

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

June 7, 2022
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.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. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the minutes from May 17, 2022, and the agenda for June 7, 2022. All voted in favor.

Jesse Bermel, a representative for Avangrid Wind Company, introduced himself to the Board. Bermel stated that Avangrid is hoping to start a 300-500 megawatt plus wind farm that would be located in the Townships of Alta Vista, Limestone and Marble. The wind farm would also be in Yellow Medicine and Lyon County. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental, informed the Board that their office continues to monitor the Lincoln County lakes. The Lake Stay Treatment total cost was \$11,877.68. The County will pay \$5,000.00 of AIS funds towards the cost. The city of Arco gave \$1,000.00 towards the cost. The remaining amount of \$5,877.68 will be split between Lake Stay Township and the Lake Stay Sportsmen Club. The cost ended up \$4,000.00 less than the estimate. Lake Shaokatan residents (approximately 40) have been applying for permits to treat 100 feet by their docks. The County has applied for a permit to treat 1,000 feet which would include 500 feet of the swimming area and 100 feet by each of the docks. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the rural garbage sites don't look too bad after the Memorial Day Weekend. Information only.

Hauschild attended the Solid Waste Commission meeting. Discussion has been held on the demo pits in the area. These pits are running out of space. The MPCA would like to see more lined solid waste cells, but this is very expensive. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that through our septic system loan program, the County exceeded the MPCA fund amount by \$30,000.00. Hauschild has requested an additional amount of \$150,000.00 from MPCA to assist with the septic system loan program. Information only.

Hauschild requested approval to repair CD #37 in section 29 of Royal Township. The proposed repair would be to replace with dual wall of the same size in the same location. The estimated cost would be \$19,000.00. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to authorize the repair on CD #37 in section 29 of Royal Township at an estimated amount of \$25,000.00 and authorize Hauschild to get quotes to replace said area with dual wall of the same size in the same location. All voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board of a crossing on CD #37 that has washed out. Andrzejek Cherp Excavating has repaired and the cost should be under \$5,000.00. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that there are some issues with a crossing on CD #14. Hauschild will be looking into it. Information only.

Hauschild inquired as to if there should be 911 signs at the cemeteries within the rural areas of the county. The cost is estimated at \$30.00 - \$50.00 per cemetery. The Board was in consensus with providing the signs and covering the cost. Information only.

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

- Working on advertising for bids on the Gravel Crushing and the Seal Coating contract for 2022.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Gravel road maintenance due to all of the storms.
- Shoulder maintenance on paved roads.
- Have started gravel hauling for the gravel road surface maintenance.
- Construction has started on the shed by the highway building.
- Spot spraying and mowing – the spot sprayer that we usually contract with is having issues having enough employees so they will not be able to do it this year.

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

Wilson presented the 2021 Annual Highway Finance Report for the Board to review. Wilson will ask for approval at the next meeting. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the MnDOT Trunk Highway 68 project is still delayed. Information only.

Wilson presented the 2022 Paving Contract bids that were opened on June 6th. They were as follows:

- Duinink, Inc. \$2,718,775.81
- Central Specialties, Inc. \$3,075,848.02

Although both bids were above the Engineer's Estimate, Wilson recommending moving forward. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve awarding the 2021 Paving Contract Bid to Duinink, Inc. in the amount of \$2,718,775.81 which is 21.5% over the Engineer's Estimate. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Buffalo Ridge project has started construction on the access roads and the lay down site. The distribution lines and pads will tentatively be done in July with the towers being completed in December. Information only.

Shane Sheets, Director of Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, gave a presentation on how things would be handled and what the cost would be if Midwest Medical Examiner's Office would become the official Medical Examiner for Lincoln County. A presentation from Ramsey County Medical Examiners was viewed via zoom by Commissioner Nielsen, Commissioner Sik, Sheriff Meester and Auditor-Treasurer Vierhuf on June 6th. After comparing the two, Sheriff Meester recommended contracting with Midwest Medical Examiner's Office due to the file sharing platform which would make the process easier and more streamlined for the Sheriff's office. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve moving ahead with contracting with Midwest Medical Examiner's Office as the Lincoln County Medical Examiner. All voted in favor.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, informed the Board that the Motorola Vesta 911 Equipment Project has been pushed back due to supply shortage. Information only.

Meester requested approval to accept a donation of \$250.00 from Darrell and Bernice Oerter. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to accept the donation of \$250.00 from Darrell and Bernice Oerter to the Sheriff's Office. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Sik inquired about if a Deputy has been appointed to the Drug Task Force and wanted to verify that the Deputy will remain on the Lincoln County schedule. Information only.

Rick Drietz, Lincoln County Maintenance, informed the Board that he will have about \$5,000 in landscaping bills for miscellaneous items to finish up the landscaping project and would like approval to pay out of the capital improvement fund. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Sik to approve up to \$5,000.00 be paid in landscaping bills out of the capital improvement account. All voted in favor.

Drietz informed the Board that he is working on the heating and cooling project for the courthouse and will bring additional information to a future meeting. Information only.

Michele VanDyke, Lincoln County 4-H Educator, introduced the 2022 summer intern, Allie Christianson. Christianson graduated from RTR in 2021. She will be doing day camps in Hendricks, Ivanhoe, Lake Benton and Tyler, focusing on MN Agronomy Horticulture projects and 4-H Crop Scouting. Information only

VanDyke informed the Board that we currently have 250 4H members and that she is working on securing the Lincoln County Fair Judges. Information only.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, requested approval of the warranty deed between Lincoln County and Lincoln County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the warranty deed between Lincoln County and Lincoln County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to convey part of parcel #13-0182-005 per survey attached to said warranty deed contingent on receiving a letter from HRA/City of Ivanhoe that they intend to use said land for development purposes. All voted in favor.

Committee Reports were given:

- Drietz – CPT – 2 meetings
- Hauswedell – Western Mental Health, Buffalo Ridge Wind Tower Meeting
- Nielsen – Ramsey County Medical Examiners via zoom, MN Rural Counties
- Sik – Ramsey County Medical Examiners via zoom, SWHHS, Avera in Tyler
- VanDeVere – MN Rural Energy Board, Solid Waste Recycling Commission, UCAP, Prime West

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere seconded by Drietz to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #18292 - #18387 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$318,632.38, Road & Bridge - \$72,613.87, Ditch - \$7,402.50 and Solid Waste – \$2,745.00. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A & C Excavating LLC - \$2,622.00, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$25,363.26, Alpha Training & Tactics LLC - \$3,675.30 Area II MN River Basin Projects - \$5,026.60, BioAg Energy Services LLC - \$2,251.80, Bolton & Menk - \$3,880.50, Central Square Technologies - \$24,472.00, Circuitworks - \$2,800.00, Duinick Incorporated - \$37,903.44, Hendricks Farmers Lumber Co - \$9,919.99, Ivanhoe Public Library - \$7,700.00, Lake Benton Library - \$7,700.00, Linc. Co. Council on Aging - \$2,000.00, Linc. Co. Enterprise Dev Corp - \$32,130.00, Linc. Co Fair Assn - \$41,174.00, Linc. Co Historical Soc. - \$10,000.00, Linc. Soil-Water Conserv. Dist. - \$51,300.00, MEI Total Elevator Solutions - \$21,753.38, MN Dept. of Corrections - \$18,605.35, Newman Traffic Signs Inc. - \$4,396.62, Pictometry International Corporation - \$23,250.74, Plum Creek Library Sys. - \$3,250.00, RCRCA - \$5,520.00, Siverson Public Library - \$7,700.00, SW Initiative Foundation \$2,340.00, SW MN Private Industry Council - \$2,080.00, SW Regional Development Comm. - \$2,745.00, Thomas Plumbing Inc. - \$4,088.21, Tyler Public Library - \$7,700.00 and 67 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$28,045.56.

Amber Scholten, Lincoln County Emergency Management, reviewed the training fees for the EMT's, First Responders, and Fire Departments. Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented the Workforce Development Area #6 Southwest Minnesota Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act JPA for approval. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve the Workforce Development Area #6 Southwest Minnesota Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Joint Powers Agreement. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the forfeited auction results. 5 out of the 6 properties were sold. Information only.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer