

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 6, 2021
Courthouse Commissioners Room-Zoom
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Mic VanDeVere, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Joe Drietz, Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Also present were Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from March 16, 2021, and the agenda for April 6, 2021 with an added item of funding for the Hole in the Mountain legacy project. All voted in favor.

John Hovland, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, gave an update on the following items:

- 4 successful claims in the 4th quarter of 2020.
- Due to COVID, a \$1,000 grant was offered to Vets through a program called States Soldier Assistance Program. Lincoln County had 5 Vets apply.
- 7 claims are in process.
- 3 death benefit claims are in process.
- The fall conference will be in person.
- Our grant dollars to spend is \$7,500.00.

Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, requested approval to dispose of items that were removed from the inventory. There was a question on a hand-gun that was listed. Nelson will ask Sheriff Meester about the hand-gun. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the property disposals per list provided by Tami Nelson excluding the hand-gun. All voted in favor.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, presented the annual feedlot report for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the annual feedlot report. All voted in favor.

Olsen stated that due to our GIS employee leaving Lincoln County to work for Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District, we do not have someone to update our GIS system. SWCD is willing to allow Brad Leibfried to continue updating the GIS system. The County would need to have a contract written up. The county would need about 500 hours of time and the rate would be \$35.00 per hour. There is a grant available through ARMER that could offset the cost to the county. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve a contract with SWCD to allow Brad Leibfried to update the County GIS system for \$35.00 per hour through the end of the year. All voted in favor.

Olsen presented a building plan for a cold storage shed that would be shared with Highway, Environmental, and Emergency Management. The construction would tentatively begin after August 1, 2021. The building would be paid out of capital improvement and each department would reimburse for their portion. Olsen would like approval to move forward with quotes. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to move ahead with obtaining quotes for the building to be built next to the Highway shop. Commissioner VanDeVere, Drietz, and Hauswedell voted in favor. Commissioner Sik and Nielsen voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Olsen requested approval of the preliminary plat for the Sub Division – Gilbertson's Second Addition. A public planning and zoning meeting was held for public comment. There were no comments for or against the subdivision. The Planning and Zoning Committee's recommendation is to have the preliminary plat approved. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to approve the preliminary plat for the Gilbertson's Second Addition Sub Division. All voted in favor.

Olsen presented a ditch assessment that needs correcting. An assessment for CD #14 has been recorded on parcel #20-0011-000 and it should have went on parcel #20-0110-000. Olsen requested an abatement of \$234.34 to be taken off the 2021 tax statement. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to abate Ditch Assessment for CD #14 in the amount of \$234.34 on parcel #20-0011-000(Sally Wyatt) due to an administrative error.

Olsen informed the Board that parcel #20-0011-000 was assessed \$968.70 for CD #14 from 2005 through 2020 and requested that we refund these dollars. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to refund Ditch Assessments for CD #14 in the amount of \$968.70 on parcel #20-0011-000 (Sally Wyatt) dating from 2005-2020 due to an administrative error. All voted in favor.

Dustin Hauschild, Environmental Assistant, presented signage quotes for intersection signs for the whole county. The townships can contribute money to the project, but the whole county will be done whether the townships contribute or not. Hauschild presented quotes for electro and digital cut quotes but recommends going with the electro cut option. The quotes for the electro cut signs were as follows:

- Newman \$52,721.35
- M&R \$89,608.00

- Traffic Signs \$108,188.60 – double sided signs

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the Electro cut sign quote from Newman in the amount of \$52,721.35. All voted in favor.

Olsen informed the Board that the Environmental Office has done a survey of the Lake Benton Lake to determine if Curly Leaf Pond Weed will need treatment this year. Olsen is recommending a spot treatment be done of Lake Benton Lake for the Curly Leaf Pond Weed. The Lake Benton Lake Improvement District has funds available to pay for the treatment. Information only.

