

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
March 7, 2023 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, Dennis Welgraven, and David Thiner. Also present in person, General Assistant Emily Ackerman, County Administrator Carolyn McDonald, County Attorney Travis Smith via Zoom. Commissioner Meier was absent.

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, Commissioner Attendance at the planning commission meeting set for Thursday March 16th, 2023. The Commissioners will be touring the parks building after the meeting today, the meeting will adjourn from the Parks Building.

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

No Conflicts of interest were identified.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2023, meeting without changes. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Thiner and passed that all claims as presented were approved for payment. The Chairman was authorized to sign the Audit List dated March 7, 2023 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 170595 through 170630:

County Revenue Fund	20,713.21
County Road & Bridge Fund	52,235.55
Sunrise Terrace	850.00
Total	73,798.76

DITCH BILLS

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

See Next Page for Listing

Bolton & Menk

21-674-6260	CD 22	1,432.00	Engineering Services for Improvement	
21-706-6260	CD 41	876.00	Engineering Services for Improvement	
21-829-6260	JD 14	5,846.40	#2022-001 & 2022-002 ok'd by T. Rake on	Gunnink-2
21-667-6260	CD 20	2,505.60	#2021-029 Ok'd by T. Radke or 1/13/2023	Gunnink-2
	Subtotal	10,660.00		

H2Overviewers

21-657-6289	Joint CD 7	12,882.99	ROB - additional 3346.23 acres	
21-657-6289	Joint CD 7	1,203.74	ROB - JD8 acres - outlet	
21-669-6289	Joint CD 21	7,209.63	ROB - additional 1872.63 acres	
21-663.6289	Joint CD 14	344.42	ROB - additional 89.46 acres	
21-663.6289	Joint CD 14	2,500.00	ROB - Lake Attenuation (Nelson Marsh)	
	Subtotal	24,140.78		

Riley Land Improvements, LLC

21-761-6290	CD 67	516.00	#2022-042 ok'd by T. Radke 3/2/2023	
	Subtotal	516.00		

Rinke Noonan

21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	Monthly Retainer	
21-674-6260	CD 22	186.00	CD 22 Improvement/Appeal -	
21-810-810-6260	JD 6	22.50	JD 6 Improvement - Legal	
21-657-6260	CD 7	2,250.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group	
21-669-6260	CD 21	2,250.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group	
	Subtotal	4,908.50		

Total Ditch Bills 40,225.28

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone and passed to approve the 2022 Audit Engagement Letter with the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor, further moving to authorize the County Board Chair, County Administrator and County Auditor-Treasurer to sign the letter on behalf of the county. Motion Passed.

FINAL PLAT AUTUMN BLAZE ESTATES

The Planning Commission reviewed the final plat for Autumn Blaze Estates First Addition on February 16, 2023.

Approval of Planning Commission's recommendation on the following Final Plat:

- Autumn Blaze Estates First Addition
- Outlot A, Block 3, Autumn Blaze Estates, Section 35, Lake Sarah Township, Murray County
- Application #354
- Final Plat for one (1) non-riparian lot in the Residential and Shoreland Overlay Districts on a General Development Lake.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone to approve the Final Plat for Autumn Blaze Estates First Addition Plat Application #354 for one (1) non-riparian lot in the Residential and Shore land Overlay Districts on a General Development Lake for Out lot A, Block 3, Autumn

Blaze Estates, Section 35, Lake Sarah Township as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Passed.

LAKE SARAH DAM GRANT

On December 15, 2020, Houston Engineering (HEI) presented the project scope and client services agreement to the Board for the Lake Sarah Dam Modification project. The County Board passed the following motion:

LAKE SARAH DAM PROJECT SCOPE/CONTRACT APPROVAL

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Thiner and passed to approve Houston Engineering Inc. project scope and budget proposal for task one, in the amount of \$37,490.

Task one included securing project funding and complete applications. Now that the County has received and approved the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant, it is time to move into Tasks 2 - Project Design, Task 3 - Project Permitting, and Task 4 - Construction Administration, Management, Observation, and Staking. HEI has submitted an updated Engineering Fee Estimate, that matches what was provided in the CPL grant application, for the Lake Sarah Dam project.

HEI has given a general timeline for the project as developing construction plan set in March and April, bidding the project as early as August, with construction to start in the fall if conditions allow. Construction is expected to be completed in the winter with any cleanup and seeding to happen in the spring of 2024, with the surrounding area largely restored by June 30, 2024, barring any extreme flooding in the spring.

It was moved by Gunnink, and seconded by Welgraven to approve and authorize Houston Engineering Inc. to move forward with tasks two, three, and four for the Lake Sarah Dam Modification project as proposed in the HEI Client/Owner Services Agreement and in accordance with the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant. Motion Passed.

PUC 2021 MINNESTA BIENNIAL TRANSMISSION PROJECTS REPORT COMMENTS

Due to the geography of our region, over 70% of the energy produced in Minnesota comes from just six rural counties (Lincoln, Mower, Jackson, Nobles, Pipestone, Murray). This concentration of production in sparsely populated communities means the tax generated has a big impact.

Murray County has witnessed notably decreased activity of the Fenton Power Partners 1, LLC wind turbines. The explanation given by the wind farm owners is that imposed curtailments were due to economic dispatch drivers. Another reason for curtailment was the inadequacies of transmission lines in our region.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued a Notice of Comment Period on January 30, 2023, In the Matter of the 2021 Minnesota Biennial Transmission Projects Report, PUC Docket Number: E999/M-21-111. This comment period is Murray County's opportunity to express concerns regarding the impacts realized from the inadequacies of transmission lines in our region, which equates to curtailment of existing wind farms, and reduced renewable energy production tax.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink to submit comments on behalf of Murray County to the PUC regarding Docket Number: E999/M-21 -111. Motion Passed.

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Luke Schryvers Murray County Medical Center CEO presented an update on quality, physician recruitment, growth, financials, and a COVID update. As of Monday March 6, 2023 MCMC has gone from “high” category of COVID to a “substantial” category of COVID and will be able to start adjusting the masking protocols.

COLORECTAL CENTER AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Darlene Mechtenberg from the Murray County Medical Center provided statistics on Colorectal Cancer and asked the board to proclaim the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Commissioner Gunnink presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03-07-01

A Resolution Proclaiming March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is currently the second-leading cause of cancer death in the United States;

WHEREAS: 25-30% of patients with colorectal cancer have a family history of the disease; and

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable, and 80% of colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented with screening; and

WHEREAS: Declaring Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month helps raise awareness for this cancer; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is dedicated to increasing community awareness and prevention strategies, such as screening, so fewer people are negatively impacted by colorectal cancer.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and thereupon being put to a vote all members voted for its adoption.

CITY CONTRACTS WITH SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Approve the annual contracts with Chandler, Lake Wilson, Hadley, Iona, Avoca, Currie, and Dovray

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to approve the 2023 contracts with Chandler, Lake Wilson, Hadley, Iona, Avoca, Currie and Dovray. Motion Passed.

The Meeting Recessed at 9:14 a.m.

The Meeting came back into session at 9:20 a.m.

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

The County Attorney's office accesses the BCA's eCharging platform to file criminal charges through a joint power's agreement with the BCA. The JPA needs to be renewed periodically.

It was moved by Gunnink seconded by Welgraven to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Murray County authorizing the Murray County Board Chair and Murray County Administrator to sign the contract. Motion Passed.

WATER MAIN EXTENSION

Per City of Slayton Public Works Director, Weston Mahon, Core & Main and Hodgman are the low bids for materials and labor to install the water main at the site of the new highway building. The bid is just over the \$50,000 threshold for Building Committee and Administrator approval. The 2-23-23 Budget attachment indicate that \$91,000 was budgeted for this in owner items.

68,299.70 materials

76,400 install

\$144,699.70 total (\$53,699.70 over owner budgeted item)

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to approve the Contract Agreement with the City of Slayton for the water main, water service extension and sewer service extension for the Murray County highway new building and accept bid from Hodgman Drainage Company. Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 4, 2023

Commissioner Malone: 2/20 Hospital Finance Committee, 2/21 Commissioner Meeting & MN Rural Counties, 2/22-2/23 AMC Legislative Conference, 2/27 SHERC Transmission Line Open House, 2/28 Commissioner Meeting & Draft Transmission Comments Meeting, 3/1 Hospital Board & Board Training, 3/2 EDA, Casey Jones.

Commissioner Gunnink: 2/21 Commissioner Meeting, 2/22-2/23 AMC Legislative Conference, 2/28 Commissioner Meeting.

Commissioner Welgraven: 2/21 Commissioner Meeting, 2/22-2/23 AMC Legislative Conference, 2/24 SRDC Budget and Personnel Committee, 2/27 SWHHS Opioid Settlement Meeting, Western Mental Health, 2/28 Commissioner Meeting, 3/2 EDA Meeting.

Commissioner Thiner: 2/21 Commissioner Meeting, 2/22-2/23 AMC Legislative Conference, 2/27 SMOC, 3/1 Land use with Planning and Zoning, 3/2 Policy Committee Meeting

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m.

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

TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEETINGS TUESDAY MARCH 14TH

Auditor/Treasurer Heidi Winter provided the commissioners information on the township association meetings scheduled for Tuesday March 14, 2023.

The meeting recessed at 9:58 a.m.

The meeting adjourned from the Park Building and 10:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

Molly Malone, Board Chair