

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 5, 2021  
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, Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

The Oath of Office was given to Steve Hauswedell, County Commissioner District 5, Dean Nielsen, County Commissioner District 3, and Corey Sik, County Commissioner District 1.

Commissioner Drietz requested nominations for the 2021 Board Chair. Commissioner Hauswedell nominated Commissioner VanDeVere as 2021 Board Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to elect Mic VanDeVere as the 2021 Board Chair. Commissioner Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen and Sik voted in favor. Commissioner VanDeVere abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

Commissioner VanDeVere requested nominations for the 2021 Vice Board Chair. Commissioner VanDeVere nominated Commissioner Drietz as the 2021 Vice Board Chair. Commissioner VanDeVere asked for additional nominations 3 times. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to elect Joe Drietz as the 2021 Vice Board Chair. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from December 15, 2020, and the agenda for January 5, 2021. All voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen, to approve Resolution No. 01-2021 (Mileage Rate and Meal Reimbursement). All voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 01-2021  
2021 Lincoln County Mileage and Meal Reimbursements**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Federal Rate** be reimbursed to county board members, and county employees, for mileage expenses incurred while using their own vehicles on county business.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sum of **\$30.00 per day** be allowed for meal reimbursement, providing receipts and/or reimbursement forms are submitted with request for payment.

**ADOPTED** by unanimous vote, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik, to approve Resolution No. 02-2021 (Setting Time/Days). All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION 02-2021  
Setting Time/Days for 2021 Regular Meetings  
(MSA 375.07)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the first and third Tuesdays of each month for the year 2021, be set as the official days for regular meetings of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the hours for said meetings be fixed at:  
9:00 a.m. for January 19, 2021, and the months of February 2021, through January 4, 2022, all in accordance with M.S.A. 375.07 with the exception of the second meeting in June (Board of Equalization) and the first meeting in December (TNT) which will be held at 4:00 p.m.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said county Board meetings be held in the Commissioner's Room of the Courthouse, Ivanhoe, MN, 319 North Rebecca Street, in the City of Ivanhoe, State of Minnesota.

**ADOPTED** by unanimous vote, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen, to approve Resolution No. 03-2021(Pre-Authorization for Payments). All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION No. 03-2021**  
**Pre-Authorized Payments by Auditor's Warrant(s)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Auditor-Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to issue her warrant(s), drawn on the proper fund, for the following expenditures:  
All utilities, (water, sewer, electrical, heating fuel, phone, etc.), incidentals, postage, payroll activity, insurance, board approved contracts, monthly lease payments, maintenance contracts, court ordered expenses, permit fees, dues, registrations, employee travel expenses, miscellaneous taxes, tax distributions and refunds, inter fund billings, expenditures subject to finance charges, bank charges, payments to other political subdivisions, lost-duplicate-cancelled warrants of \$1,000.00 or less, motor vehicle registration expenses, employee reimbursement for departmental supplies under \$200.00, County Board Approved purchases, all ACH's/EFT's and County Attorney and County Sheriff contingency claims.

Said claims to be paid upon proper presentation of claims during the year 2021.

All claims following the last Commissioner meeting of the year until December 31, 2021.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to make fund transfers from time to time to maintain non-deficient fund balances or to issue warrants in payment of obligations of the County.

**ADOPTED** by unanimous vote this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution No. 04-2021(Soil Water Payments). All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION No. 04-2021**  
**2021 Soil & Water Conservation District Appropriation/Payments**

**WHEREAS**, the District Board of Supervisors of the Lincoln County Soil & Water Conservation District has submitted a budget and made application to the Board of County Commissioners for aid in meeting expenses for soil and water conservation purposes in Lincoln County, Minnesota, for the year beginning January 1, 2021;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Lincoln, Minnesota, hereby appropriates the sum of \$130,000.00 for Soil Conservation purposes and an additional allocation of \$3,355.00 for the local match for 2021, beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021, all in accordance with M.S.A 103C.331, Subd.16.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said appropriation be paid as follows:

\$45,000.00 payment on January 22, 2021  
\$45,000.00 payment on June 18, 2021  
\$40,000.00 payment on October 22, 2021  
\$3,355.00 Local match payment on October 21, 2021

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the county Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue her warrant for said amounts/payments as scheduled above (Revenue Fund/SWCD Account).

**ADOPTED** by majority vote this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik, to approve Resolution No. 05-2021 appointing Robert Olsen as Ag Inspector. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION No. 05-2021**  
**(Agriculture Inspector Appointment)**

**WHEREAS**, provision is made in M.S.A 18.80, Subd. 1, for the appointment of a County Agricultural Inspector.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Robert Olsen, Lincoln County Environmental Office, PO Box 66, Ivanhoe, MN 56142 and telephone number is (507)-694-1344, is hereby appointed as Lincoln County's Agricultural Inspector, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Agricultural Inspector and/or his Assistant, may attend the Annual Short Course and other Regional or District Conferences held during the year 2021.

**ADOPTED** by unanimous vote, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to approve Resolution No. 06-2021 (Designation of Depositories). All voted in favor.

**Resolution 06-2021  
2021 Depository Designations**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 118A.02, subdivision 1 (a) states "The governing body of each government entity shall designate, as a depository of its funds, one or more financial institutions."

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 118A.02, subdivision 1 (b) allows the governing body to authorize the Auditor-Treasurer or chief financial officer to make investments of funds under Minnesota Statute 118A.01 to 118A.06 or other applicable law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, designates as depositories the following financial institutions and designates the following as brokers and authorized investment holders:

Wells Fargo  
MBS (Multi Bank Securities)  
US Bank  
Bank of the West  
Canby Co-op Credit Union  
First Security Bank, Hendricks  
First Security Bank-Canby/Lake Benton Branch  
First Independent Bank of Russell

All banks and financial institutions that our brokerage firms deposit in and the said Board of Commissioners of said County having designated said banks and brokerage firms to act as depositories of the public funds of said County.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, that the proposals, the securities therein specified and the assignments thereof of each said institutions be and the same are hereby approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution 07-2021 – Personnel Committee Authorization. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION No. 07-2021  
Personnel Committee**

**WHEREAS**, the Personnel Committee is made up of 2 County Commissioners and the Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer and is involved in the interviewing of County positions. Upon a recommendation by the Department Head and the Personnel Committee, hires are approved by the full Board.

**WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial to allow the Personnel Committee to approve posting and advertising to fill positions currently held as employees leave. All new positions will need to go through the full Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Personnel Committee is authorized to approve posting and advertising to fill current positions as employees leave.

**ADOPTED** by majority vote this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2021 corporate authorization signatures related to Bank of the West of Ivanhoe, MN for the county banking procedures and administration to be Mic

VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair, Deborah M Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer and Jodette M Otto, Lincoln County Deputy Auditor-Treasurer. All voted in favor.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to approve the reviewed Out-of-State Travel Policy. All voted in favor.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik, to set aside up to 20% of the remaining balance in the county's forfeited tax sale fund for the acquisition and maintenance of county parks or recreational areas as defined in M.S. 398.31 and 398.36 (M.S. 282.08). All voted in favor.

Discussion was held on Committee Appointments for 2021. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the 2021 committee appointments/Re-appointments. All voted in favor.

#### **Lincoln County Commissioner Committee Appointments – 2021**

18 County Adult Mental Health	Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
5 <sup>th</sup> District Public Defender	Sik (Alternate VanDeVere)
ACE of SW MN Board	Nielsen (Alternate Drietz)
Affirmative Action Officer	Sik (Alternate VanDeVere)
AMC Committees	All Commissioners
AMC Voting Delegates	VanDeVere (Alternate Drietz)
Area II Water	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Audit	VanDeVere & Drietz
Building/Capital Improvement	VanDeVere/Hauswedell
Broad Band Task Force	VanDeVere & Drietz (Alternate Hauswedell)
Community Awareness & Emg. Response (CARE)	VanDeVere
County Council on Aging	Nielsen
County Park Board	VanDeVere (Alternate Sik)
Daytime Activity Center	VanDeVere
Dead Coon Lake Issues	VanDeVere & Hauswedell (both as delegates)
Emergency Communications Board	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Explore SW Minnesota/Travel SW MN	Sik (Alternate Hauswedell)
Extension Committee	Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
Health/Safety	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Supporting Hands (SWHHS)	VanDeVere (Alternate Sik)
Highway Round Table	All Commissioners
Hwy 68 Coalition	Hauswedell
Insurance Committee	Drietz
J.C.D. #13 and #31 Drainage (Lyon)	VanDeVere/Sik (Fenske/Stensrud/Ritter)
J.C.D. #16 Drainage (Pipestone)	VanDeVere, Sik, Drietz, Hauswedell
Juvenile Detention Center	Sik
Labor Management	Sik (Alternate VanDeVere)
LacQuiParle Watershed Advisory	Drietz
LacQuiParle Yellow-bank Partnership	Drietz
Land Use/Zoning	All Commissioners
Law Library	Sik
LBLID	Sub Committee – Sik & VanDeVere (Alternate Hauswedell)
Legacy Park Committee	VanDeVere/Sik (Alternate Drietz)
Lincoln Co Enterprise Dev	Nielsen (Alternate Drietz)
Lincoln County Board of Appeals	All Commissioners
Lincoln County H R A	Sik (Alternate Hauswedell)
Lincoln County Library Board	Sik
Lincoln SWCD Board Representative	Drietz & all Commissioners as alternates
LSLID	Nielsen (Alternate VanDeVere)
MCIT	All Commissioners per Board Approval
Negotiating Committee/Personnel - Hwy - CH	VanDeVere/Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
Negotiating Committee/Personnel - Sheriff	VanDeVere/Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
Nutrition Council	VanDeVere
Missouri River Watershed Policy Committee	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Plum Creek Library Board	Sik (Alternate VanDeVere)
Prairieland Economic Development	Nielsen
Prime West	VanDeVere (Alternate Hauswedell)
RCRCA	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Regional Advisory Board (RAC)	Drietz, Amber Scholten Voting member(Alternate Chad Meester)

Road & Bridge Committee	Drietz/VanDeVere
Road Inspection Committee	All County Board Members
Rural MN Energy Board	VanDeVere (Alternate Drietz)
Solid Waste Recycling Comm	VanDeVere & Nielsen (Alternate Sik)
Southern MN Tourism Assoc.(State/per-capita)	Sik
Step II Grievance	Nielsen & VanDeVere (Alternate Hauswedell)
Step III Grievance	All Commissioners
SW Emergency Med. Services	Amber Scholten (Alternate Drietz)
SW Environmental Task Force	Sik
SW MN PIC Council/SW MN Workforce Development Council	Sik (Alternate Hauswedell)
SW Regional Development	VanDeVere
SWMHHS Health	Nielsen (Alternate Sik)
SWMHHS Human Services	Sik (Alternate Nielsen)
Transit Representative	VanDeVere
Water Management Task Force( C&VC)	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
United Community Action	VanDeVere (Alternate Hauswedell)
Western Mental Health	Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
Western Mental Health Dev. Selection	Nielsen (Alternate Hauswedell)
Wind Power Committee/Mtgs	All Commissioners
Yellow Medicine Watershed Advisory	Drietz (Alternate Sik)
Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan	Drietz (Alternate Sik)

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, asked for approval of the AMC Committees for 2021. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the 2021 AMC Committees as follows:

- Environment & Natural Res. Policy Committee – Commissioner Hauswedell
- General Government Policy Committee – Commissioner Drietz
- Health & Human Services Policy Committee – Commissioner Sik
- Public Safety Policy Committee – Commissioner Nielsen
- Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee – – Commissioner VanDeVere

And to appoint the following individuals as AMC voting delegates.

- Commissioner Drietz
- Commissioner Hauswedell
- Commissioner Nielsen
- Commissioner Sik
- Commissioner VanDeVere
- Auditor-Treasurer Deb Vierhuf
- Emergency Management Director Amber Scholten

All voted in favor.

Bids were opened for the newspaper bids. One bid was received from the Lincoln County Editorial Association. Brent Beck was present to review the bid. The legal rate will go to \$8.90 per column inch. It was previously \$8.60 per column inch. The Lincoln County Editorial includes the papers of the Hendricks Pioneer, Ivanhoe Times, Lake Benton Valley Journal and Tyler Tribute. The bid also included the request to have this bid cover the next 4 years instead of 3. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution 08-2021 to award the bid for 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to the Lincoln County Editorial Association as the official county paper. All voted in favor.

#### **Resolution No. 08-2020 County Printing Bid**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Editorial Association was awarded said County Printing Bid for 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to be the Official County Paper, to print all said matters as specified in said bid proposal, as required by law, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the rate for said services be as submitted in said bid, and that claims for county printing to include a signed certificate of measurement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Lincoln County designates the Lincoln County Web site for the publication of transportation projects.

**ADOPTED** by unanimous vote this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

ATTEST:

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Robert Olsen, Lincoln County Environmental, informed the Board that three individuals need to be re-appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board. The individuals for appointment are Arvid Otkin, Babs Brown, and Mike Rybinski. Olsen stated that these individuals are in favor of being re-appointed and they have been doing a good job. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following appointments to the Planning and Zoning Board:

Arvid Otkin – District 1 Representative – 3-Year term  
 Babs Brown – District 4 Representative – 3-year term  
 Mike Rybinski – At Large – 2-Year term

All voted in favor.

Olsen requested approval of the Conditional Use Permit for Randy Spronk – Spronk Brothers III Real Estate LLLP (Buttercup Sow Farm). The expansion will move them over the 2,000-animal amount. Discussion was held. Olsen stated that he did not have any negative comments regarding this permit by phone or at the conditional use public hearing. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water was also made aware of the expansion. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the Lincoln County Conditional Use Permit for Randy Spronk – Spronk Brothers III Real Estate LLLP (Buttercup Sow Farm). Commissioner Drietz, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Hauswedell voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Olsen presented the Rinke Noonan Legal Services Agreement and recommended approving the agreement based on paying an hourly rate for services. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the option two of the Rinke Noonan Legal Services Agreement which states that Lincoln County will pay an hourly rate for services. All voted in favor.

Olsen requested approval to assign easements that affect the Lake Benton Dam outlet structure from the City of Lake Benton to Lincoln County. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the assignment of easements from Lake Benton City to Lincoln County along with the authority and responsibility of the Lake Benton Dam outlet structure. All voted in favor.

Olsen stated that two drainage projects have been completed. A total of 1,750 feet of tile have been replaced. Information only.

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

- Working on plans for the 2021 – 2022 projects which includes County Hwy 7 shoulder widening and County and Township box culverts
- County wide ADA project – shoulder widening

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Snow removal
- Plan to blade the gravel roads.
- Minor culvert maintenance
- Equipment maintenance and organizing the new service truck

Wilson requested approval to advertise the Lake Benton State Park Road Project and Box Culverts. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to approve advertising for the Lake Benton State Park Road Project and Box Culverts. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that an update meeting regarding Monarch Butterfly endangered species listing on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Wilson plans to attend. Information only.

Wilson requested authorization to declare service truck – unit #32, the 1963 Oshkosh truck and snowblower - unit #10 and 1979 Oshkosh plow truck – Unit #12 to be declared surplus and sold on MinnBid. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to declare the service truck - unit #32, the 1963 Oshkosh truck and snowblower - unit #10 and 1979 Oshkosh plow truck – Unit #12 to be declared surplus and sold on MinnBid. Commissioner Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Wilson will present work orders for snow plow relief at the next meeting. Information only.

Amber Scholten, Lincoln County Emergency Management, requested approval to purchase 3 APX6000 portable radios and 2 batteries from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$15,734.34. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve the purchase of 3 APX6000 portable radios and 2 batteries from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$15,734.34. All voted in favor.

Scholten stated that a COVID-19 meeting was held and discussion was held on whether to keep the door attendant through the month of January. The Commissioners discussed keeping the attendant through January and discussing it again at the first meeting in February. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Drietz to keep the door attendant through the month of January to be discussed again at the first meeting in February. Commissioner Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

Scholten informed the Board that the COVID-19 leave expired at the end of December and would like to know if the Board would like to extend that into 2021. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to extend the COVID-19 leave through the month of January to be discussed again at the first meeting in February. Commissioner Drietz and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen and Sik voted in opposition. Motion failed.

Scholten informed the Board that the vaccine has started to be distributed. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

- Drietz – CPT, COVID-19
- Hauswedell – None
- Nielsen – None
- Sik – None
- VanDeVere – SWHHS, ACE, COVID-19, Lincoln County Parks

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #14595 - #14628 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$31,103.34, Road & Bridge - \$15,646.14, Debt Service - \$448,002.76, Solid Waste - \$2,189.00 and LID - \$2,899.00.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$10,116.01, Alpha Wireless Communications Co. - \$15,734.34, AMC/MACO - \$7,503.00, Bond Trust Services Corporation - \$448,002.76, MCCC MI33 - \$2,966.00, MN Counties Intergov. Trust – St. Paul - \$2,189.00 and 28 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$13,329.13.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, stated that the closing was held for the Sterzinger property and the property was paid out of the capital improvement account. We need a motion to authorize that the property be purchased out of the capital improvement account. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to approve purchasing the Sterzinger Property (part of parcel 13-0182-010) out of the capital improvement account. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that the new IRS mileage rate for 2021 is \$.56. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

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Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer