

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

October 19, 2021
Courthouse Commissioner 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, Mic VanDeVere, Dean Nielsen, and Corey Sik. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf, and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

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

The public hearing for the Rental Rehabilitation Small City Development Grant Program was called to order. There were no members of the community present.

Hunter Robinson, Project Developer for DSI, reviewed a handout on the program.

- A small cities development application was written in 2018 and 2019. In order to do an application for multiple cities, the County is the one that has to apply. It is stated that the Lincoln County HRA files the reports on the Counties behalf.
- As part of the process, a citizen participation plan is completed and one of the requirements of this plan is to hold two public hearings. The first public hearing was held in January of 2019 before submitting the final application and this is the final public hearing to be held.
- The rental rehabilitation is being done in the cities of Lake Benton and Tyler.
- The total grant amount received was \$595,937.00 with a maximum being \$600,000.00.
- The max to be applied for is \$25,000 for a single family home and \$12,000 for a multi-family unit.
- This is a 3 year long program. Extensions can be applied for if the contractor is unable to get materials.
- This program is for low to moderate income families.
- This is a rehabilitation program not a remodeling program.
- The project financing is 70% deferred loan, forgiven over a 5-year term and 30% owner share at the start of construction.
- Average time from application to construction start is 2-3 months.
- For voting purposes, if there is a conflict of interest, they need to abstain from the vote.

Information only.

Robinson asked if there were any questions.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to adjourn the public hearing for the Rental Rehabilitation Small City Development Grant Program. All voted in favor.

Doug Host, our principal auditor with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP was present for the 2020 Audit Exit Report. Host went through some high points of the audit. Host informed the Board that the Lincoln County Staff was well prepared and the Audit went very smooth. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to accept the 2020 Audit Report as presented. All voted in favor.

Beth Wilms, Director of Southwest Health and Human Services, gave an update which included the following items:

- Currently SWMHHS has about 2.5 months of expense in their reserves.
- A budget handout was presented showing 5 year funding amounts.
- SWMHHS is requesting a 2% increase and Public Health is not requesting an increase.
- Lincoln County residents receive many services from SWMHHS
- Copies of the 2018 and 2019 annual report was provided

Information only.

Amber Scholten, Emergency Management, requested approval of the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to approve the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$15,514.00. All voted in favor.

Scholten informed the Board that she was previously the Southwest EMS representative. The terms of the Board of Directors and their alternates shall be for five (5) years with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. Following a one year absence. Scholten has served two (2) consecutive terms. The Board needs to appoint a new primary member and alternate member. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to appoint Commissioner Sik as the primary member and Commissioner Hauswedell as the alternate member for Southwest EMS. All voted in favor.

Scholten gave an update on the following items:

- Performing COVID related items as needed.

- Continuing to work for Lyon County.
- Has been working with Alpha Wireless to see what we need to do to replace radios. Scholten would like to move to portable radios and has some Armer dollars left in her budget that she could use.
- There is concern about a shortage of EMS volunteers.
- Has been involved in vaccine clinics around the area.
- Would like to look into having the Merit Center as a dispatch training center.

Information only.

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

- The contractor continues to work on Co. Hwy 7 Widening Project. Expect to be finished in 1-2 weeks.
- Box culverts, on Co Hwy 15 and 19, are planned to begin mid to late October.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Replacing a culvert on County Hwy 17
- Have been cleaning ditches
- Continue with fall mowing on shoulders
- Have started installing snow equipment
- Will be blading if weather permits

Information only.

Wilson requested approval to hire Kari Meyer/Thovson as an Engineering Technician. Kari has limited experience but will be trained. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve hiring Kari Meyer/Thovson as an Engineering Technician. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Buffalo Ridge Wind project with Nextera Energy is moving forward. This is planned for 2022. Wilson is moving forward with the Development Agreement and road and culvert evaluations. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board the MN Hwy 271 is expected to be complete by October 23rd weather permitting. Information only.

Wilson requested approval to purchase a snow plow truck for replacement in 2022. \$120,000.00 was budgeted in 2021 and \$120,000.00 will be budgeted in 2022. If we order the truck now, the expected build date would be 2nd quarter of 2022. Towmaster last indicated that the snow equipment would not be done until May of 2023. Still trying to get a quote from Towmaster for the snow equipment. Wilson presented the Boyer Trucks quote for a Western Star 4700 DD13 & x 12, which is the state bid. The amount of the quote is \$120,961.00. This is for the truck only. It does not include any of the snow equipment. Motion by Sik, seconded by Drietz to purchase a Western Star 4700 DD13 & x12 snow plow truck from Boyer Trucks in the amount of \$120,961.00 (state bid) with the stipulation that it does come with a warranty. All voted in favor.

Robert Olsen, Environmental, informed the Board that a permit was sent to the railroad to boar under the railroad for CD #14. It was discovered that directional drilling can be done instead. The directional drilling is a much lower cost. The permit will have to be reapplied for. There is only one contractor in the area that does directional drilling and he will do the permitting process if he is awarded the bid. Some of the costs are unknown until we receive a response from the railroad. The contractor is T.E. Underground and his estimate is to not exceed \$45,000.00. Olsen would like to move forward with awarding the project to T.E. Underground. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to approve T.E. Underground to move forward with the application process for the directional drilling on CD #14 to the railroad and awarding T.E. Underground the project at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.00. All voted in favor.

Olsen informed the Board that parcel #14-0132-000 has been cleaned up. There were vehicles that were hauled to the impound lot. Olsen would like the Board to declare the vehicles as surplus to be sold or disposed of. Motion by Sik, seconded by Hauswedell to declare the vehicles from the clean-up of parcel #14-0132-000 as surplus. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Drietz left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Olsen informed the Board that 1,100 feet of perforated tile will need to be replaced on CD #35. A loan will need to be done from revenue to the ditch fund and an assessment will need to be done. The cost to replace the tile is estimated at \$15 per foot. Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to approve replacing 1,100 feet of perforated tile on CD #35 at \$15 per foot. All (4) voted in favor.

Olsen stated that he has received a letter of complaint regarding the Arco city rural drop off site. Olsen feels we should put a fence around the site. A permit to build the fence has been applied for. Once the permit is received, Olsen will proceed with putting a fence around the rural dumpster site. Information only.

A discussion was held with the DNR regarding Lake Stay and the curly leaf pond weed. The DNR initially offered a 50% variance to treat the lake. After the discussion, Olsen feels the DNR has agreed that a whole lake treatment is necessary. The DNR will visit with the individuals involved and see if the permit can be changed to allow a whole lake treatment. Information only.

A discussion was held with the DNR regarding Lake Shaokatan. Lincoln County continues to work with the DNR to see if a variance will be issued for Lake Shaokatan. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – None
 Hauswedell – Personnel
 Nielsen – Personnel
 Sik – RCRCA
 VanDeVere – Transit, PRIME West, Legacy Park Committee

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #16664-#16730 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$23,904.16, Road & Bridge - \$84,790.14, Ditch - \$9,848.64 and County Agency - \$1,257.87. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: AAA Striping Service Co. - \$54,525.90, Black Strap Inc. - \$4,271.97, Bolton & Menk - \$2,576.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,467.40, Fidlar Companies - \$2,136.80, Linc.-Pipestone Rural Water - \$12,970.10, Lipinski Small Engine & Hardware - \$3,782.95, Lyon Co Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,783.83, Gayle Rasmussen - \$2,392.24, Kari Rupp - \$4,000.56, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$3,196.95 and 56 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$21,696.11.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, would like to amend Resolution No. 25-2021 Forfeited Tax Classification. The property owner of the Hendricks property came forward and did not realize the time limit to lose his property. He brought money in to pay all of the back taxes as well as the current year taxes. Vierhuf would like to amend the resolution to remove that property. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to amend Resolution No. 25-2021 Forfeited Tax Classification. All (4) voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 25-2021
 Tax Forfeited Classification
 AMENDED**

WHEREAS, certain lands in Lincoln County, Minnesota, have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes, and,

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners classify these lands as **non-conservation lands**, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 282.01.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners hereby certify that all parcels of land listed below have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012; 92.461; 282.01 Subd. 8; and 282.018; and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners does not need the approval of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of the following parcels:

Shaokatan Township

Parcel #14-0132-000
 Sect – 23 TWP – 111 Range – 46
 Parcel Described in Inst #3922
 Property Address: 1565 Co Hwy 16

City of Arco

Parcel #16-0078-000
 BLK – 8
 Lots 10-11-12

City of Ivanhoe

Parcel #18-0117-010
 Ivanhoe City
 BLK-1
 W 56' of Lots 1&2

Parcel #18-0126-000
 Ivanhoe City
 BLK-1
 Lots 17, 18, & 19

City of Lake Benton

Parcel #19-0435-000
 Lake Benton
 Blk – 2 Snyders Add'n
 Lots 1 & 2

ADOPTED by unanimous vote, this 17th day of August, 2021 and amended this 19th day of October, 2021.

ATTEST:

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Vierhuf informed the Board that, after talking with Daryl Schlapkohl, Parks Manager, a minimum bid of \$1,500.00 will be placed on the 1988 1 ton GMC 4-Wheel Drive Truck and would be placed on Minnbid. Information only.

Vierhuf requested approval of the Agreement for Consulting Services with Hildi. Hildi is an actuarial company that determines the OPEB liability for the County and is required in the Audit. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the Agreement for Consulting Services with Hildi effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Sik, seconded by Hauswedell to adjourn the Board of Commissioner's meeting at 11:26 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Mic VanDeVere, 2021 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer