

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

February 16, 2021
Courthouse Commissioners Room
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 Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Commissioner Drietz was absent. 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 February 2, 2021, the agenda for February 16, 2021 and appointment of John Cornell as Lac Qui Parle Watershed District Manager. All (4) voted in favor.

Haley Panka, AFSCME Union Courthouse President, presented a Memorandum of Agreement that allows employees to donate sick leave to employees in need for COVID events. The requests would be for a maximum of 80 hours and the requests would be reviewed by the Union Presidents and sick leave donations would be determined prior to coming to the Personnel Committee. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by VanDeVere, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between AFSCME Council 65, Courthouse Employees, County Highway Department and County Sheriff's Department and the County of Lincoln regarding COVID sick leave donations through December 31, 2021. Commissioners Hauswedell, Nielsen and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, informed the Board that Cody Swenson has accepted a State Patrol position. Meester requested approval to post and advertise for the open position. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hauswedell, to approve posting and advertising for a Deputy Sheriff. All (4) voted in favor.

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

- Continue to work on 2021 and 2022 projects.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- MPCA recertification's
- Worked on cleaning out the floor drain in the Ivanhoe shop
- Equipment maintenance and repair

Wilson informed the Board that the bids for the Lake Benton State Park Road Account project were opened on February 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. The bids were as follows:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| • Duininck, Inc. | \$109,259.84 | • Central Specialties | \$141,466.00 |
| • Bituminous Paving Inc. | \$137,096.50 | • Double D | \$160,800.79 |

Motion by Sik, seconded by Hauswedell to award the bid for the Lake Benton State Park Road Account project to Duininck, Inc. in the amount of \$109,259.84 which was the low bid and came in at 7.12% above the Engineer's estimate of \$102,000.00. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Road and Bridge Hearing is set for March 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Lincoln County Environmental, received a request from Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District for \$25,000.00 in buffer funds to be used for a portion of a grass seeder and for a portion of some higher than expected earthwork during the excavation of a waterway. Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to approve appropriating \$25,000.00 of the County's buffer funds to pay for a portion of a grass seeder and a portion of higher than expected earthwork costs in the construction of a waterway. All (4) voted in favor.

Olsen gave an update on changing out the intersection signage. The County is considering having the county road and street name on every sign. Prior to making this decision, we would like input from emergency responder individuals. Amber Scholten, Lincoln County Emergency Management, is in the process of reaching out to them. We have 3 different sign companies that we would contact for bids on the project. The Highway Department and the Environmental office would possibly do some of the work during the installation. It would possibly take up to two years to do the whole County. The Commissioners would like Olsen to start getting proposals so we can decide how soon we can begin this process. It is possible we may get some funds from the townships as well. Information only.

John Appelen, was present along with Paul Fehrman, to inquire on what the wind tower dollars are used for within the County. Currently a portion of these funds are budgeted to reduce the levy. The rest of the funds are budgeted to pay for the broadband bond and some of the funds are going into the capital improvement fund. Discussion was held on future funds. Appelen would like to see the dollars used to reduce the levy. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – Absent
Hauswedell – Building Committee
Nielsen – Personnel
Sik – None
VanDeVere – Prime West, Building Committee

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hauswedell seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #14912 - #14974 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$25,250.14, and Road & Bridge - \$46,809.74. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Alpha Training & Tactic’s LLC - \$4,587.58, The Computer Man Inc. - \$2,516.90, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,476.00, Development Services Inc. - \$2,069.48, Hendricks Farmers Elevator Association - \$4,000.00, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$2,460.50, Towmaster - \$37,911.07, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$2,187.27 and 55 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$10,851.08.

Discussion was held on a letter to be sent to Duck’s Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife, and the DNR. The letter is asking these organizations to consider not buying tillable Ag land. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the letter regarding tillable Ag land to be sent to Duck’s Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife and the DNR. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer