

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

February 18, 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 Sik, seconded by Hamer to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from February 4, 2020 and the agenda for February 18, 2020. All voted in favor.

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

- Continuing to work on plans and permitting for 2020-2023 bridge projects.
- Continuing to work on plans and permitting for the Hwy 7 Widening project.
- Working on development agreements for the upcoming wind projects.
- Meeting with Nextera today to discuss their wind project.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Bridge repairs.
- Equipment maintenance and service.
- Equipment and building maintenance still to be done.
- Will be knocking back snow drifts with the snow blower.

Wilson informed the Board that the Road and Bridge Hearing has been scheduled for March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented the 2019 Boat and Water Grant for approval. This is an annual grant and the amount for 2019 is \$2,124.00. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve the 2019 Boat and Water Grant in the amount of \$2,124.00. All voted in favor.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, presented the Drainage/Ditch Report. Olsen stated that some of the issues we will face in the coming years is the farm economy, and the aging tile systems. We have been able to maintain and clean the open ditches but have had many challenges with rainfall in the last couple years. Motion by Hamer, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the 2019 Drainage Systems/Ditch Inspector's report. All voted in favor.

Olsen presented two quotes for a new pickup which will replace the 2008 pickup. Olsen has budgeted \$30,000.00 for the purchase of the pickup. The two quotes were as follows:

- Kruse Ford - \$27,580.00
- Midway Ford Commercial (State bid) - \$29,280.80

The specs are the same for both bids. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve the purchase of a new pickup for the Environmental Department from Kruse Ford in the amount of \$27,580.00 plus corresponding fees. All voted in favor.

Olsen informed the Board that he will be receiving two building quotes for the addition to the Maintenance garage. One will be from Hendricks Farmers Lumber and the other will be from Tyler Lumber. More information will be brought to a future board meeting. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that there will be a lot of time devoted to the Blazing Star II project in the coming year due to many areas where the county tile will be crossed. Information only.

Danell Herzig, Project Director with Nextera Energy, was present to give an update on the Buffalo Ridge Wind Project. The updates were as follows:

- The project is moving through the PUC permitting process right now.
- Network upgrade constraints are being dealt with. The site was previously 26.9 megawatts and will be upgraded to 110 megawatts.
- There are some appeals with Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC) right now that need to be resolved. There are some huge permitting costs due to not enough room for the energy hook on. New development is currently taking on all the cost of this issue.
- Wind tax credits will start phasing out next year.
- Nextera expects to get final figures in April and have the final notice to proceed in July with construction starting in August and having everything complete by the end of the year.
- Will be using automatic detection lighting system with these new towers. The lights will only blink if aircraft has been detected within a certain radius.
- The PUC has asked that a decommissioning bond is entered into with the County.

Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – LQP Watershed, RCRCA and Area II, One Watershed One Plan
 Hamer – None
 Sik – Prime West, Plum Creek, Southern MN Developmental Health Consortium
 VanDeVere – Rural Transportation Coalition in Wilmar, Prime West,
 Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Hamer to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #12233 - #12296 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$27,202.04, Road & Bridge - \$87,010.25, LID - \$2,626.00, and Solid Waste - \$1,987.00. Commissioner Hamer, Sik, VanDeVere and Vizecky voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained due to an Ivanhoe Service Center bill. Motion carried by majority vote.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$11,671.26, BioAg Energy Services LLC - \$2,149.29, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,346.00, GCR Tires & Service - \$14,093.12, Guardian Fleet Supply - \$10,943.28, Hancock Concrete Prod Co. LLC - \$26,411.09, Kirkvold Oil Co. - \$3,694.50, Nebraska Salt & Grain Co. - \$2,636.25, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$16,800.58 and 55 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$25,079.92.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Vizecky to adjourn at 10:12 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

 Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

 Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer