

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

September 15, 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, Rick Hamer, Mic VanDeVere, Corey Sik 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 September 1, 2020 and the agenda for September 15, 2020. All voted in favor.

Amber Scholten, Emergency Management started the discussion on the 911 signing for the county and getting a process in place for replacing signs now and in the future. It was brought to the County's attention that some of the signage is faded. The proposal is to replace all the signs in the county and have both the County Highway number as well as the street or avenue. The signs were first put up in 2003. At that time it was voluntary for the townships to participate. Each township that participated were asked to contribute \$3,000.00. All of the townships participated except Hansonville, Hendricks and Royal Township. Representatives for Hansonville and Royal Township were present for the discussion. Hendricks Township declined at this time. Discussion was held on the county possibly picking up the total cost and asking each township to voluntarily contribute. The Commissioners feel that if this signage project moves forward, every township will have signs put up. \$75,000.00 was estimated as the cost for the full county, but a more exact figure will be brought forward to the Board at a future meeting. Information only.

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

- Finishing up minor items and payments on projects for this year.
- Continue to work on projects for next year.
- Will try to get some bridges done yet this year.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- The insurance will pay a total of \$21,231.88 for the pup trailer that was totaled.
- Started fall mowing
- Spot spraying
- The plan is to fix some soft spots on county roads 108 and 119.
- Planning to do some pothole patching.
- Grading as time permits.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he the Engineer's Assistant position will be advertised through September 23rd. The interviews will be tentatively held the week of September 28th if we get a good group of applicants. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the posting is complete for the Tech 2 position and requested approval to promote the individuals in the Tech 1 positions to the Tech 2 position. The increase for these individuals would be .54 per hour. Motion by Hamer, seconded by VanDeVere to approve moving the individuals in the Tech 1 positions to the Tech 2 position. All voted in favor.

Wilson requested to continue the summer hours through October 9th for the Highway Department. The Board was in consensus with this. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the 2004 6715 John Deere tractor and mower has been sold on the MN bid auction site and the county will receive \$27,100.00. Information only.

Wilson requested approval to increase the ROW on County Highway 8 next to the Guida pit. The current ROW is 50 feet and Wilson would like to increase to 60 feet. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to increase the ROW from 50 feet to 60 feet on County Highway 8 next to the Guida pit. All voted in favor.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, gave an update on the following items:

- The Environmental office has been loading chemical jugs to be recycled in Slayton. We recycle 1.5 – 2.0 tons per year which is more than was expected.
- The recycle site in Hendricks is being moved back to the Lumberyard property. The fence has been moved and we used as much of the old fence as possible. The County will be contributing to the road install and that will hopefully be complete by the end of October. There will be 24-hour camera surveillance at the new site (through the Lumberyard) which will hopefully deter unwanted dumping.
- Dustin has been working with Robert in the Environmental office for about 1 week.
- A HHW collection was held in Tyler.

- The landfill has had a lot of activity. Many appliances and tires have been hauled in. Liberty Tire will come down and get the tires. There is approximately 17 ton of tires.
- The ditch tiling projects have been completed as well as the seeding.
- The wind towers have stopped taking water from Steep Lake and are now taking the water from Shaokatan Lake.

Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that a handicap accessible bathroom is being installed at the landfill site. We will also have rural water put in with the CARES dollars and Olsen would like this payment done as an auditor warrant. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to approve the Rural Water install of \$28,000.00 be issued as an Auditor Warrant and paid out of the CARES funding. All voted in favor.

Chris Cauwels, IT specialist, gave a security update. The update included the following items:

- There has been a lot of activity from foreign agents. The new firewall blocks all access from foreign countries.
- VPN was installed this year and employees can take a laptop and access their files from home with full security.
- A training has begun from KnowBe4. If a link is clicked through email that should not have been, it will take an employee to some training that will tell them why they should not have clicked the link. This really increases the employee's awareness of what malicious emails look like.
- An audio/camera system for zoom and videotaped meetings will be installed in the Commissioner's room and the Assembly room. The cost for the Commissioner's room is estimated to be around \$4,000.00 and the cost for the Assembly room is estimated to be around \$6,000.00. Both rooms will be covered with CARES dollars. A formal quote will be sent to Deb Vierhuf at a later date.
- May need additional back-up storage at a future date.

Information only.

Rick Drietz, Maintenance Supervisor, informed the Board that the Sheriff's building is in need of a roof repair. Drietz is considering either replacing the roof or do a short-term fix that could last another 5 years. Currently Drietz has been sealing the spots enough to stop the leaking and feels we could hold off until spring. Drietz will get quotes/bids for a full replacement and for a 5-year fix. Information only.

Kristina Richmond, Lincoln County Deputy Auditor-Treasurer, was present to give an update on the CARES funding. This included the following items:

- The Auditor-Treasurer's office will be transferring approximately \$62,000 in expenses to the CARES funding accounts. These expenses have already been approved by individual departments. About \$14,000.00 has been expensed directly to the CARES accounts.
- We have currently received 7 applications. Once we get all applications, they will be put into a spreadsheet and will go back to the CARES Task Force for approval. They will then come to the full Board. October 1st is the deadline for the applications with approval tentatively set for the second meeting in October. The checks will hopefully be written by October 15th.
- Three townships have applied for funding and the cities have been in touch about how they plan to spend their money.

Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRCA and Area II, Missouri River Watershed

Hamer – None

Sik – Lincoln County Enterprise Development, Highway Labor Management, SWHHS

VanDeVere – SW Regional Development, Hole in the Mountain Regional Park, Prime West

Vizecky – None

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hamer to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #13653 - #13737 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$115,725.31, Road & Bridge - \$54,358.66, Debt Service - \$30,430.00, and LID – 25.99. 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: A & C Excavating LLC - \$14,900.00, Alpha Wireless Communications Co - \$6,736.00, Black Strap Inc. - \$6,480.16, Dan Buseth Construction - \$15,530.00, CivicPlus - \$4,624.71, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP - \$16,728.13, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,266.00, Dean Brandt's Heating & Air Conditioning - \$9,950.00, Development Services Inc. - \$2,000.00, Ivanhoe Public Library - \$7,000.00, Lake Benton Library - \$7,000.00, Marshall NW Pipe Fittings Inc. - \$6,270.23, Northern Con Agg LLP - \$2,552.13, Office Peeps Inc - \$4,092.13, Petersen Law Office PLLC - \$14,372.84, Rick's Roofing & Installation, Inc - \$8,600.00, Siverson Public Library - \$7,000.00, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$13,028.16, SW Sanitation Inc. - \$2,201.65, Tyler Public Library - \$7,000.00, Ziegler Power Systems CAT) - \$19,376.46 and 64 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$19,831.36.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, requested approval of Resolution No. 23-2020 2021 Proposed Levy. The proposed budget is a 3% increase. Discussion was held on whether to approve a 3% or a 5% increase. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution No. 23-2020 2021 Proposed Levy which proposes a 3% increase. Commissioner Drietz, Hamer, Sik, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Vizecky voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

**Resolution No. 23 – 2020
2021 Proposed Levy**

WHEREAS, the County Auditor of Lincoln County, Minnesota, has made and submitted her estimate of expenses and revenues of said county for the year 2020, as required by law, and the county board of said county having duly examined and considered the same,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that there is hereby approved, the following proposed levy, against the taxable property of said county of Lincoln for the year 2021.

**2021 PROPOSED Levy
\$5,951,330**

ADOPTED by unanimous vote, this 15th day of September, 2020.

Joe Drietz, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor

Motion by Sik, seconded by Hamer to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Joe Drietz, 2020 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer