

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

October 20, 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 Joe Drietz, Corey Sik, Mic VanDeVere and Jack Vizecky. Commissioner Hamer arrived at 9:06 a.m. 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 VanDeVere to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from October 6, 2020 and the agenda for October 20, 2020. All (4) voted in favor.

Dale Sterzinger, District Manager of Lincoln County Soil and Water, requested approval of the local matching funds in the amount of \$3,355.00. These funds were previously mandated by the State to be paid by the County. Starting in 2020, the State no longer requires the matching funds but leaves this as optional by each individual County. Sterzinger stated that these funds are used for the well sealing program and requested the approval of the matching funds. Sterzinger will include this on his yearly budget moving forward. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Vizecky to approve paying SWCD the local matching funds of \$3,355.00 for the year 2020. All voted in favor.

Kristina Richmond, Lincoln County Deputy Auditor-Treasurer, presented the list of businesses that applied and qualified for the first round of grant funds. The maximum each business could receive during the first round of grants was \$10,000.00. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to approve the CARES grant list and authorize the grants to be paid as Auditor Warrants and approve another round of grants with the award amount being up to \$5,000.00. All voted in favor.

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

- Beginning work on plans and proposals for 2021 projects.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Fall Mowing on the shoulders is complete in most locations.
- Continue to clean and burn ditches when possible.
- Getting the equipment ready for snow removal.
- Have been using our trucks to haul fill material to the land next to the highway building.
- Waiting for the granite material from the Community Wind North Repower project to be used in the Verdi area on some county gravel roads.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that interviews were held for the Engineer's Assistant position and requested approval to hire for the position. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to hire Erik Hansen for the Engineer's Assistant position at a starting wage of \$30.50 per hour and also pay for his continuing education in order to renew his Engineer's license every two years. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Highway Accountant will be going on a medical leave in December and would like to have approval to allow her to work from home on certain items with the VPN access. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to allow the Highway Accountant to do some of the essential duties from home with the VPN access during a FMLA leave. Commissioner Drietz, Hamer, Sik, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Vizecky voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Wilson informed the Board that the Plow Truck (Unit #23) was sold on MinnBid in the amount of \$11,773.50 and the Asphalt Patching trailer (Unit #1742) was sold on MinnBid in the amount of \$360.00. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that some of our bridges will be load rated. A list of the bridges to be replaced was distributed. Some of these bridges may be paid by the Bonding Bill and if we have some bridges that are load rated but are not on the list, we will look at adding them to the list. Wilson will be in contact with the townships that are affected by these bridges. Information only.

At 9:30 the Pasture and Ag Land rent bids were opened.

Ag Land bids in Lincoln County MN described as approximately 48.7 acres of tillable agricultural land as located North of County Highway 9 in the E ½ SE ¼ of Section 25, Verdi Township. Bids received were as follows:

- Dryland Farms \$10,480.00
- Tim Bloom \$9,934.80

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to approve the high bid from Dryland Farms in the amount of \$10,480.00 for the Ag Land in Lincoln County MN described as approximately 48.7 acres of tillable

agricultural land as located North of County Highway 9 in the E ½ SE ¼ of Section 25, Verdi Township. All voted in favor.

Pasture land bids in Lincoln County described as approximately 46 acres of pasture land, as located North of County Highway 9, part of which is located in the E ½ of the SE ¼ of section 25, Verdi Township and part is located in W ½ of the SW ¼ of section 30, Lake Benton Township. Bids received were as follows:

- Tim Bloom \$3,266.00

Motion by Hamer, seconded by Sik to approve the bid in the amount of \$3,266.00 from Tim Bloom for the Pasture Land in Lincoln County described as approximately 46 acres of pasture land, as located North of County Highway 9, part of which is located in the E ½ of the SE ¼ of section 25, Verdi Township and part is located in W ½ of the SW ¼ of section 30, Lake Benton Township. All voted in favor.

Rick Drietz, Maintenance Supervisor, presented information on a system called RENODRY. This system would be installed in the lower basement and would keep this area dry. There is currently crystallization on the block that is causing the block to deteriorate. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve purchasing the radio frequency RENODRY system, for moisture in the lower basement, in the amount of \$8,500.00. All voted in favor

Drietz reviewed the repair versus replacement quotes for the law enforcement building roof. Discussion was also held on having rubber installed on the concrete roof over the basement. Drietz recommended accepting the quote of \$1,900.00 to repair the Law Enforcement building roof. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Vizecky to approve the \$1,900.00 quote from Rick's Roofing to repair the Law Enforcement Building roof and to approve installing rubber on the concrete roof over the basement in the amount of \$6,500.00. All voted in favor.

Curt Madsen with the Lincoln County Fair was present to give an update. Madsen stated that Lincoln County did not have a fair in 2020 due to COVID-19 risk. A 4-H achievement day was held with ribbons and prize money being awarded. Some PPP money was applied for to cover the Grounds Caregiver's salary. The Lincoln County Fair did apply for some grant money from the County to cover some of the other regular expenses. USDA grant money has been applied for to cover some building improvements and the money for the entertainment will be used for next year's fair. The budget request was the same for 2021 as it was in 2020. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that the new bathroom project at the landfill has been started. The holding tank is in the process of being placed. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that the Hendricks rural garbage site is complete. The site will be under surveillance by the Hendricks Farmers Lumber Co. cameras. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – YM Watershed, LQP Watershed

Hamer – None

Sik – Personnel

VanDeVere – CARES Task Force, Personnel, ACE, Transmission Board Summit Meeting

Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hamer, seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #13934 - #14009 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$109,356.38, Road & Bridge - \$21,887.61, Debt Service - \$23,487.09, and Ditch - \$687.50. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A&C Excavating LLC - \$7,968.33, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$3,054.69, Black Strap Inc. - \$4,329.07, Buffalo Ridge Newspapers LLC - \$3,812.62, Development Services Inc. - \$2,000.00, Ehlers & Associates Inc. - \$3,300.00, Hildi Inc. - \$2,600.00, Ivanhoe Times - \$2,228.36, Liberty Septic, Inc. - \$3,352.50, Lyon Co. Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,540.57, Mid-American Research Chem. Cor. - \$3,360.50, MN Dept. of Corrections - \$19,326.26, Office Peeps Inc. - \$8,311.71, Pavvek Renovation & Const. LLC - \$6,475.00, SeaChange - \$6,274.02, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$26,094.70, Thomas Plumbing Inc - \$20,187.09, WSB & Associates, INC. - \$3,395.75 and 58 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$26,807.41.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, requested approval of Resolution No. 26-2020 Resolution Appointing Certain Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County MN. Motion by Vizecky, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution 26-2020 Resolution Appointing Certain Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County MN. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-2020
RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS
OF THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.428, Subdivision 1, authorizes the governing body of a county to appoint Commissioners of a Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Lincoln County, Minnesota:

1. Jaime McKenzie is hereby appointed as a Commissioner of the Lincoln County HRA for a term of office ending July 11, 2025.
2. The Board finds that the terms of office of the other HRA Commissioners are scheduled to end as follows:

Julie Hogie of Hendricks, July 11, 2022
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 3.

John Lichtsinn of Lake Benton July 11, 2021
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 1.

Amanda Engels of Minneota July 11, 2023
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 5.

Jaime McKenzie of Ivanhoe, July 11, 2025
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 4.

Jennifer Nordmeyer of Lake Benton July 11, 2023
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 1 (Commissioner District with
 Greatest number of public housing units)

Marilyn Powell of Lake Benton July 11, 2022
 From and for County Commissioner
 District 1 as an At-Large Board Member

ADOPTED this 20TH day of October, 2020.

 Joe Drietz, Board Chair

 Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor

Vierhuf informed the Board that this is a union negotiating year but with the year it has been with meeting in person, it has been discussed with the Negotiating Commissioners and the Union to extend the current contract one year allowing a COL increase. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve a 1-year AFSCME Union Agreement which includes a COL increase, carrying forward all current memorandums and current contract language. Commissioner Drietz, Hamer and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik abstained. Commissioner Vizecky voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Vierhuf presented the resignation letter from Barb Nielsen due to retirement. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to accept the resignation letter from Barb Nielsen effective December 31, 2020. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf requested approval to post and advertise for the Deputy Auditor-Treasurer position. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hamer to approve posting and advertising for the Deputy Auditor-Treasurer position. Commissioner Drietz, Hamer, VanDeVere and Vizecky voted in favor. Commissioner Sik voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

 Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

 Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer