

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
October 17, 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, none were added.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Malone to approve the agenda without additions. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Malone has a conflict of interest with one of the ditches. At that time the meeting will be handed over to Commissioner Welgraven

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve October 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes
2. Commissioner Warrants dated 10/17/2023 for the amount of \$138,218.26 numbered 172386 through 172453.

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

5. DITCH BILLS

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

Sievers Backhoe & Grading, LLC

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 21-845-6290 | JD 20 | <u>135.00</u> | #2023-035 | ok'd by T. Radke on 10/11/2023 |
| | Subtotal | <u>135.00</u> | | |

Gislason & Hunter, LLP

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| 21-706-6260 | CD 41 | <u>195.00</u> | CD 41 Improvement - Legal for Petitioner Attorney |
| | Subtotal | <u>195.00</u> | |

Total Ditch Bills 330.00

6. 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.

- Petition 2023-035 (JD20, Bondin Twp. Sec.30, District 5–Thiner)
- Petition 2023-036 (JD20A, Shetek Twp. Sec.2, District 1 –Malone)
- Petition 2023-037 (JD14, Chanarambie Twp. Sec.25, District 2 –Gunnink)

A motion was made by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink 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.

- CD 87 - Quentin Fabro

It was discussed to bring the repair petition back to the board to repair the lateral 3 damage.

- CD 43 Bolton & Menk Analysis

7. 2023 MURRAY COUNTY SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

Murray County has been offering 4% loans for the upgrade of existing septic systems since 2003. Since its inception, this program has been used to upgrade 200 non-compliant septic systems, which averages 10 systems every year. The cumulative amount borrowed for said upgrades is \$2,051,768.34, for either five-or ten-year loan terms, with the estimated interest, including systems installed in 2022, being \$439,669.49.

The cost for a septic system continues to rise each year, and the \$175,000 budgeted for this year has all been allocated to 10 systems that all but one has been installed. We have requests from two additional landowners that need to put in systems this fall yet, and they would like to use the County Loan Program. The combined estimated cost for these two systems is \$56,000.

In 2022, we requested, and were approved for, an additional \$175,000 for this program, however, we only ended up borrowing out \$303,968.76.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to allocate an additional \$100,000 to account number 01-634-637-6915 for the Murray County Septic Loan Program, to be loaned out at 4% interest. Motion Passed.

8. NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) amounts were increased during the 2023 Legislative Session for FY2024 and 2025. Below is a comparison of the NRBG grant amounts FY7022 & FY2023 to FY2024 & FY2025:

| | FY22 & 23 | FY24 & 25 | Difference |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Local Water Management | \$15,050 | \$20,546 | \$5,496 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$8,778 | \$11,984 | \$3,206 |
| Shoreland | \$3,221 | \$4,397 | \$1,176 |
| Septic | \$18,600 | \$21,200 | \$2,600 |

We also applied for the additional Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade dollars for the upgrade of septic systems for those that qualify under USDA low-income guidelines for FY2024. Murray County received \$8,475 in 2017, \$12,643 in 2019 and \$30,000 in 2020, \$40,000 in 2021, \$35,447 in 2022, and \$29,032 in 2023. For FY2024, Murray County will receive \$42,558 for these system upgrades.

Approve and Authorize County Administrator McDonald to sign the FY2024 and 2025 State of Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grant Agreement.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to Approve the FY2024 and 2025 State of Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grant Agreement, and authorize county Administrator Carolyn McDonald to sign said agreement. Motion Passed.

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The Special Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on October 3,2023 for this conditional use permit application.

Approval of Planning Commission's recommendation on the following Conditional Use Permit Application:

Red Rock Rural Water

Part of the S1/2 SEI/4, Section 20, Des Moines River Township, Murray County
CUP #1412

To construct and operate a Water Treatment Plant with a Rapid Infiltration Basin in the Agriculture and Floodplain Overlay Districts

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to approve Conditional Use Permit #1412 for Red Rock Rural Water to construct and operate a Water Treatment Plant with a Rapid Infiltration Basin in the Agriculture and Floodplain Overlay Districts in Part of the S1/2 SEI/4, Section 20, Des Moines River Township, Murray County with the findings and four (4) special conditions recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Passed.

10. RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Dominic Jones, Red Rock Rural Water System Manager, presented on the status of the RRRWS Lakes Area Expansion Project, and review of the publication and letter attached. Also discussed will be for Murray County to be the lead County in the process of Bond Issuance on behalf of Red Rock Rural Water System, as RRRWS is not a taxing authority.

At this time, there was no request for Board action. This presentation was for informational purposes.

11. SOIL & WATER ALLOCATION

Shelly Lewis and Craig Christensen were present to provide an update on the Soil and Water Conservation District from July – September they have approved 3 cost share contracts for water and sediment basins, cost share application for cover crops and one for a water way, approved 3 cost share contracts for cover crops, 4 cost share contracts all of which have been completed. Craig has been busy with 1W1P, the CREP program, one easement approval, tree orders and tree plans, helping with the rental of drills for planting of cover crops and repairing of rental equipment. Devin has been busy with wetland conservation act issues, he had wetland violation that was restored, he has attended shoreline restoration training, design work for the waterways and basins, and has several projects to complete this fall.

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to approve the 3rd quarter allocation request from the Soil and Water Conservation District for \$49,069.75. Motion Passed.

12. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT CONTINUATION

A motion was made by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink 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.

- CD 43 Repair/Replace Lateral 3 with 6" tile.

13. GOEDTKE ABATEMENT

James D Goedtke owns the building North of the Slayton Auto building that had the roof collapsed due to heavy snow in March of 2023. Because of the severe damage to the Slayton Auto building, engineers/inspectors have inspected the neighboring building and have determined that it is also compromised. Goedtke's have been told that it is unsafe to be in their building while the Slayton Auto building is in disrepair because the buildings are connected at some different locations throughout the structures. The Goedtke's building roof is also connected to the Beerman building North of the Goedtke property.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven that the Local Option Reduction of Taxes on the Goedtke property (PID 29.100.140.0) for taxes payable in 2023 is approved. Motion Passed.

The meeting recessed at 9:38 a.m.

The meeting came back into session at 9:45 a.m.

14. MEDICAL EXAMINER CONTRACT

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Welgraven to approve and authorize the Murray County Board Chair and the Murray County Administrator to sign an agreement with River Valley Forensic Services, P.A. for the services of Dr. Kelly Mills as Medical Examiner of Murray County. Motion Passed.

15. OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 6-12. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

Commissioner Welgraven offered the following resolution for Board adoption:

Resolution 10-17-23-01

Murray County Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Murray County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Murray County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Murray County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Murray County hereby declares from October 23rd through Veterans Day, November 11th 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Murray County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Gunnink and thereupon being put to a vote the following members voted for its adoption. Motion Passed.

16. RENEW RCRCR AREA II JPA

Area II's Joint Powers Agreement is also due for renewal by the end of 2023. Attached, please find the revised document – the only change from the prior 2-year agreement is the XI.

DURATION, extending the agreement by 2 years until December 31, 2025. All other terms of the agreement remain the same.

It was moved by Gunnink, and seconded by Malone to approve the attached 2023 Area II Joint Powers Agreement, and authorize delegate Gunnink to sign the agreement. Motion Passed.

17. LICENSE CENTER SUPERVISOR

The full time License Center Supervisor position is currently vacant. At this time, the position is temporarily partially staffed by the previous full-time supervisor, and this partial staffing will cease in mid-November. Interviews were held August 23rd and September 29th.

Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, approve the hire of Terry Beers as a regular full-time License Center Supervisor effective October 30, 2023, at a labor grade 7, step 4 (\$23.41).

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve hiring Terry Beers as a full-time License Center Supervisor effective October 30, 2023. Motion Passed.

18. LICENSE CENTER CLERK

The Personnel Committee recommends to move License Center Clerk Tessa Risacher to grade 5, step 4 (\$20.84).

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink to approve a wage increase for License Center Clerk, Tessa Risacher to grade 5, step 4 effective October 30, 2023. Motion Passed.

19. 2024 BCBS HEALTH INSURANCE

On September 7th, Commissioner's Thiner and Welgraven along with HR Director Radke, A/T Winter, and Administrator McDonald, met with MMA representative Amy Diedrich via zoom. Claims in 2023 have thus far exceeded funding and increasing the insurance funding was recommended. On the 18th and 29th of September, the insurance committee met again to discuss insurance claims and funding strategy. Insurance committee members present: Dave Thiner, Dennis Welgraven, Ronda Radke, Carolyn McDonald, Heidi Winter, Hosp. Administrator Luke Schryvers, HR Mara Mouw, and Finance Director Robyn Vanheuvelen. The recommendation of the insurance committee is to offset the recommended 33.7% increase to funding by supplementing the general insurance fund account by \$500,000. This one-time fund contribution is to be shared with the hospital based upon employee count of participants between the hospital and county. The committee also recommends increasing funding for 2024 at 10% to be paid by the employer.

2024 health insurance costs for the employee will be unchanged from 2023 with the employer contribution increasing approximately 10%, single - \$821.00 and Family \$1,566.00.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink to approve increasing the insurance funding by supplementing the general insurance fund account by \$500,000, the fund contribution is to be shared with the hospital based upon employee count of participants between the hospital and county. The contributions are to be received in full no later than December 31, 2023. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven to approve the 2024 monthly contribution to the Murray County Cafeteria Plan be set at \$821.00 for single and \$1,566.00 for family health insurance coverage and for the 2024 Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance monthly rates of: Single VEBA/HSA Plan - \$3,200.00 deductible (80%) with a monthly rate of \$781.00
Single VEBA/HSA Plan - \$3,200.00 deductible with a monthly rate of \$840.50

Single VEBA/HSA Plan - \$5,000.00 deductible with a monthly rate of \$686.00
 Family VEBA/HSA Plan - \$5,700.00 deductible (80%) with a monthly rate of \$2,047.00
 Family VEBA/HSA Plan - \$5,700.00 deductible with a monthly rate of \$2190.00
 Family VEBA/HSA Plan - \$10,000.00 deductible with a monthly rate of \$1824.00
 with the 2024 monthly Employer Contribution to the employee's VEBA/HSA be set as:
 \$3,200 (80%) deductible - single \$31.90 and \$5,000 (100%) deductible single - \$126.90. Motion
 Passed.

20. RESOLUTION REGARDING CAFETERIA CONTRIBUTION

Each year a resolution needs to be approved with the monthly Employer Contribution including the VEBA/HSA Accounts.

Commissioner Gunnink offered the following resolution for Board adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10-17-02
 A Resolution Setting 2024 Employer Contribution to
 Murray County Cafeteria Plan, Including VEBA/HSA Accounts

WHEREAS, the 2023 monthly Employer Contribution to the Murray County Cafeteria Plan was \$746.00 for single and \$1,424.00 for family health insurance coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2024 monthly Employer Contribution to the Murray County Cafeteria Plan be set at \$821.00 for single health insurance coverage and \$1,566.00 for family health insurance coverage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the 2024 monthly Employer Contribution to the employee's VEBA/HSA account be set at:

| 2024 Plans | Coverage | VEBA/HSA |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| \$3,200 (100%) deductible | Single | \$0.00 |
| | Family | \$0.00 |
| \$3,200 (80%) deductible | Single | \$31.90 |
| | Family | \$0.00 |
| \$5,000 (100%) deductible | Single | \$126.90 |
| | Family | \$0.00 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the employee's bi-weekly contributions are to be deposited into the individual employee VEBA/HSA account after each bi-weekly payroll.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF October 1 - 14 2023

Malone:

10/3 Commissioner Meeting

10/11 District 8 Land use Meeting

Gunnink:

- 10/3 Commissioner Meeting
- 10/5 RCRCRA Area II
- 10/10 Historical Society

Welgraven:

- 10/3 Commissioner meeting/personnel
- 10/4 Senate Bonding Meeting
- 10/5 SWHHS
- 10/11 Personnel/DNR Meeting Fulda Lake
- 10/12 SWHHS/Building/ISRDC

Thiner:

- 10/3 Commissioner Meeting/Planning & Zoning
- 10/11 DNR Meeting Fulda

21. 10:00 a.m. Continued Hearing-Redetermination of Benefits CD 42 and CD 54

The Final Hearing for the Redetermination of Benefits for County Ditches 42 and 54 was reconvened by Chair Molly Malone on October 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m with the following members present: Murray County Commissioners – Molly Malone, Lori Gunnink, Dennis Welgraven and David Thiner. Also present were Travis Smith, County Attorney; Heidi E. Winter, Murray County Auditor-Treasurer; Travis Radke, Murray County Drainage Inspector; Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator and John Kolb, Drainage Authority Counsel (Rinke Noonan) and Scott Henderson, Viewer (H2Overviewers).

John Kolb stated that the purpose of the hearing was to receive amended viewers reports as follows:

- County Ditch 42 – to accommodate viewer reexamination of certain property for tile mapping received from a landowner.
- County Ditch 54 – to accommodate corrected notice to Bondin Township for a Bondin Township road incorrectly labeled as a County Road on the original viewers report.

Viewer Scott Henderson presented the revised viewers reports with benefits and damages for each drainage system.

The floor was opened to board questions and public comment. None were received.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Gunnink to approve Findings and Orders for County Ditches 42 and 54 as filed in the Murray County Drainage Authority drainage records.

The public hearing was closed at 10:12 a.m.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

ATTEST:

Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

Molly Malone, Board Chair