/14-9/16 AMC Fall Conference.

Commissioner Gunnink: 9/6 Commissioner Meeting, 9/7 Leeds solar project, 9/14-9/16 AMC Fall Conference.

Commissioner Kluis: 9/6 Commissioner Meeting, 9/12 Hospital Board Meeting.

Commissioner Welgraven: 9/6 Commissioner Meeting, 9/8 SRDC Meeting, 9/13 Building Meeting, 9/14-9/16 AMC Fall Conference.

Commissioner Thiner: 9/6 Commissioner Meeting, 9/13 Building Meeting.

The meeting adjourned 9:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

Molly Malone, Board Chair