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

- Continue to work on 2021 and 2022 projects.
- County Highway 8 has a load rated bridge. This causes issues with hauling material for the Highway Department. Wilson presented options for that bridge. One option is obtain Right of Way via eminent domain or make some changes to adjust the water flow of the structure that could have negative impacts to the roadway in the future. The Board was in favor of the Engineer deciding the best option.
- A preconstruction meeting was held for the box culverts on County Highway 1 and 5. The contractor would like to start early if possible.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Disking shoulders and blading gravel roads
- Have started crack filling
- If we get rain, we will start pulling up shoulders on paved roads.

Wilson informed the Board that we will be opening bids for the Box Culvert Projects on County Highway 15 and 19. These are bonded projects. The opening is on April 12th and those bids will be brought forward for approval at the meeting on April 20th. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that a blade operator has given his notice. Wilson would like to start with posting internally. The Board was in consensus with posting internally. Information only.

Wilson requested a round table meeting be set up on April 20th at 1:00 p.m. The Board was in consensus with this date. Information only.

Wilson requested a labor management meeting be tentatively set up on April 26th at 8:00 a.m. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – 2 CPT meetings, ARMER, Amber Scholten was present for discussion on new radios. Lincoln County Law Enforcement has the new radios. Scholten is working on a grant for some of the local first responders and fire departments. Scholten will work on getting some estimated figures put together for the county wide cost.
 Hauswedell – Building Committee, Western Mental Health,
 Nielsen – Personnel, ACE
 Sik – SWHHS, Plum Creek Library, HRA
 VanDeVere – Personnel, Building Committee, Solid Waste Recycling Commission, UCAP, Prime West, Southern Prairie, Transportation Advisory Council

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Sik seconded by Hauswedell to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #15216 - #15289 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$50,288.41, Road & Bridge - \$66,132.80, Debt Service - \$82,250.28 and Solid Waste - \$1,061.58. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere 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.E. of Southwest Minnesota - \$3,781.25, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$24,799.08, Development Services Inc. - \$10,000.00, Fidlars Companies - \$2,100.61, Guardian Fleet Supply - \$5,510.06, Interstate Telecommunications Coop, Inc. - \$82,250.28, Kirkvold Oil Co. - \$2,675.00, Regents of the University of Minnesota - \$15,351.20, Titan Machinery - \$9,596.00, Tyler Body Shop LLC - \$2,670.29, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$23,355.48 and 63 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$17,643.82.

Resolution No. 15-2021 was presented. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution No. 15-2021 Recognition Day for National Service Proclamation. All voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 15-2021
 Recognition Day for National Service Proclamation
 Lincoln County**

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s elected leaders are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism to engage their residents and help tackle their greatest needs; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities; they help our nation recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, educate students for 21st Century jobs, fight the opioid epidemic, respond to natural disasters, and support veterans and military families; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors participants serve in more than 40,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County was served by 300 AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers in 2020. The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers perform their volunteer service work under the guidance of A.C.E. of SW Minnesota – Lincoln County office. These volunteers provide vital support to county residents and improve the quality of life in Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, as a County Commission, we work hard every day to make life better for our constituents, and strengthening the spirit and commitment of the volunteers who serve our county is just one of our many goals. We are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these citizens who are helping make our great county stronger, safer, and healthier, and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps shares a priority with local leaders nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with local leaders across the country for National Service Recognition Day on April 6, 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2021, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community, to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Sik, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the upfit costs of \$5,510.06 to be paid to Guardian Fleet Safety for up fitting the new squad car. All voted in favor.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer informed the Board that we have dollars in the debt service account for 2011A Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse and that bond has been paid off. Our payment for bond 2012A Road and Bridge Reconstruction Account has doubled so Vierhuf would like to move those remaining dollars in 2011A to 2012A. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve moving debt service dollars from 2011A Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse to 2012A Road and Bridge Reconstruction Account. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that we have about \$100,000.00 left in broadband expense. Information only.

Commissioner VanDeVere presented some information on the legacy grant dollars. The County can apply for up to \$1,500,000.00 but the County should have the 10% put aside for this. VanDeVere would like to see \$75,000.00 put aside per year to cover the County’s portion of legacy improvements. The Board was in favor of this. This will tentatively be started with the 2022 budget. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to adjourn at 11:09 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer