

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA  
July 18, 2023 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present; Molly Malone, Lori Gunnink, Dennis Welgraven, and David Thiner. Also present: 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, County Administrator Carolyn McDonald had an addition of the settlement Murray County vs. Public Employees Retirement Association, OAH matter number 82-3600-38444.

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

No Conflicts of interest were identified.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Thiner, to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2023 meeting without changes. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink that all claims as presented were approved for payment. The Chairman was authorized to sign the Audit List dated July 18, 2023 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 171625 through 171686:

County Revenue Fund	100,228.01
County Road & Bridge Fund	15,862.99
EDA	15.00
Ditch	112.59
Self-Insurance	548.46
Sunrise Terrace	854.25
SAWS	159.00
Total	117,780.30

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*

**Johnson Ditching, Inc**

21-719-6290	CD 46	<u>2,121.50</u>	#2023-017 & 2023-010	Ok'd by T. Radke or 7/6/2023
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>2,121.50</u></b>		

**Corey Johnson (beaver trapping)**

21-667-6293	CD 20	<u>600.00</u>	#2022-037	Ok'd by T. Radke or 6/27/2023
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>600.00</u></b>		

**Opdahl Farm Drainage, LLC**

21-765-6290	CD 72	<u>2,925.00</u>	#2023-023	Ok'd by T. Radke or 7/11/2023
21-761-6290	CD 67	<u>23,068.28</u>	#2023-004	Ok'd by T. Radke or 7/11/2023
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>25,993.28</u></b>		

**Prairie View Farms, LLC**

21-665-6290	CD 19	<u>2,037.92</u>	#2022-026	Ok'd by T. Radke or 7/11/2023
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>2,037.92</u></b>		

**Rinke Noonan**

21-868-6290	Admin	<u>200.00</u>	06/2023 Monthly Retainer	
21-659-6260	CD 11	<u>1,443.00</u>	CD 11/State Hwy 30 - Legal	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>1,643.00</u></b>		

**Total Ditch Bills 32,395.70**

**SUBORNIATION REQUEST**

Murray County has a septic loan program to improve and upgrade failing septic systems. These loans are paid back as special assessments on the property taxes. A lien is also filed on the property. From time to time a lender will request that the county subordinate and let their mortgage go ahead of the county lien, typically with a refinance.

Approval of a subordination agreements for septic lien and authorization for Auditor-Treasurer and Board Chair to sign subordination agreement on behalf of the county.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve a subordination agreement for Murray County Tax Parcel ID# 18-146-0030 for a Murray County Septic Lien (Recorded Document #257948), further moving to authorize the Auditor-Treasurer and Board Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the County. Motion Passed.

**SET PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR CD 41 IMPROVEMENT**

A petition to improve County Ditch 41 was filed in 2020. County Ditch 41 is in Lowville Township (Commissioner District 2).

**CD 41 Improvement project timeline**

- 6/4/2020 – Petition for improvement filed with County Auditor
- 6/15/2020 – Received letter from Kurt Deter that project meets requirements under M.S. §103E.215, sub 4
- 6/16/2020 – Petition taken to County Board as Drainage Authority to accept and appoint engineer (Resolution 2020-06-16-01)

- 6/19/2020 – Engineer’s Oath and Bond filed with County Auditor
- 6/30/2023 – Preliminary Engineer’s Report received.

The next step for the drainage authority is to set a Preliminary Hearing for August 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to receive the report and if applicable, order a final engineers report and appoint viewers to determine improvement benefits. Date has been coordinated with Rinke Noonan, petitioner’s attorney and engineer.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink to approve preliminary hearing on the Engineer’s preliminary survey report for Improvement of Murray County Ditch 41, at 10:00 a.m. on August 15, 2023, at the Board’s regular meeting place at 2500 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Slayton, MN. Motion Passed.

#### 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.

- County Ditch Spraying

#### SOIL & WATER ALLOCATION

Shelly Lewis was there to present an update on the Soil and Water Conservation District from April through June they have approved two cost share contract for waterways, they have received a cost share application for a grade stabilization and have paid out a contract for grade stabilization that has been completed.

They have received the first half of the Des Moines River One Watershed One Plan totaling \$700,007. Craig has been attending the Des Moines River 1W1P meetings, working on the conservation reserve enhancement program, laying fabric for tree planting, and replacing parts on the packer. Devin has been working on the WACA projects and design work for waterways and basins. Devin will be the Murray County Soil and Water Conservation District Cottonwood 1W1P representative.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter allocation request from the Soil and Water Conservation District for \$49,069.75. Motion Passed.

#### DONATION AND HOOP BARN LIGHTING UPDATES

We have had lighting issues in the hoop barn and would like to update the lighting to LED’s. Justin received an estimate from Engelkes Electric to replace the lights and the Murray County 4-H has agreed to donate the money for this project so there will be no cost to the county.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to accept a donation from the Murray County 4-H for \$587.89. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to authorize Engelkes Electric to install new lighting in the round barn. Motion Passed.

#### REQUEST ADDITIONAL POSITION IN MOA

Murray County has a very robust, community-driven Extension 4-H program. To keep up with the continued growth of the 4-H program, our proposal would add an additional 0.5 FTE 4-H/Youth Development Extension Educator in Murray County beginning January 1, 2024. The position would be added as an addendum III to the MOA with a cost of \$40,324 in 2024.

Additional background information: Nobles County currently has a 25% 4-H position in their MOA that we have not been able to fill since August 2022. We are going to be asking the Nobles County board if they would increase their 25% position to 50% in 2024. If both Nobles and Murray approve this increase, we would combine them and hire one 1.0 FTE 4-H/YD Extension Educator and the person would work 50% in Murray and 50% in Nobles. But, if only one county approves this, we'd still move forward in hiring a 50% FTE educator for that county.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to approve hiring an additional 0.5 FTE 4-H/Youth Development Extension Educator beginning January 1, 2024 at a cost of \$40,324. Motion Passed.

#### 2024 MURRAY COUNTY EXTENSION BUDGET

Bonnie Christiansen, Regional Director, for the University of Minnesota 4-H Extension presented the 2024 Murray County 4-H Extension Budget.

#### PART-TIME IT TECHNICIAN

The IT Technician is a newly created position and will be part-time 29 hours per week. The job description has been sent to David Drown and Associates to be pointed, the results will be given at the Board meeting.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Thiner to approve the job description for a part-time 29 hours per week IT Technician at grade 5. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink to approve starting the recruitment process for the Part-Time IT Technician. Motion Passed.

#### MURRAY COUNTY VS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve a settlement in the matter of Murray County vs. Public Employees Retirement Association, OAH matter number 82-3600-38444, in the amount not to exceed \$20,000, and direct the County Board Chair, County Administrator and Counsel to execute all documents and agreements necessary to resolve, settle, and dismiss the matter. Motion Passed.

#### 2024 DEPARTMENT BUDGET DISCUSSION CONTINUATION

Murray County Recorder Karen Brown presented the 2024 Budget for the Murray County Recorder's Office.

Sheriff Heath Landsman presented the 2024 Budget for the Murray County Sheriff's Office.

Amy Foster, Museum Coordinator, along with museum staff presented the 2024 budget for the Murray County Historical Museum, End-O-Line Rail Road Park and the Dinehart Holt House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF 6/25-7/8

Malone:

- 6/26 Hospital Personnel
- 6/27 Commissioner Meeting
- 6/28 Hospital Board
- 7/6 Commissioner Meeting

Gunnink:

- 6/27 Commissioner Meeting
- 7/6 Commissioner Meeting

Welgraven

- 6/26 Western Mental Health
- 6/27 Commissioner Meeting
- 6/28 Radio Board
- 7/6 Commissioner Meeting & Building Committee

Thiner

- 6/26 SMOC, Recycling Meeting
- 6/27 Commissioner Meeting
- 7/6 Commissioner Meeting

The Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

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Molly Malone, Board Chair