

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

June 1, 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 Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Commissioner Drietz was absent. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from May 18, 2021, and the agenda for June 1, 2021. All (4) voted in favor.

Michelle VanDyke, Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development, and Lindsey Moser, 4-H Summer Intern, were present for a 4-H update. The update included the following items:

- There are still some safety protocol procedures in place, but things are moving back to normal.
- Day camps are scheduled in all of the Lincoln County towns.
- Will be doing a lot of promoting of 4-H through social media and other sources.

Information only.

Lindsey Moser, 4-H Summer Intern introduced herself. Moser is currently attending SDSU for Active Communications and Public Relations. Information only.

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

- County Highway 7 widening project from MN Hwy 19 to County Hwy 17 bids will be opened on June 7, 2021.
- Contractors are working on County Highway 5 Box Culvert Project.
- County Highway 1 has been milled and some minor grading will be done this week.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Still getting dirt from the Blazing Star II Project.
- Have received some dirt from the Blazing Star II Wind Tower project. The dirt is being put on the in slope on County Highway 15.
- Doing blade maintenance on the gravel roads when possible.
- Have started gravel hauling for maintaining gravel surfaces.
- Still working on closing out some 2020 projects.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the County is still working on closing out 3 Township Box Culvert Projects and the County Sealcoat Projects from 2020. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that we are advertising for the Engineering Technician position externally through June 7th or until filled. Information only.

Wilson requested to have the 2020 Annual Report approved which was presented at the May 18th meeting for review. Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2020 Annual Highway Report. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson presented the Grant Agreement and a resolution for each project. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to approve Resolution 20-2021 For Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 041-615-022. All (4) voted in favor.

**Resolution 20-2021
For Agreement to State Transportation Fund
Local Bridge Replacement Program
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 041-615-022
6/01/2021**

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 41J73; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$135,707.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Lincoln County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve Resolution 21-2021 For Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 041-619-014. All (4) voted in favor.

**Resolution 21-2021
For Agreement to State Transportation Fund
Local Bridge Replacement Program
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 041-619-014
6/01/2021**

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 41J74; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$151,317.25 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Lincoln County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson informed the Board that he would like a meeting time to discuss how to proceed with Lincoln County Memorial Signs. Commissioner Nielsen feels that Wilson should come up with the criteria required to be allowed to have a Memorial Sign installed. Wilson will put a proposed plan together and check on if there is liability involved. Information only.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that he is looking at replacing a fork branch on CD #14. A redetermination was recently ordered on CD #14 as well. This project would involve boring under the railroad. Dustin Hauschild has completed the survey work. Olsen will enlist the services of Bolten and Menk for the permitting process with the railroad. The estimated cost to bore under the railroad is \$84,000.00. The total cost of the project is estimated to be about \$100,000.00. The property owner that is requesting the replacement feels it is still worth it. A formal bid process will be held for the project. Olsen will send a formal letter out to all benefitted land owners so they may attend an informational meeting. If the project proceeds, Olsen would like to borrow the funds from Revenue and have the landowners pay it back through special assessments over a period of years. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that JD #30 is currently having some work completed. This involves replacing a culvert in Diamond Lake Township. The County will cost share this with Diamond Lake Township. The estimated County cost will be \$18,000 - \$20,000. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the culvert repair affecting JD #30 in Diamond Lake Township at an estimated cost of \$18,000.00 - \$20,000.00 for the County share. All (4) voted in favor.

Olsen informed the Board that a request was received to replace 15-18 inch tile on CD#35. The cost will be in excess of \$70,000.00. More details will be brought forward at a future meeting. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that the new cold storage building next to the Highway building has been put on hold due to the high cost of materials. Information only.

Olsen informed the Board that part of the fence in Tyler at the rural garbage site has been completed. Information only.

Commissioner Nielsen voiced some concerns from Lincoln County Residents about some tiling that is taking place close to Shaokatan Lake. Olsen will look into the tiling that is being done. Information only.

Vince Robinson, Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corp. (LCEDC), Executive Director, provided an update. The update included the following items:

- The current LCEDC Board of Directors which are 3 year terms.
- LCEDC minutes
- 2020 LCEDC Staff time by Activity
- 85% of the funding comes from the County and 15% of the funding comes from Hendricks, Ivanhoe, Lake Benton and Tyler.
- Funding is also generated from grants.
- ARP funds can be set aside for economic development.

Information only.

Robinson informed the Board that the Westview Apartments are currently taxed as a normal property. Robinson will be requesting that this property be changed to In Lieu Of tax at a future meeting. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

- Drietz – Absent
- Hauswedell – SWHHS, Western Mental Health
- Nielsen – None
- Sik – HRA, SWHHS, Plum Creek Library
- VanDeVere – United Community Action, Solid Waste Recycling Commission, Rural MN Energy Board,

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #15625 - #15667 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$60,391.34, Road & Bridge - \$47,414.77, Ditch - \$150.00, and Solid Waste - \$495.00. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$13,074.96, MN Dept. of Transportation St. Paul - \$5,000.00, Newman Traffic Signs Inc. - \$51,107.90, TrueNorth Steel Inc. - \$19,652.58, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$4,448.23, and 38 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$15,167.44.

Discussion was held on Department Head and Employee reviews. Information only.

Discussion was held on banking and looking at what the other Lincoln County banks have to offer. Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented a resolution commending County Staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This may be brought back at a future meeting once additional information is received. Information only.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to adjourn at 10:41 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer