

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 2020
Courthouse Commissioner 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 Corey Sik, Joe Drietz, Rick Hamer, Mic VanDeVere and Jack Vizecky. 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 Sik to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from January 21, 2020 and the agenda for February 4, 2020. All voted in favor.

Eileen Christensen, Lake Benton City Clerk, David Enke, Lake Benton City Council member, and Mark Dunn, Lake Benton City Council member were present to discuss contracting with the County to do all law enforcement within the City of Lake Benton. Sheriff Meester was also present. Some of items of discussion were the amount of coverage hours, having representation from the County attend city council meetings, and having a deputy check in with the city office once per week. The City would like to get a contract in place as soon as possible and stated that the citizens of Lake Benton are in favor of County law enforcement. Attorney Petersen recommended once the contract is in place, it should be reviewed in 6 months to be sure the coverage is adequate. Meester and the City will work on negotiating a contract. The Board was in consensus with moving forward.

Joe Wilson, Lincoln County Engineer, was present to give project updates. They were as follows:

- Continuing to work on bridge replacement plans for the next 3 years.
- Continuing to work on the Hwy 7 Widening project.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- If weather permits, will be working on some minor bridge and building repairs.
- Equipment maintenance - a couple snow blowers are down for repair.
- Will start looking at sign replacement inventory.
- More sand has been used than normal. Normal usage is about 1600 tons. We have used 2100 tons so far this year.

Wilson requested approval to purchase a John Deere 6155R Tractor from Kibble Equipment which is a State bid quote. This tractor will be replacing the 2004 6715 JD Tractor and rotary mowers. The quote is \$142,900.00. The budgeted amount is \$110,000.00 and the 2004 Tractor and mowers will be sold separately. We expect to get \$30,000.00 or more for the 2004 Tractor and mowers. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve the purchase of the John Deere 6155R Tractor from Kibble Equipment in the amount of \$142,900.00 plus corresponding fees which is off of state bid. All voted in favor.

Wilson requested approval to purchase a New Holland Disc Mower and has received two quotes. One with a trade-in and one without. We feel we can get more than what was offered on the trade. Wilson's recommendation is to go with the quote of \$10,000.00 without the trade and to sell the current mower our self. Hoping to get \$5,000.00 for the current mower. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve the purchase of a New Holland Mower from Maurice Christianson Farm Machinery in the amount of \$10,000.00 plus corresponding fees. All voted in favor.

Wilson requested approval to declare the 2004 6715 JD Tractor and the 2013 JD 285 disk mower as surplus. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to declare the 2004 6715 JD Tractor and the 2013 JD 285 disk mower as surplus. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that State Funding Numbers have been approved by the Transportation Commissioner. Information only.

Wilson requested approval to contract 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 20,000 gallons of gas. The current amount that we would contract for is \$1.99 per gallon for diesel fuel and \$2.01 per gallon for gas. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Hamer to approve contracting 20,000 gallons of diesel in the amount of \$1.99 per gallon and 20,000 gallons of gas in the amount of \$2.01 per gallon. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that he is looking into an over-weight vehicle permitting process for vehicles that want an annual option that doesn't fall within our normal permit. Wilson will bring additional information back at a future meeting. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the Road and Bridge Hearing will be held during the March 3, 2020 meeting. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, gave updates on the following items:

- A Thank You was received from the Tyler Area Food Shelf for the diversion of funds for the clothing to the food shelves.
- Working on the annual Drainage/Ditch report.
- Making final contacts with the landowners regarding Buffer compliance. There will only be a handful of people that will be issued an administrative penalty.
- Continuing to work with LBLID and LSLID with AIS. A permit application has been submitted for Lake Benton Lake. A DNR grant has been applied for LBLID for invasive Curly Leaf Pond weed management.
- We are currently surveying the county for sign damage and missing 911 signs for replacement. Also looking at the intersection signs.
- Blazing Star One has requested that we put the 911 signs on their posts. We will be working on that in the spring.

Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – Missouri River Watershed Meeting, Personnel, Emergency Management, CPT, SWCD, ARMER, ITC Broadband meeting

Hamer – None

Sik – Labor Management, HRA

VanDeVere – ACE, UCAP, Personnel, Environmental, Energy Board Meeting, Supporting Hands, Census Bureau, ITC Broadband

Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere seconded by Hamer to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #12151 - #12197 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$50,814.59, Road & Bridge - \$21,375.86, and Ditch - \$3,243.30, and Solid Waste - \$675.00. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$11,156.74, CNH Industrial Capital America LLC - \$3,699.80, The Computer Man Inc. - \$2,920.79, Cornerstone Consulting Services LLC - \$6,500.00, HP Inc. - \$2,792.61, SafeAssure Consultants Inc. - \$5,764.86, SeaChange - \$2,651.38, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$20,267.50, Mike Thooft - \$3,243.30, Tyler Oil Co. - \$2,688.83, and 37 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$14,422.94.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, requested approval of The Child Support Arrangement between Lincoln County and Southwest Health and Human Services. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve The Child Support Arrangement between Lincoln County and Southwest Health and Human Services commencing January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf requested approval of the Pay Equity Report for 2019. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the Pay Equity Report for 2019. All voted in favor.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to approve paying the bond payment to Ehlers in the amount of \$383,735.00 as an Auditor Warrant. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf requested approval of Resolution No. 11-2020 Establishment of Lincoln County Absentee/UOCAVA Ballot Board. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution 11-2020 Establishment of Lincoln County Absentee/UOCAVA Ballot Board. All voted in favor.

**LINCOLN COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 11-2020
ESTABLISHMENT OF LINCOLN COUNTY ABSENTTEE/UOCAVA BALLOT BOARD**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 203B.121 authorizes Lincoln County to establish an absentee ballot board by resolution to process regular absentee ballots; and Minnesota Statute 203B.23 authorizes the County Auditor-Treasurer to establish the UOCAVA ballot board

WHEREAS, the absentee/UOCAVA ballot board will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee/UOCAVA ballots in Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, the Absentee Ballot Board would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in Minnesota Statutes Sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy county auditor-treasurers trained in the processing and counting of absentee ballots;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners establish the staff of the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer's office serve as the Absentee Ballot Board with the authority granted by Minnesota Statutes 203B.121, for the 2020 PNP Primary, Primary and General elections.

AND, THEREFORE ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the County Auditor-Treasurer shall appoint the staff of the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer's office serve as the UOCAVA Ballot Board according to Minnesota Statute 203B.23 for the 2020 PNP Primary, Primary and General elections.

ADOPTED by unanimous vote this 4th day of February, 2020.

ATTEST:

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Commissioner VanDeVere presented Resolution No.12-2020 which supports the Highway 23 project. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution No. 12-2020 Removal of Highway 23 2024 Mill and Overlay Project. All voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 12-2020
Lincoln County
Removal of Highway 23 2024 Mill and Overlay Project**

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Highway 23 is a key corridor crossing in MnDOT District 8, and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes the importance of quality arterial highways to promote economic development and provide for the efficient transport of regional freight and employees, and

WHEREAS, in 2016 2,389 permits were issued to oversize overweight trips either starting or ending in District 8 which represented approximately 22 percent of the total permits issued in Minnesota for the year, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's freight tonnage is expected to increase by 80 percent between 2012 and 2040, and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes recent mill and overlay projects on area highways, while appreciated, have not provided any practical longevity to better highway conditions, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Highway 23 southwest of Clara City will soon have a concrete surface the entire distance to Interstate 90 in Rock County except either side of Pipestone.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Transportation is hereby requested to remove the proposed 2024 mill and overlay project on Minnesota State Highway 23 between Pipestone and Russell and the project postponed until adequate state and/or federal funding can be obtained for a thick concrete overlay or complete reconstruction in concrete.

ATTEST:

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Broadband discussion was held. Lincoln County did not receive broadband funding through the grant process. A meeting was held with ITC to discuss the bonding process. The county will need to bond for \$5,000,000.00 for the broadband project. The County plans to use the increase in Wind Tower Production dollars to pay for the bond. ITC is scheduled

Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to adjourn at 10:16 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer