

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
May 21, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners Convened with the following members present: Molly Malone, Lori Gunnink, Jackie Meier, Dennis Welgraven, and David Thiner. Also present: County Administrator Carolyn McDonald, General Assistant Emily Ackerman.

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, none were added.

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve the May 07, 2024, Meeting Minutes, with amendments.
2. Approve the Commissioner Warrants dated 05/21/2024 for the amount of \$84,677.35 numbered 174250 through 174318.

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the consent agenda with the amended minutes. Motion passed.

4.1.1 – DITCH BILLS

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

Boerboom Seed & Consulting

21-815-6290	JD 9	131.62	#2022-046	Ok'd by T. Radke - 05/06/24
	Subtotal	131.62		

Johnson Ditching, Inc

21-829-6290	JD 14	1,178.97	#2024-010	Ok'd by T. Radke - 5/8/2024
	Subtotal	1,178.97		

Parker & Sons, Inc.

21-777-6290	CD 77	1,666.00	#2024-015	Ok'd by T. Radke - 5/9/2024
21-805-6290	JD 3	681.55	#2024-014	Ok'd by T. Radke - 5/9/2024
	Subtotal	2,347.55		

Rinke Noonan

21-659-6260	CD 11	743.50	CD 11/State Hwy 30 - Legal
21-659-6260	CD 11	2,577.50	CD 11/State Hwy 30 - Legal
21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	04-2024 Monthly Retainer
	Subtotal	3,521.00	

Total Ditch Bills 7,179.14

4.2.1 – DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink carried 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 2024-017 (JD 10, Mason Twp. Sec.36, District 1–Malone)
- Petition 2024-018 (JD 20A, Shetek Twp. Sec.12, District 1–Malone)
- Petition 2024-019 (CD 7, Cameron Twp. Sec.26, District 2–Gunnink)
- Petition 2024-020 (JD 10, Slayton Twp. Sec.13, District 3–Welgraven)
- Petition 2024-021 (JD 15, Slayton Twp. Sec.6, District 3–Welgraven)

- Group 3 Redetermination of Benefits Landowner/Hearing Dates Discussion.

It was discussed to send a poll out to the landowners, H2Overviewers and the commissioners to set the landowner meeting dates as well as a hearing date for the Redetermination of Benefits on the Group 3 ditches.

4.3.1 – RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM BOND ISSUANCE

Red Rock Rural Water System is ready to begin construction in the Murray County lakes area. This will require an \$8,071,000 bond to complete the project, however, RRRWS does not have the legal authority to issue bonds. Therefore, Murray County is asked to issue the bond, with RRRWS to repay the bond with revenue from the project.

The Murray County RRRWS expansion will impact approximately 350 to 400 households in the lakes area.

RUS Loan:	\$8,071,000
RUS Grant:	\$1,842,000
Applicant:	\$ 200,000
City of Avoca:	\$ 387,000
MN 2020 Bonding Bill:	\$5,500,000

If Murray County issues the bonds for the benefit of RRRWS, it will not affect the amount of bonds Murray County can issue during a calendar year. This is because the RRRWS bonds will be paid from special assessments. RRRWS customers will be assessed for the cost and water sales that are received rather than being paid from levying taxes against the citizens of Murray County. Pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 475.5, issuing these bonds do not count against the net debt limit of Murray County.

The only impact is that it could affect the bank qualified bonds that Murray County can issue during a calendar year. This is not likely in 2024 and will not be an issue in 2025. Bank qualified bonds are tax exempt bonds, just like normal municipal bonds and they usually have a lower interest rate than normal tax-exempt bonds.

If Murray County issues the GO bonds and RRRWS defaults on the bonds, Murray County is not on the hook to pay for the entire bond. The RRRWS provides water to 9 counties in Southwest Minnesota so per MN Statute, all 9 counties are responsible to pay on this bond if RRRWS defaults, per the percentages below.

	County	Square Miles Served	Percent of System
1	Brown	16	1.1%
2	Cottonwood	515	35.0%
3	Jackson	361	24.5%
4	Lyon	66	4.5%
5	Martin	139	9.4%
6	Murray	154	10.5%
7	Nobles	2	0.1%
8	Redwood	64	4.3%
9	Watonwan	155	10.5%
	Total	1472	100%

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Thiner, to approve Murray County commitment to the issuance of an \$8,071,000 General Obligation Bond for the RRRWS Lakes Area Expansion Project. Motion Passed.

4.4.1 – FAIRGROUND FENCE PROJECT

Justin budgeted to replace the wooden privacy fence that is located south of the racetrack concession stand. This fence is falling apart, and posts are starting to rot off and needs to be replaced. \$10,000 was budgeted for this project.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven, to approve this project and purchase materials from the low bidder Slayton Building Materials at \$6,916.02. Motion Passed.

4.5.1 – DRONE GRANT

To assist with viewing properties to determine compliance with the Minnesota Buffer Law, for Emergency Management to use for damage assessments, and to assist the Sheriff’s Office with a tool to locate persons in emergency situations, a 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Homeland Security Grant was applied for and was approved for Murray County to purchase two drones. From the time that the enclosed quotes were submitted until the grant was awarded, there were additional costs to purchase the drones; any overages above the approved amount, the balance would be covered by the Buffer Enforcement Funds.

HSEM Grant EMPG	24,000	
Public Safety drone	-15,429.99	
County Ditch drone	-9,045.99	
Overage not covered by grant	-476	
Overage from HSEM grant	476	Account.01628
Training	1,000	
107 flight training	1,500	
Testing	750	
Total to come out of buffer funds	3,726	

It was moved by Malone, seconded by Welgraven, to accept the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant No: A-EMP-2022-MURRAYCO-108 in the amount of \$24,000 and authorize Chair Jackie Meier and County Administrator McDonald to sign the grant on behalf of Murray County. And further, to authorize payment of any costs over the grant award to come out of the Buffer Enforcement dollars. Motion Passed.

4.6.1 – GOEDTKE ABATEMENT

James D Goedtke owns the building North of the Slayton Auto building that had the roof collapse 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. The abatement is needed because of the timing of when the event happened and the State Laws regarding when values can be adjusted. The values for the 2025 taxes have been adjusted to reflect the damage to the building.

It was moved by Gunnink, and seconded by Malone, that the Local Option Reduction of Taxes on the Goedtke property (PID 29.100.140.0) for taxes payable in 2024 is approved in the amount of \$722.00 with the appropriate signatures to be obtained. Motion Passed.

2023 Amount already approved: \$520.50
2024 Amount to be approved: \$722.00

4.7.1 – PIPESTONE AND MURRAY COUNTIES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Brad Odegard from the Minnesota Department of Corrections presented the Comprehensive plan for Murray and Pipestone Counties Probation Programs.

This past year the legislature passed a funding bill that was the result of Council of State Government doing a study on how the DOC can provide supervision as well as how the state can fund that supervision in field services. The DOC has been running lean on funding and in this year legislation was passed providing base funding of \$150,000 per county, and an additional capitated rate, so each person on supervision is assigned a dollar amount for services. Because Pipestone and Murray Counties share resources and agents, it was determined to make a Joint Comprehensive Plan for the counties.

It was moved by Welgraven, and seconded by Gunnink, to approve the Murray Pipestone DOC Probation Comp Plan. Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 28 – MAY 11, 2024

Malone

5/1/24 Personnel Committee

5/7/24 Commissioner Meeting

Gunnink

5/7/24 Commissioner Meeting

Meier

5/1/24 Personnel Meeting

5/2/24 ECI Meeting

5/6/24 Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership

5/7/24 Commissioner Meeting

5/9/24 Casey Jones Trail Meeting

5/10/24 Southwest Mental Health Consortium

Welgraven

5/7/24 Commissioner Meeting

5/9/24 Building Committee Meeting, SRDC

Thiner

5/7/24 Commissioner Meeting

5/9/24 Building Committee Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

Jackie Meier, Board Chair