

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

August 4, 2020
Courthouse Assembly Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Joe Drietz, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Rick Hamer, Mic VanDeVere, Corey Sik and Jack Vizecky via conference call. Commissioner Drietz 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 Hamer, seconded by Vizecky to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from July 21, 2020 and the agenda for August 4, 2020. All (4) voted in favor.

Jason Overby, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water General Manager, presented the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System 2019 Audit report. Also present were board members Frank Engels, Janice Moen, and Joe Weber. The Audit came back with a clean opinion. Overby also reviewed the following updates:

- In 2019 the city of Edgerton was connected to a line on Louis and Clark.
- 40 new customers were connected. 27 of the new connections were residential, 10 were livestock units and 3 were office buildings. 3 new customers lived in Lincoln County.
- LPRW is now fully connected to Louis and Clark.
- The AMI project was completed which allows automatic readings of water usage.
- The Verdi Well Head project is complete.
- A system wide SCADA system is being used that monitors all water facilities.
- Looking at a new water source located by Burr, MN.
- 2 of the current LPRW Board will need to be reappointed. A resolution will be presented at a future meeting.

Information only.

Overby requested approval of a letter of support regarding support for LPRW to seek funding for a new water source, treatment and distribution network. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Hamer to approve the letter of support regarding support for LPRW to seek funding for a new water source, treatment and distribution network. All (4) voted in favor.

Joe Wilson, Lincoln County Engineer presented project updates. They were as follows:

- The last Township Box Culvert has started.
- The Courthouse/Highway Parking Lot Project is planned to start August 10th.
- The seal-coat projects planned to start August 10th.
- Plan to start milling on Co. Hwy. 2 on August 6th and tentatively plan to start paving patches on August 7th and will begin all paving projects around August 10th.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Started mowing shoulders where the paving and seal coating will be done.
- One culvert and one ditch cleaning will need to be completed before sending the excavator back.
- Have finished dirt work where culvert work was done on roads to be paved.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that they have been approached with the option to sign up portions of road right of way as Monarch Butterfly habitat to help the butterfly population and prevent them from going on the endangered species list. This would require changing mowing timing and seeding milkweed. This would affect the highway department mowing, farmers mowing and highway department weed spraying timing and methods. Robert Olsen, Environmental, is opposed to this due to noxious weeds and feels we could encourage milkweed planting in areas that are not regularly mowed. This would also help the Monarch Butterfly stay of the endangered species list. The Board will consider the options and possibly decide something at a future date. Information only.

Wilson requested approval of a new TSC7 Field Survey Data Collector which is designed to be compatible with 5G networks. If purchased, the current 2014 Field Survey Data Collector would be traded in and taken off the purchase price. \$5,600.00 has been budgeted for a new Data Collector. Wilson received a quote from Frontier Precision in the amount of \$8,309.30 which includes a field visit and set up. This is a state bid quote. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve the purchase of a TSC7 Field Survey Data Collector in the amount of \$8,309.30 after trade and includes a field visit and set up. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that he had a citizen request for a Memorial Highway Designation on a County Highway. There would need to be some guidelines in place prior to deciding this. The Board tabled this until some additional information is received. Information only.

Wilson requested approval of a new Overweight Permit designated for Annual use and use for combination vehicles over 350,000 lbs. We have a Lincoln County resident that is starting a business that requires hauling 2 overweight trailers per day. Commissioner Sik inquired on how this would be enforced. Wilson stated that the route is what would need to be enforced the most and that a full trailer of product could be weighed to determine how heavy the loads will be. Wilson will also need to communicate with the County and State law enforcement regarding the enforcement. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve a new Overweight Permit designated for Annual use and use for combination vehicle over 350,000 lbs. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson received an update from FEMA for the 2019 flood disaster. The Lincoln Co. Highway department will be reimbursed around \$90,958.06 for labor, materials and equipment relating to the 2019 flood disaster. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that the Dairy that needs the overweight permit will have a digester to capture methane. Olsen has not seen the plans yet but will need to go through the plan with MPCA. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that the Sterzingers have signed the purchase agreement that was discussed in the closed session during the July 21st meeting. Olsen requested approval of Resolution 21-2020 to execute the purchase agreement. Motion by Sik, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Resolution 21-2020 Authorizing the Proper County Officials to Execute a Purchase Agreement to Purchase and Convey Real Estate. Commissioner Hamer, Sik, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Vizecky voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER
COUNTY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO
PURCHASE CONVEY REAL ESTATE
RESOLUTION NO. 21-2020**

WEHREAS, Patrick A. Sterzinger and Virginia K. Sterzinger are the owners of the following legally described property ("Property" herein):

A tract of land located in the S ½ of Section 34, Township 112 North, Range 45 West of the 5th PM, and located within Lincoln County Tax parcel 13-0182-010, said Tract located north of Highway 19 and lying adjacent to the Lincoln County Highway Department consisting of 19 acres more or less.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 373.01 Subd. 1 (2) authorizes Lincoln County to acquire and hold real property for use of the county; and,

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County is willing to purchase the Property for the sum of \$117,000.00 (or actual acres x \$6,500.00) for uses related to the County Highway Department and the Environmental Department and other County related uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Lincoln County does hereby authorize the proper county officials, being the Board Chairman and County Auditor, to execute a Purchase Agreement to purchase the Property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MINNESOTA ON (DATE).

Joe Drietz, Board Chairman

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor/Treasurer

Olsen gave an update on the pickup that was approved to purchase. When they arrived at Kruse Motors to pick up the pickup, they found that the wrong pickup was purchased. Kruse Motors is working with Olsen to find a pickup that would follow the criteria Olsen is looking for. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that the interviews have been completed for the Environmental Assistant. 3 individuals were interviewed. The position was offered to Dustin Hauschild and he has accepted the position. Hauschild will continue with the Highway Department until after Labor Day and continue at the current hourly wage until he is a full-time Environmental employee. His wages will become salaried at that time. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to approve hiring Dustin Hauschild as the Environmental Assistant. All (4) voted in favor.

Olsen gave an update on the following items:

- The project on CD #35 has been completed and the project on CD #37 will begin.
- Notices will go out for the LBLID annual meeting on August 29th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the 4-H pavilion in Tyler
- Work has begun on the Hendricks Garbage Site. There has been a lot of unauthorized dumping at the current site.
- Weed spraying needs to be done at the garbage sites.

Information only.

Olsen requested approval to declare the 16-foot trailer as surplus to be put on MN bid. The Highway Department is interested in purchasing a new trailer so Environmental is looking at getting their old trailer at that time. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to approve declaring the 16-foot Environmental trailer as surplus to be sold on MN bid. All (4) voted in favor.

Commissioner Vizecky inquired about the water level of Steep Bank Lake. Olsen informed the Board that Mortonson Wind tower Company has been drawing water out of the lake to use to keep the dust down on the gravel roads. The DNR issued a permit to them allowing this. Vizecky would like Olsen to check with the DNR to see if they are monitoring the depth of the lake. Information only.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, informed the Board that Mary Jeremiason has given her resignation and requested approval to post and advertise. Motion by Sik, seconded by Vizecky to approve posting and advertising for a part-time dispatcher. All (4) voted in favor.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – Absent

Hamer – None

Sik – HRA, Plum Creek

VanDeVere – Solid Waste Recycling Commission, Rural MN Energy Board, Supporting Hands

Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hamer, seconded by Vizecky to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #13370 - #13427 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$34,708.68, Road & Bridge - \$39,944.63, Debt Service - \$890,889.59, Ditch - \$30,503.54 and Solid Waste - \$1,845.00. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$10,839.92, Buffalo Ridge Concrete Inc. - \$19,639.29, Dan Buseth Construction - \$15,260.00, Double D Gravel Inc. - \$9,862.16, Frontier Precision Inc. - \$3,463.10, Ground Works, LLC - \$10,589.25, Interstate Telecommunications Coop, Inc. - \$858,911.83, Pictometry International Corporation - \$17,641.75, Thomas Plumbing Inc. - \$14,355.60, Titan Machinery - \$19,553.14 and 47 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$17,775.40.

Attorney Glen Petersen, presented the purchase agreement to the Board regarding buying the property from the Trautmans to resolve the radio tower issue at the Hole in the Mountain Park. The Trautmans would like an additional \$1,000.00 due to the land being about an acre more than originally thought. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve the purchase agreement with the Trautmans regarding the land at the Hole in the Mountain Park with the \$1,000.00 increase at a total amount of \$6,000.00. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve voiding check No. 13251 in the amount of \$27,705.00 due to the incorrect pickup being delivered. All (4) voted in favor.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer presented the VSO grant resolution for approval. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to approve Resolution 22-2020 2020 CVSO Operational Grant and authorized the grant agreement to be signed. All (4) voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 22-2020
2020 CVSO Grant**

BE IT RESOLVED by Lincoln County that the County enter into the attached **Grant Agreement** with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: **County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program**. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2019, Chapter 10 Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Lincoln County that John Hovland, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the County Board Chair this fourth day of August, 2020.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Vierhuf informed the Board that she had talked to CliftonLarsonAllen about the CARES money. There are individuals with CLA that are independent from our auditors that we can hire as consultants to help us determine what expenses are eligible. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to approve the letter of engagement with CliftonLarsenAllen for consulting related to the CARES Act. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the JPA between the State and Lincoln County in regard to recounts for the Primary and General Elections. Motion by Sik, seconded by Vizecky to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of MN and Lincoln County for the State Primary and General Election in regards to doing the recount of votes. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Vizecky to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer