

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

August 16, 2022
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Vice Chair Dean Nielsen, 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-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Drietz to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from August 2, 2022, and the agenda for August 16, 2022. All (4) voted in favor.

Jean Nelson, Lincoln County Assessor, informed the Board that since Lincoln County was designated a disaster area, we can give a 2022 abatement, a 2023 credit, or both to the landowners that had damage to their property. To give an abatement, it would have to be at least \$100.00. For the credit, the landowner would need to have at least 50% damage and the credit would come off the 2023 taxes. The landowners will need to fill out an application to receive this benefit. Nelson presented a map that showed the farm sites that were affected within the county. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve giving a credit towards the 2023 taxes for the landowners that had damage to their property from the May 12, 2022 storm. All (4) voted in favor.

Nelson requested approval of Resolution No. 27-2022 Requesting Reimbursement of Property Tax Relief which will request reimbursement from the State. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve Resolution No. 27-2022 Requesting Reimbursement of Property Tax Relief Provided Under Sections 273-1231 – 273-1235. All (4) voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 27-2022
LINCOLN COUNTY RESOLUTION REQUESTING
REIMBURSEMENT OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
PROVIDED UNDER SECTIONS 273.1231 - 273.1235**

Whereas, the County of Lincoln experienced a disaster on May 12th, 2022, and

Whereas, said disaster caused extensive property damage to residential and agricultural properties in the County of Lincoln, and;

Whereas, the County of Lincoln has been declared a disaster area by local emergency pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 12.29, and that the county was declared a federal area according to Federal Coordinating Officer, and;

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231-273.1235 provide for property tax relief upon reassessment of properties damaged by disaster, and upon application to the Governor of the State of Minnesota and the Executive Council, and;

Whereas, the minimum requirements of the aforementioned statutes have been met as demonstrated in the attached damage assessment reports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Lincoln that the County of Lincoln hereby requests that the property tax abatements and credits granted to property owners under sections 273.1231-273.1235 for the disaster that occurred on May 12th, 2022 be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 273.1231-273.1235.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Vince Robinson, Facilitator for LCEDC, introduced Jessica Foley who is the new Junior Achievement Coordinator. Robinson presented Budget information for the 2023 request. Information included the current Board of Directors, the minutes from the Annual Meeting, information on community impact, and the 2023 budget request of \$66,190.00. Foley talked about the benefits and success of the Junior Achievement program. The Board will consider the request.

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

- The preconstruction meeting for the 2022 Paving Project is set for August 16th at 1:00 p.m. Currently the plan is to start patching at certain locations and fixing a soft spot on County Highway 7 prior to milling. Paving will start at the end of the month.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Continue to haul gravel.
- Have been blading gravel roads after the rain.
- Have started culvert replacement. Have received part of the culvert order and will do replacement as time allows in the next couple weeks.
- Will be fixing a soft spot on County Road 113 with recycled concrete. Fixed a spot on County Highway 13 previously with recycled concrete and it has worked well.

Wilson continues to work on finalizing and closing out projects from previous years. Information only.

Wilson presented a draft of the 2023 Budget Narrative. The Road and Bridge budget has decreased for 2023 due to an increase in State Aid Maintenance funding. Some of the major budget items are as follows:

- Replacing one of the snow plow trucks.
- Replacing the Semi Truck that is used to haul the lowboy. Looking for a newer used truck to replace that.
- Looking at replacing the 1994 maintenance pickup and the engineering survey pickup.
- Replacing the other half of survey equipment. Half was replaced in 2022.

Wilson reported that they were unable to find a replacement for their CAT backhoe this year, so they will bring those funds into next year and continue looking. \$160,000.00 will be brought forward from 2023 to replace a motor grader in 2024. Some items will need to be ordered now so that they are received by the beginning of 2024. Wilson informed the Board that he did budget for \$250,000.00 of wind money to go towards bridge projects. Some smaller miscellaneous items were discussed as well. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the MN 68 detour is scheduled to start August 18th. Traffic will be sent on County Highway 20 on the first part of the detour and County Highway 7 on the second part of the detour. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the storage building is nearly complete. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental, informed the Board that the well at the Verdi Garbage Site has been sealed. The cost to seal the well was \$1,064.01. The Missouri Water Shed One Plan will give up to \$500.00 towards the well sealing. Information only.

Hauschild gave an update on the CD #14 RR Crossing. The casing has been connected and is working. Information only.

Hauschild presented information on the Regional Solid Waste Plan. The current plan expires in 2024. Discussion and work has started on renewing this plan. One item that was brought up for discussion was the recycling of the wind tower blades when they are decommissioned. One item of concern from the MPCA is plastics getting into the water. Information only.

Hauschild brought up the County Ordinances that were approved last year. A summary of these ordinances has not been published yet. Hauschild feels we may want to address some additional items in the shoreland ordinance. Another issue that has come up is where a fence should be put up. Currently the fence is considered a structure so the surrounding property owners need to sign off if you want to put the fence closer than 10 feet from the property line. This has caused an issue primarily with lake properties. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that a very preliminary estimate on the cost for the Shaokatan outlet is \$112,000.00. Information only.

Kenton Stanek, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, presented Resolution 28-2022 for approval. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Resolution No. 28-2022 To Enter into a Grant Agreement with MN Department of Veterans Affairs and authorize Kenton Stanek, Lincoln County VSO and Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer to execute the Grant Contract. All (4) voted in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-2022 RESOLUTION OF LINCOLN COUNTY

BE IT RESOLVED by Lincoln County that the County enter into a GRANT AGREEMENT with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following program: **County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program**. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the County's Veterans; to assist in the reintegration of Combat Veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in **Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2021, Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2**. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Lincoln County that Kenton L. Stanek, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned program on behalf of the County.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board Vice Chair this third Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Stanek informed the Board that Lincoln County currently has 386 veterans on file. There are other veterans in the County that are not in the system. Stanek feels that things are going well and the training has gone very well. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, reviewed the appropriations with the Board. Some items discussed were as follows:

- The libraries are currently asking for a 7% increase.
- Discussion was held on the extra dollars for the Fair Board to go towards the mower.
- Explore SW Minnesota has requested dollars and this will be considered.
- The Ivanhoe VFW has requested extra dollars for a Veteran's Memorial but we have not found an avenue where we can give more than the minimum which is noted in the statutes.
- Lake Benton Sportsman Club is requesting more dollars than in the past. Currently we like to give all the sportsman's clubs the same dollar amount.
- We have not received the SWHHS or Public Health figures yet.

Nelson informed the Board that she is still inputting figures into the full budget, but will have the preliminary numbers at the next meeting. Information only.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, presented information on the Housing Trust Fund and discussion was held. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRC & Area II
Hauswedell – County Highway 7 Project
Nielsen – Canvass
Sik – Absent
VanDeVere – County Highway 7 Project, Lincoln County Parks Board

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz seconded by VanDeVere to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #18837 - #18899 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$66,359.61, Road & Bridge - \$84,117.05 and Ditch - \$4,255.99. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$8,876.52, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,514.00, Frontier Precision Inc. - \$27,132.90, Hancock Concrete Pod. Co. LLC - \$39,026.50, Hendricks Farmers Lumber Co. - \$12,078.03, Jim's Stucco - \$15,000.00, Johnson Trenching Co. - \$4,222.00, Prairie Winds Construction, LLC - \$15,998.00, Tyler Body Shop LLC - \$2,264.15 and 54 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$24,620.55

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented the final LELS Sheriff's Union Contract for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the final LELS Sheriff's Union Contract for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere, to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. All (4) voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer