

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

March 19, 2019
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Mic VanDeVere, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Joe Drietz, Corey Sik, Mic VanDeVere and Jack Vizecky. Commissioner Hamer was absent. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Vizecky to approve the consent agenda which included March 05, 2019 minutes, March 05, 2019 JD #19 Ditch Hearing minutes and March 19, 2019 agenda. All (4) voted in favor.

Jeff Moen, John Olsen and Tom Pedersen from Hansonville Township were present to discuss concerns regarding an administrative bill that was billed to the County and ditch benefits that are charged to the township. The Lincoln County Treasurer's office sent a bill to the township for the ditch mowing assessment that was placed on the taxes. The charge is \$5 per assessment. The fee is for the administrative service the County provides of placing the ditch mowing assessment on the taxes, collecting the assessment dollars and then paying that money to the township. Moen stated that they didn't realize they had been billed this in the past and since it was a surprise to them, they in turn billed an administrative service to the county of \$100 for the service of issuing a check for the fee. VanDeVere stated that even if they were surprised, he did not feel this justified the township billing the county for issuing them a check for a bill owed. Moen presented a tax statement and some delinquent tax letters that referred to the ditch assessment as a tax. Moen stated that the township is tax exempt and feels they should not have to pay the amount that is due. VanDeVere stated that the amount due is actually an assessment from the ditch and the county does not put those dollars towards the tax levy. The funds go into the ditch maintenance account and are specifically used to maintain the ditch. Discussion was held on who owns the road. Robert Olsen, Environmental, stated that the township roads were authorized by statute and the authority was given to the townships as the road authority. The township is responsible for maintaining the road. If the ditch was not there, the road would not have been able to be put in. The townships are assessed ditch benefits that represent the drainage the ditch provides for the road. Commissioner VanDeVere stated that the viewers determine how much benefit the roads are responsible for and although the township may not like it, that is how it is done at this time. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that the Lake Benton City Council has discussed having a city clean-up and they are looking to the county for assistance. The city was quoted a price from an outside vendor of \$12,000 to provide the service of a city wide clean-up. The county could possibly provide the same service at a lower cost and will do some research and see if it is doable. Olsen will keep the board informed as he researches the cost of the clean-up. Information only.

Olsen reported that the ditch systems are being monitored to see if they are able to handle the water from the spring thaw. Information only.

Olsen reported that the recycling articles are falling out of favor and even Aluminum is not doing as well as it has in the past. Right now the cost of recycled products is more expensive to process than virgin

materials. Olsen will be meeting with solid waste administrators to see what can be done about this. Information only.

Randy Thompson, Executive Director of the Worthington HRA, met with the board to explain the section 8 choice voucher program. The voucher program, which is administered by the Worthington HRA, benefits 7 area counties which include Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Cottonwood, Nobles, and Redwood. Pipestone County is also considering having Worthington HRA administer the section 8 program for them. The program is for low to moderate income families. The program is a federally funded program but that funding has been reduced, the program ran at a deficit of \$27,000 in 2018. Worthington HRA would like to get an appropriation from the counties to make up this deficit. The request to Lincoln County is about \$710.72. This amount represents the 4 vouchers that are currently being done for Lincoln County. Commissioner Sik will discuss the program at the next Lincoln County HRA meeting. Information only.

Joe Wilson, Lincoln County Engineer, asked for approval of Amended Resolution 10-2019 Final Payment on contract 01-2018. The correction that was made was changing the final contract amount from \$1,173,591.61 to \$1,186,117.73. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve Amended Resolution 10-2019 Final Payment on Contract 01-2018. All (4) voted in favor.

**Amended
RESOLUTION
10 – 2019**

WHEREAS, the construction of Contract 01-2018 (Projects SP 041-601-031, SP 041-617-033, & SAP 041-617-034) has in all things been completed by Duininc Inc., the final contract costs as follows:

Original Contract Amount	\$ 1,125,888.69
Final Contract Amount	\$ 1,186,117.73
Final Payment Amount	\$ 59,305.88

NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Lincoln and authorize final payment as specified above.

ADOPTED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners the 5th day of February, 2019.

REVISED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners this 19th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2019 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson presented project updates. They were as follows:

- Continuing to work on road widening and bridge projects.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Hopefully done with snow for the year.
- There are areas where the water is getting close to the edge of the road but nothing serious yet.
- Will start grading the roads as they dry up.
- Crack filling will hopefully start this week.

Wilson informed the Board that the Development Agreement for Blazing Star 2 Wind Development Project has some revisions to be made. Information only.

Wilson asked for approval to hire a consultant to evaluate what would need to be done as a temporary fix to the bridges with low tonnage postings. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to accept a contract from SRF for the purpose of bridge evaluation with the fees not to exceed \$5,000.00. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the spring load postings were placed on the roads March 15, 2019. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the Highway Round Table will be held on April 16, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. Information only.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, asked for approval of some new computers, laptops, monitors, and an upgrade to Windows 10. This is due to recommendations from IT and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. SWHHS has the laptops for sale at a low price. Discussion was held on whether to buy used or new. The used laptops are \$200 each and should have about 3-4 useful years left. To buy a new laptop, with the specs that are required, it would cost approximately \$1,200 per laptop. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve the purchase of 17 versions of Windows 10, 2 desk-top computers, 4 computer monitors, 10 laptops and estimated labor to upgrade of \$780 due to recommendations from IT and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension at a total cost of \$7,312.68. Commissioners Drietz, Sik and VanDeVere voted in favor, Commissioner Vizecky voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, requested a signature for the lease agreement for the C232 New Holland Skid Steer. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve the Board Chair to sign the lease agreement for the C232 New Holland Skid Steer with the first lease payment being \$11,028.40. All (4) voted in favor.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRC and Area II, Missouri River Watershed Policy Committee, SW MN PIC Council
 Hamer – Absent
 Sik – Plum Creek Governing Board,
 VanDeVere – SW Regional Development
 Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #9786 - #9867 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$164,704.64, Road & Bridge - \$55,927.21, Ditch - \$1,778.63 and LID – 255.43. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Alpha Wireless Communications Co - \$3,368.00, Axon Enterprise, Inc. - \$3,456.00, Bio Ag Energy Service LLC - \$3,723.70, Christianson Farm Mach Inc. - \$11,028.40, The Computer Man Inc. - \$10,526.06, Cornerstone Consulting Services LLC - \$2,100.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,255.00, Dakota Supply Group - \$7,650.00, GCR Tires and Service - \$2,211.35, Kirkvold Oil Co. - \$5,041.13, M B McGee PA - \$2,500.00, MN Dept. of Agriculture - \$83,854.70, MN Dept. of Corrections - \$16,647.78, North Central International Inc. - \$2,544.61, Prairie Pride Cooperative - \$14,576.00, Tyler Oil Co - \$5,074.99, Waste Management of WI-MN - \$18,894.34, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$6,613.23 and 63 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$17,600.62.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, asked for approval of the Deputy Auditor-Treasurer job description. The changes have been marked in red. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the changes to the Deputy Auditor-Treasurer job description. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2019 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer