

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

January 19, 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 Joe Drietz, Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, and Mic VanDeVere. Commissioner Sik was absent. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor, Deb Vierhuf. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from January 5, 2021, and the agenda for January 19, 2021. All (4) voted in favor.

Jean Nelson, Lincoln County Assessor, presented Resolution 09-2021 which appoints Nelson as the Lincoln County Assessor. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution 09-2021 Appointing Jean Nelson as the Lincoln County Assessor for the term dated January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. All (4) voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-2021
APPOINTING JEAN NELSON AS THE LINCOLN COUNTY ASSESSOR FOR THE TERM DATED
JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022**

WHEREAS, Bruce Nielsen, Lincoln County Assessor resigned from his position effective December 31, 2020 thereby creating a vacancy of the office of the County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, the County Auditor-Treasurer has recommended to the County Board of Commissioners that Jean Nelson be appointed as replacement; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Lincoln, Minnesota, that, in accordance with Minn. Stat. §273.061 that Jean Nelson, Accredited Minnesota Assessor (AMA) be and hereby is appointed to a provisional two-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2022, with the requirement that Nelson attain the designation of Senior Accredited Minnesota Assessor (SAMA) within two years of the appointment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be included with the personnel file held by the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office.

ADOPTED by unanimous vote this 19th day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Nelson read the Oath of Office and Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer notarized the form for Nelson to submit to the State. Information only.

Nelson informed the Board that interviews were held for the Deputy Assessor and she recommends hiring Cody Moen for the position. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve hiring Cody Moen as a Deputy Assessor. All (4) voted in favor.

Nelson informed the Board that it would be good for one additional Board Member to get the Board of Equalization certification. The certification can be completed through 2/1/21. Information only.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, gave an update on the service calls for the county. Information only.

Meester presented quotes for a new squad. Meester has two squads in his budget but feels he will only have to purchase one this year. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Drietz, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Durango Pursuit from Dodge of Burnsville at the state contract price of \$34,682.00 and the cost of up-fitting in the amount of \$11,122.02. All (4) voted in favor.

Meester informed the Board that a federal grant is available to be used to purchase a new boat. The application process has been completed. The proposal is that the boat would be 100% paid through the grant. Information only at this time.

Vince Robinson, Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corp. (LCEDC), Executive Director and Lisa Graphenteen, Director of Housing and Economic Development, were present to discuss the next round of CARES dollars. The County received \$256,250.00. \$6,250 of these funds can be used for administering the dollars. LCEDC is available to administer the funds if the County would like. Robinson suggested assigning up to the \$6,250.00 to LCEDC to administer the grant. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by

VanDeVere to approve LCEDC to administer the second round of CARES grant dollars and to assign the \$6,250.00 to LCEDC to administer the grants. All (4) voted in favor.

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

- The process has been started to get the right of way on County Highway 7 for the shoulder widening project from trunk Highway 19 and County Highway 17.
- Continue to work on getting County and Township Box Culvert plans ready for 2021.
- Continue to work on the County Highway 7 widening plans from a mile north of Tyler to Arco.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Snow removal
- Equipment maintenance
- Started the sign inspection for the year

Wilson informed the Board that he will be opening the bids for the Lake Benton State Park Road Project at the County on February 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Information only.

MnDOT has given out some work orders for mutual aid between the County and the State if either entity is short staffed due to COVID. They would like someone designated to sign the work orders and would like a maximum amount for service. Commissioner Nielsen would like us to check to be sure there are no insurance issues while County employees are working on State highways. Information only.

Wilson would like to set up a Road and Bridge Committee meeting to review some of the budgeted items and a Building Committee meeting regarding the Lake Benton Shop prior to the next Board meeting. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Lincoln County Environmental reported that we have received a preliminary estimate of cost for the Lake Benton Dam project. There are some questions on whether the structure will prevent invasive species from going down stream. The estimated cost is around \$60,000.00 and we have adequate funds in the buffer account to pay this cost. BWSR felt that the buffer funds would be appropriate for this project. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRC and Area II
 Hauswedell – None
 Nielsen – LCEDC, Personnel
 Sik – Absent
 VanDeVere – Prime West, COVID, Personnel, Rural MN Energy Board

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz seconded by VanDeVere to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #14669 - #14738 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$114,638.50, Road & Bridge - \$120,584.15, and Ditch - \$32,634.65.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A & C Excavating LLC - \$6,035.00, A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota - \$3,781.25, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$2,772.54, Area II MN River Basin Projects - \$4,757.00, Buffalo Ridge Concrete Inc. - \$13,951.69, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,396.00, Development Services Inc. - \$2,038.55, Ground Works, LLC - \$11,297.50, Linc. Soil-Water Conservation Dist. - \$45,000.00, Lyon Co Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,291.85, Marshall NW Pipe Fittings Inc. - \$2,208.93, Midstates Equip & Supply - \$20,895.00, MN Counties Intergov. Trust – St. Paul - \$75,053.00, MN Sheriff's Assn. - \$3,842.08, Pavek Renovation & Const. LLC - \$5,600.00, Rural MN Energy Board - \$2,500.00, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$25,190.00, Sterzinger Construction - \$11,807.50, Tyler Body Shop LLC - \$2,714.92 and 51 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$20,724.49.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be approved to allow the current retirees to have their sick and vacation payout go into a Health Care Savings Plan. The Union has already approved the Memorandum. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the Courthouse Union Memorandum of Understanding between Council #65 (AFSCME Union) and Lincoln County establishing a Health Care Savings Plan with the Minnesota State Retirement System. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the 2021 Fee Schedule for approval. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz, to approve the 2021 Fee Schedule. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the 2021 SWHHS Lease Agreement. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the 2021 SWHHS Lease Agreement between Lincoln County and Southwest Health and Human Services. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the 2021 Agreement for Information Technology Services. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2021 Agreement for Information Technology Services between Lincoln County and Southwest Health and Human Services. All (4) voted in favor.

Discussion was held on some changes to the Committee Appointments. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve changing SWHHS – Health and Western Mental Health from Nielsen to Hauswedell. All (4) voted in favor.

Discussion was held on the letter from Ducks Unlimited that shows a current purchase in the County. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer