

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 17, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present: Commissioners Lori Gunnink, James Jens, James Kluis, David Thiner, and Dennis Welgraven. Also present were County Administrator Thomas Burke, County Attorney Travis Smith, and Economic Development Director Amy Rucker.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were added.

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Kluis, and passed to approve the agenda as presented.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve September 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes
2. Approve Commissioner Warrants
3. Approve Ditch Bills: \$836.98
4. Appoint County Administrator Thomas Burke to Vacant 8th Seat (AMC Delegation)
5. Approve FY 2020 & 2021 State of Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grant Agreement and Authorize County Administrator to Sign

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Gunnink, and unanimously passed to approve consent agenda item numbers 1, 3, and 4.

OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Bernstein was present for Open Forum on behalf of Verlyn Brouwer regarding a conflict with the Murray County Soil and Water Conservation District.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

A motion was duly made by Welgraven, seconded by Kluis, and carried that all claims as presented were approved for payment. The Chairman was authorized to sign the Audit List dated September 17, 2019 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 160096 through 160163:

County Revenue Fund	41,527.98
County Road & Bridge Fund	32,786.08
EDA	40.00
Ditch	2,088.00
Sunrise Terrace	3,174.99
SAWS	<u>166.38</u>
Total	<u>79,783.43</u>

HVAC UPGRADE – GOVERNMENT CENTER AND COURTS BUILDING

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to authorize the Building Committee to work with Dunham to develop bid options to bring back to the Board for upgrades to the HVAC systems in the Government Center and Courts Building.

SCHEDULE FOR SETTING DITCH LEVIES

The Board and Auditor/Treasurer Heidi Winter discussed the schedule for setting ditch levies.

REDETERMINATION OF COUNTY DITCHES

Board Chair Thiner asked Ditch Inspector Travis Radke to come up with a prioritized list of ditches for redetermination.

DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven and 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 2019-092 (CD 46, Leeds Twp. Sec. 23, District 2–Gunnink)

LAKE ELSIE UPDATE

Ditch Inspector Travis Radke reported that he has been working with the City of Slayton to find solutions for draining Lake Elsie.

MINNESOTA RURAL COUNTIES

Dan Larson, Executive Director of Minnesota Rural Counties, met with the Board regarding the work of the Minnesota Rural Counties membership organization.

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Michael Ladevich, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Murray County Medical Center, gave an update on the hospital's financial status. He also reported that Murray County Ambulance/EMS Director Jenny Kirchner was named EMT of the Year at the 2019 Minnesota Emergency Medical Service Association conference.

COUNTY DITCH 11

It was moved by Kluis, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to proceed with litigation against the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding payment of bills for County Ditch 11/State Highway 30.

COUNTY DITCH 22

9:54 a.m. It was moved by Jens, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to go into closed session pursuant to attorney client privilege/Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subd.3(b) to discuss pending litigation regarding County Ditch 22.

10:04 a.m. It was moved by Jens, seconded by Kluis, and passed to approve coming out of closed session.

No action was taken after coming out of closed session.

FINAL PAYMENT FOR MAINTENANCE STRIPING PROJECT CP 01-19

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Jens, and passed to approve the final payment of \$3,682.22 to Traffic Marking Service, Inc. for striping project CP 01-19.

COUNTY ROAD TOUR

The County Board will tour county roads and county parks and view county ditches on Wednesday, October 2 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

COUNTY ROADS UPDATE

County Engineer Randy Groves stated that water washed over 12 county roads. In some cases the water went down right away. All are open again as of Friday 9/13 except County Road 27 by Lake Wilson. Work continues on fixing gullies, etc.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRUCK

County Engineer Randy Groves said that the Highway Department has a truck that keeps breaking down and he doesn't want to incur any more repair expenses as it's scheduled to be replaced next year. He asked the Board to consider approving ordering a new truck this year that is budgeted for next year to get the ball rolling as it takes months to actually get a truck once it is ordered. Groves said that he will bring more information regarding this truck purchase to a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Commissioners gave their committee reports for the period of August 25, 2019 to September 7, 2019.

James Jens reported on Hospital Finance and Personnel/Strategic Planning (partial per diem claimed) – August 26, Western Mental Health (no per diem claimed) – August 26, Commissioner Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 27, Hospital Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 28, EDA Special Meeting (no per diem claimed) – August 29, Commissioner Board Meeting – September 3, EDA Regular Meeting (no per diem claimed) – September 4, Union Negotiations Southwest Health and Human Services (no per diem claimed) – September 5, Union Negotiations Southwest Health and Human Services (no per diem claimed) – September 6.

Lori Gunnink reported on Commissioner Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 27, Commissioner Board Meeting/Public Hearing for CD63, CD67, CD75, JD10 – September 3, RCRCA (partial per diem claimed) – September 4.

Dennis Welgraven reported on EDA Broadband Committee (partial per diem claimed) – August 26, Commissioner Board Meeting/Geronimo Information Meeting – August 27, Commissioner Board Meeting/Public Hearing for Ditches – September 3, EDA (partial per diem claimed) – September 4.

Jim Kluis reported on Hospital Strategic Planning Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 26, Commissioner Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 27, Hospital Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 28, Commissioner Board Meeting/Ditch Review – September 3.

David Thiner reported on Commissioner Board Meeting (partial per diem claimed) – August 27, Commissioner Board Meeting/Ditches – September 3.

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to approve the Commissioner Vouchers for the period of August 25, 2019 to September 7, 2019.

ASSESSMENTS FOR CLEANING COUNTY DITCHES

Hubert Sandmann discussed with the Board his concerns regarding assessments for cleaning county ditches.

DES MOINES RIVER ONE WATERSHED PLAN (1W1P)

Commissioner Gunnink introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

2019-09-17-01

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A DES MOINES RIVER WATERSHED ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Des Moines River Watershed (#34), as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have an interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Murray County recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Murray County welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the other counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Des Moines River Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Murray County supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the other counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Des Moines River Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Welgraven with all members voting in favor.

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Welgraven, and passed to approve Environmental Services staff to lead the Steering Team for the DMR 1W1P planning efforts.

FY 2020 & 2021 MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT

It was moved by Gunnink, seconded by Jens, and passed to approve the FY 2020 & 2021 State of Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grant Agreement, further authorizing County Administrator Thomas Burke to sign the agreement.

SOIL LOSS ORDINANCE

The Board asked Zoning Administrator Jean Christoffels to review other counties' ordinances regarding soil loss, discuss with the Planning Commission, and report back to the Board.

HEALTHCARE SAVINGS PLAN (HSCP) AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES, INC. (LELS)

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Kluis, and passed to approve and authorize the County Administrator to sign the MSRS Health Care Saving Plan Agreement with the LELS union effective January 1, 2019.

PREFERREDONE STOP LOSS INCREASE

It was moved by Welgraven, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to approve increasing the PreferredOne stop loss deductible from \$50,000 to \$60,000 effective January 1, 2019.

WELLBEATS PROGRAM

It was moved by Jens, seconded by Gunnink, and passed to authorize use of the Wellbeats Program through PreferredOne by hospital and county employees for an approximate cost of \$750/year effective October 2019.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Generalist Ronda Radke advised that the Wellness Committee is going to use Wellness funds to provide breakfast pizza to county employees in October.

BROADBAND FUNDING RESOLUTION

Commissioner Gunnink introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-09-17-02
EARMARKING OF NEW PRODUCTION TAX REVENUE FOR BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, a Broadband Feasibility Study for Murray County prepared in 2018 by CCG Consulting and Finley Engineering showed that it is not financially feasible for a broadband provider or providers to deploy broadband to unserved and underserved households in the County without a subsidy of over 50% of development costs; and

WHEREAS, State of Minnesota broadband development grants will only provide up to 50% of development costs; and

WHEREAS, Murray County has committed to a \$200,000 grant from its Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) to Lismore Coop Telephone Company for a broadband project in Southern Murray County; and

WHEREAS, Murray County anticipates financial requests from other broadband providers who want to develop broadband in other parts of the county; and

WHEREAS, there will not be enough in the EDRLF to grant to additional broadband projects; and

WHEREAS, production tax from operating wind and solar energy projects is paid to Murray County; and

WHEREAS, the production tax collected currently is earmarked for specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, new wind and solar energy projects will be developed in Murray County in 2020 and subsequent years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Murray County earmark future wind and solar production tax revenue in excess of the 2019 state-certified amounts as assigned fund balance for future broadband development until such time as County funds are no longer needed to help subsidize broadband development in Murray County.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Jens, and thereupon being put to a vote the resolution was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

ATTEST:

Amy Rucker, Economic Development Director

David Thiner, Chairman of the Board