

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

Oct 18, 2016
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair, Richard Hamer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Richard Hamer, Joe Drietz, Don Evers, Joan Jagt, and Mic VanDeVere. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Jagt, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from Oct 04, 2016 and the agenda for Oct 18, 2016. All voted in favor.

Bruce Nielsen, Lincoln County Assessor, informed the Board that statute 273.061 requires the Commissioner of Revenue to approve the appointment or reappointment of all county assessors for a four year term. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to reappoint Bruce Nielsen to the position of Lincoln County Assessor with a term of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. All voted in favor.

Nielsen also informed the Board that Brad Leibfried, Deputy Assessor/Appraiser/GIS, only has a couple steps left to become an accredited assessor. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, discussed the improvements on CD #2, CD #24 and CD #33. These improvements will be assessed starting in payable 2017. Olsen recommended that CD #2 be assessed over 10 years at 4% and CD #24 and CD #33 be assessed over 15 years at 4%. Assessments less than \$500 will be assessed in full in the first year. The Board was in consensus that these terms were sufficient. Olsen will bring documents to be signed at a future meeting. Information only.

Olsen also had a discussion with the Board on the following items:

- Verdi Clean-up
- Buffer Strip
- Solid Waste costs
- Shaokatan Weed Issue

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Engineer's Assistant, presented project updates. They were as follows:

- County Road 9 grading job by Verdi is progressing.
- 3 out of 6 Box Culvert projects are complete. Only single lined culverts left.

Hauschild presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Have completed some culvert lining.
- Will continue to do shoulder work.
- Additional road information was discussed.

Shanelle Montana, Senior Project Developer for the Red Pine Wind Project, reviewed the current wind tower project in Lincoln County. Montana also had a power point presentation showing the location of the project and the proposed location of the wind towers. Information only.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, presented the Hendricks City Law Enforcement Agreement to the Board for approval. The Agreement will cover the years of 2017 through 2021. Motion by Jagt, seconded by Evers to approve the Hendricks City Law Enforcement Agreement with Lincoln County for the years 2017 through 2021 upon review by the Lincoln County Attorney. All voted in favor.

Committee Reports were given:

VanDeVere – None
Drietz – None
Hamer – Hearing for Petition on CD #37
Jagt – Hearing for Petition on CD #37
Evers – Hearing for Petition on CD #37, SW Environmental Task Force

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Jagt seconded by Drietz, to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #3225 - #3307 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$118,390.68, Road & Bridge - \$40,639.53, Debt Service - \$3,300.00 and Ditch - \$3,474.00. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota - \$2,389.75, Clifton Larson Allen LLP - \$5,500.00, Divine Prov. Health Center Inc. - \$2,141.50, Ehlers & Associates Inc. - \$3,300.00, Linc. Soil-Water Conservation Dist. - \$40,000.00, Petersen Law Office PLLC - \$8,812.00, Prairie Pride Cooperative - \$12,043.33, Rinke Noonan - \$3,099.00, SeaChange - \$6,271.60, SW Sanitation Inc. - \$3,407.40, Tessier's Inc. Mechanical Contractors - \$20,288.25, Tolk Graveling LLC - \$9,394.97, Waste Management of WI-MN - \$9,867.67, WM of Southern Minnesota MA 1 - \$6,573.94, Ziegler Inc. - \$8,913.47, and 68 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$23,801.33.

Robin Sterzinger, Financial Accountant, reviewed budget changes with the Board.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor, informed the Board that Lincoln County received \$18,447.38 for the heating/cooling insurance claim that was submitted. Information only.

Vierhuf also presented Resolution No. 39-2016 Resolution Combining the Lincoln County Auditor and the Lincoln County Treasurer into One Position titled Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Resolution No. 39-2016 Resolution Combining the Lincoln County Auditor and the Lincoln County Treasurer into One Position titled Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer subject to review by the Lincoln County Attorney. All voted in favor.

Resolution No. 39-2016
Resolution Combining the Lincoln County Auditor and the Lincoln County Treasurer into One
Position titled Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer

WHEREAS, Lincoln County currently has an elected Auditor and an elected Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes § 375A.10 through 375A.121, counties are allowed to combine the offices of Auditor and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, after studying this matter, has decided that combining the offices will provide efficiencies for Lincoln County Government, and has concluded that the Board wishes to see these two offices combined, effective January 8, 2019, with the election for this new office taking place in the fall of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board's decision to combine the elective office of Auditor-Treasurer without a referendum requires the concurrence of 80% of the members of the Lincoln County Board;

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board does not choose to initiate a referendum by resolution to consolidate the offices of Auditor and Treasurer into one elected office; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners has further concluded that such a combined office should remain elected; and

WHEREAS, the current terms of the Auditor and the Treasurer will expire on January 7, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adopting this Resolution, effective with the term beginning January 8, 2019, the current Office of the Lincoln County Treasurer and the Lincoln County Auditor will be abolished and in its place a new elective office named Office of the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer will be created.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the duties that are required by Minnesota Statutes by the Auditor and Treasurer will be vested in the newly created Office of the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer and performed by the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer without diminishing, prohibiting or avoiding those specific duties required by statute to be performed by the Lincoln County Auditor and the Lincoln County Treasurer.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all requirements that are specified in Minnesota Statutes § 375A.10 through 375A.121, to enact this change, will be complied with by Lincoln County.

ATTEST:

Richard Hamer, 2016 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor

Commissioner Jagt left the meeting at 11:00 but left her vote by proxy with Lincoln Board Chair Richard Hamer.

Motion by Evers, seconded by VanDeVere to recess the regular Board meeting and reconvene the Hearing for the Petition for Impoundment, Rerouting, and Diverting Water continued from October 17th at 11:30 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

Duane Hensel, a licensed project engineer with Bolton & Menk Inc., was present to discuss the maintenance cost and the plan design. A public discussion was held.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Evers to approve the Findings and Order Granting the Petitioned Action and Authorizing Modification of the Drainage System for Lincoln County Ditch #37. Commissioner Drietz, Evers, Hamer, Jagt, and VanDeVere all voted in favor.

Motion by Evers, seconded by VanDeVere to close the public hearing for the Petition for Impoundment, Rerouting, and Diverting Water. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Evers, seconded by Drietz to reconvene the regular Board meeting. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to adjourn at 12:17 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

Richard Hamer, 2016 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor