

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 6, 2022
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board Chair Corey Sik, 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-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from November 15, 2022, and the agenda for December 6, 2022. All voted in favor.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, informed the Board that a new boat and trailer was purchased with the Boat and Water Grant dollars, but the old boat was not decommissioned and declared as surplus. Motion by VanDeVere to decommission the 2004 Boat and Trailer and declare as surplus to be sold on Minnbid with the funds from the sale to be deposited into the Boat and Water Account. All voted in favor.

Meester requested approval to declare some forfeited vehicles as surplus to be sold on Minnbid. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to declare the 2011 F350, 2007 Equinox, and the 2004 Bonneville as surplus to be sold on Minnbid. All voted in favor.

Meester requested approval of a quote for 13 tamper proof sprinkler heads. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen to approve the quote from Summit Fire Protection for 13 tamper proof Tyco Raven Pendant sprinkler heads in the amount of \$5,760.00. All voted in favor.

Meester presented the City of Hendricks and the City of Lake Benton law enforcement contracts for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the City of Lake Benton and the City of Hendricks law enforcement contracts which cover the years from 2023 - 2026. All voted in favor.

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

- Working on getting the ADA pedestrian ramps project completed.
- Getting the Township Box Culverts Project ready to be advertised.
- Will start working on Seal Coat Plans and Proposals soon.
- Will be working on the bridge inspection reports.

Information only.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Snow and ice removal
- Installing culvert markers
- Dozer work in the Guida pit
- Equipment maintenance
- Bridge repair maintenance
- If weather permits, still plan to do some tree trimming.

Information only.

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

Wilson presented quotes for crack filling material for 2023. The quotes were as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Konrad - \$.77/lb. for 22,500 lbs.=\$17,325.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midstates - \$.695/lb. for 23,760 lbs. = \$16,513.20 |
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Wilson's recommendation is to go with the Midstate's quote. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve purchasing the 2023 crack filling material from Midstates at an amount of \$.695/lb. for 23,760 lbs. = \$16,513.20. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that he received a call from Boyer Ford and the plow truck is done. The truck will now go to Towmaster, to get the plow equipment and the box put on, with a delivery to the County in about 3 months. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he has received a SDDOT detour agreement for a 2024 bridge replacement north of Elkton. Traffic would be detoured on Co. Hwy 10 and 1 to US Hwy 14. The Board was in consensus with Wilson approving this agreement. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the 2005 F250 pickup that was declared as surplus will be listed on purple wave. Information only.

Wilson has been checking into contracting 20,000 gallons of fuel from January through August. Wilson will bring some figures to the next meeting. Information only.

Discussion was held on replacing the Lake Benton Shop. The shop needs a new roof and the building is not a very solid structure. The Board would like Wilson to get quotes on replacing the Lake Benton shop with a similar size structure. Information only.

Wilson requested a meeting to discuss the maintenance supervisor's current salary. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental, presented some solid waste updates. They were as follows:

- The recycling dumpsters are filling up with unbroken down cardboard boxes. Some letters have been sent out to inform people of this.
- The MPCA Greater MN Grant has been submitted.
- Our current solid waste contract expires at the end of 2023. Efforts are being made to get the SCORE Funds increase through legislature as the cost of solid waste has increased by 20% - 40%.
- The garbage tipping fee will increase by \$3.00 starting 1/1/23.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Environmental staff has helped the Arco Sportsman Club submit the application for a grant for the Lake Stay Treatment. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that East River is redoing their 112 KV power line and they will need to get an easement from Lincoln County for the landfill property. Documents were presented to be reviewed by the Board and the County Attorney. These will be brought back for approval at the next meeting. Information only.

Hauschild presented County Ditch work updates. They were as follows:

- CD #14 has been completed. The Redetermination Hearing will be held on December 20th at 1:00 p.m.
- CD #37 has been completed. There was a need to replace an additional 220 feet of 24" tile which added \$5,154.00 dollars. Hauschild will present an amended motion at the next meeting.
- Hauschild presented some pictures of a needed future repair to CD #37.

Information only.

Amber Scholten, Lincoln County Emergency Management, presented the total of the ARMER radios that will need to be replaced for emergency services. The amount to replace all radios, which includes portable, mobile and law enforcement radios, is \$703,057.86. This will replace all wanted radios, but Scholten feels the number of radios could be decreased by looking more at what is absolutely needed. Scholten will continue to work on this. Commissioner Sik would like to be sure we have explored all grant possibilities before the County pays what is needed. Hauschild commented that it is very difficult to be awarded the radio grants. Information only.

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, presented his new seasonal and camping rates for 2023. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the new 2023 seasonal, camping, and chalet rental fees. All voted in favor.

Schlapkohl informed the Board that the pickup that was ordered 15 months ago is still on hold. Another pickup was found, but it is about \$20,000 additional dollars. The original pickup that was ordered will still be at the original price. Schlapkohl would like to continue waiting for the original pickup that was ordered. Information only.

Schlapkohl informed the Board that there are people from the public driving rangers on park property. Schlapkohl would like to know if there is some kind of ordinance that can be passed to keep rangers off the park property. Commissioner Sik would like to see limiting the rangers to the roads, but doesn't feel we can ban them completely. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – Missouri River Water Shed, CPT, RCRC and Area II
 Hauswedell – SWHHS, Western Mental Health, AMC Conference
 Nielsen – Election Canvas, Extension, AMC Conference
 Sik – Election Canvas, SWHHS
 VanDeVere – Road and Bridge meeting with DOT, UCAP, Solid Waste Recycling Comm, Rural MN Energy Board, Supporting Hands, AMC Conference,

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere seconded by Hauswedell to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #19534 - #19629 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$112,720.07, Road & Bridge - \$79,586.33, Debt Service - \$144,122.01, Ditch - \$45,074.65 and LID \$2,655.00. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained due to a payment for Ivanhoe Service Center. Motion carried by majority vote.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A & C Excavating LLC - \$12,000.00, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$19,825.23, Area II MN River Basin Projects - \$6,784.00, Black Strap Inc. - \$3,687.60, Buffalo Ridge Concrete Inc. - \$35,179.65, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP - \$17,325.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,514.00, DLT Solutions LLC - \$10,543.50, Ehlers & Associates - \$2,800.00, Election Systems & Software Inc. - \$3,259.17, Electric Pump, Inc. - \$83,633.00, Ground Works, LLC - \$30,825.23, H & L Mesabi - \$5,899.00, Kris Engineer Inc. - \$6,665.15, Liberty Septic, Inc. - \$2,475.00, Lipinski Garage - \$2,023.06, Lyon Co Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,232.73, MN Dept. of Transportation – St. Paul - \$10,750.47, Petersen Law Office PLLC - \$37,084.00, Roggenbuck Tree Service - \$5,000.00, SHE-Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. - \$3,300.00, SW Regional Development Comm. - \$2,655.00, Thomas Plumbing Inc. - \$15,213.81, Victor Construction - \$18,850.00, Vollan Oil - \$6,400.20, WW Tire Service Inc. - \$2,549.94 and 68 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$31,683.32.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented the Phase II HAVA Grant Agreement. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the Phase II HAVA Grant Agreement which has an award of \$4,286.94 to be used for Election Security. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the Amendment #3 Joint Powers Agreement for A.C.E. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the Amendment #3 Joint Powers Agreement for A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota which allows Pipestone County to become a member of A.C.E. All voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Corey Sik, Board Chair, called the Truth and Taxation public meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were County Commissioners Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere; County Staff Deb Vierhuf, Tami Nelson, Brad Leibfried, Joe Wilson, Dustin Hauschild; Members of the public were Dorothy Zimmerman, Larry Yackley, Krist Wollum, Clayton Ross, Paul Fehrman, Mark Syltie, Kevin Swanson, Leland Seiler, and Virgil Garbers.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023 County levy. The budget summary, a wind-tower revenue breakdown, and area county increases were provided to those in attendance. Public discussion was held. Commissioner Sik had each member of the public state their reason of why they attended. Each reason is listed as follows:

- Dorothy Zimmerman – is concerned about the tax increase and is interested and following how the county is using the wind revenue.
- Larry Yackley – is interested in how the county is using the wind revenue.
- Krist Wollum – is interested in how any new wind money will be used as he is not happy with how the money has been used in the past. Wollum would like to see the money used for property tax relief.
- Clayton Ross – is concerned with why his taxes have doubled. This was more due to a value issue and Brad Leibfried, Deputy Assessor, reviewed this with Clayton in his office.
- Paul Fehrman – has had significant increases due to the cap on the homestead value. Since there has been such an increase in values, this homestead cap is hit sooner. Fehrman would like the Commissioners to present this issue to their legislators. The homestead cap has not been increased to keep up with the land value increases. Fehrman would also like to know how the wind towers are taxed. Fehrman is concerned with how the revenue has been used in the past and feels more of the money should be used for tax relief. Commissioner VanDeVere feels it is a big benefit to the public to use the money for projects that have a long-term effect on the County. If this is done, we don't have to levy for those dollars and that is a benefit to the taxpayers whether they see it directly or not. Fehrman would like to see the Commissioners be frugal with these dollars. Commissioner Nielsen commented that he previously wanted to see more levy relief than he does now. As a commissioner, he sees the many projects that we are able to do with the wind money without raising the tax levy. Nielsen would like to see some additional levy relief, but does not want to use all the wind money for levy relief. Fehrman also commented on the legacy grant.
- Mark Syltie– is concerned with the amount of tax that he pays and would like to see the wind money used for levy relief.
- Kevin Swanson – would like to see some levy relief, but mostly came to listen.
- Leland Seiler – is concerned with how much the value of his house in Tyler has increased. Brad Leibfried answered the questions Seiler had on how the value is determined.
- Virgil Garbers – was very surprised at the amount his taxes increased in Drammen Township. Leibfried commented that Drammen Township was affected more than the

other townships due to over 6 sales in the township. The values are determined by the sales and this is a state rule.

Discussion was also held on the need for transmission lines, the curtailment of the wind towers, and the wind company that did not pay their production tax in full until the end of November.

Commissioner Nielsen would like to use the additional wind revenue dollars that were received in 2022 to keep the levy the same for 2023. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, presented the changes to the budget. The final numbers from SWHHS have been entered into the budget. The sportsman clubs' appropriations have been increased to \$1,000.00 each to help pay for the electricity for the aerators. The levy increase is at 3%. The final budget and levy increase will be voted on at the December 20th meeting.

A full recording is on file at the Auditor-Treasurer's office.

The Board will take the comments into consideration when setting the final budget.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer