

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

November 21, 2023
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 and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from November 7, 2023, the agenda for November 21, 2023 and the Snowmobile Trails FY2024 Maintenance/Grooming Grant with authorization granted to Deb Vierhuf to DocuSign. All voted in favor.

Jason Overby, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water General Manager, presented the 2022 Audit. Also present were LPRW board members Frank Engels, Janice Moen, and Joe Weber. The Audit came back with a fair and clean opinion. Overby also reviewed the following updates:

- Due to a change in auditing firm, the audit was completed later than normal.
- Total assets for 2022 is \$93,265,787 which is an increase of \$237,630 from 2021.
- Total liabilities for 2022 is \$34,385,650 which is a decrease of \$424,893 from 2021.
- LPRW holds about \$11,700,000 in unrestricted funds that can be used for ongoing operations.
- Total net positions increased \$891,041.
- Outstanding bonded debt decreased by \$1,265,000.
- In 2022, there were 59 new rural water hookups. This included 10 new Lincoln County hookups.
- A large upcoming project is the North water source project – two wells have been identified and the land has been purchased for a treatment plant near Boyd to alleviate the demand on the Burr source.
- In August a loan/grant was received (for the Boyd project) in the amount of \$26,000,000 from Rural Development.
- An additional amount of \$14,000,000 has been requested (for the Boyd project) in state funding.
- \$11,500,000 has been received for other projects including the Holland project.
- A new shop/office design in Lake Benton has been looked at. Only one bid was received, so the Board elected to do a re-bid in December.
- The city of Rushmore has been added to the system.

Commissioner VanDeVere inquired about the Tyler ground pit that may be brought above ground. Overby informed the Board that nothing has been officially done with the city of Tyler at this time. Information only.

Curt Madsen was present to give an update on the Lincoln County Fair. His update included the following:

- The fair went very well in 2023.
- Received a USDA grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 which was used for an electrical upgrade in the livestock barn.
- Completed some electrical improvements in the Rainbow Pavilion building.
- The picnic shelter by the horse arena received a new tin roof due to the age of the shingles. This was completed by volunteers from the fair board.

- A grant of \$3,000.00 was received to help with the fair entertainment.
- The excess \$3,000 that the county contributes for the mower is kept in a separate account so it will not get spent on anything else.
- A grant was received from RDO and will be used to redo some of the staircases that are very steep.
- \$2,250 in donations have been received from businesses to be used if expenses end up larger than money coming in. This amount has been set aside in a separate account.

Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, opened two bids for the 48.7 acres of Ag land in Verdi Township. The bids were as follows:

- Wyatt Kirk \$12,710.70
- Dryland Farms \$8,600.00

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the high bid of \$12,710.70 from Wyatt Kirk for the 48.7 acres of Ag land in Verdi Township. All voted in favor.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, informed the Board that the Tyler and Verdi dumpster sites have been receiving more demo and furniture drop offs. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Lake Shaokatan Dam Replacement is complete and he will be meeting with Area II for an inspection at 1:00 p.m. today. Information only.

Hauschild gave an update on the Lincoln County ditches. They were as follows:

- CD 36 – There are some erosion issues. Hauschild will see if Area II can look at and see if the ditch qualifies for some erosion control funds from Area II or possibly from BWSR
- JD 31 BR 24 – The final assessment hearing will be held December 7th @ 1:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Courthouse.
- CD 35 – Needs some beaver dams removed and will be doing some minor repairs.
- JD 29 – Needs some beaver dams removed.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Verdi forfeited property will need some asbestos testing done prior to demo. If asbestos is present, we will not be able to haul to the Double D pit. Some of the trees have been cleared out and the neighbors have claimed some of the equipment that they left on the property. There is also a well on the property that will need to be sealed. Information only.

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

- Continue to work on getting the 2023 County Culverts and Paving Plans out for bid.
- Working through permitting for County Highway 8 Bridge.
- The bids for the Township Box Culvert and County Highway 8 Culvert were opened on Monday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Have been working on the Verdi forfeited property cleanup.
- Continue to mix sand and salt for winter.
- The removal of the building on CSAH 7 is complete.
- Completed some seeding for the Environmental Department.
- Have completed some repairs on County Highway 111.
- Have been hauling some rip rap for future needs.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he continues to work on finalizing and closing out projects from 2020, 2021, and 2023. Final paperwork has been sent out for the 2021 and 2023 projects. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he is working on the final sign off on the Wind Tower Project. Information only.

Wilson presented Resolution 34-2023 for approval. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve Resolution 34-2023 Final Payment on Contract 02-2022. All voted in favor.

RESOLUTION No. 34 – 2023
Final Payment of Contract 02-2022

WHEREAS, the construction of Contract 02-2022 Chip Seal Projects on CSAH 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 8M, 24M, 25M, CR 107, & 129 has in all things been completed by Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp., the final contract costs are as follows:

Original Contract Amount	\$	1,451,368.68
Contract Changes	\$	0
Revised Contract Amount	\$	1,451,368.68
Final Contract Amount	\$	1,440,516.70
Final Payment Amount	\$	14,405.17

NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Lincoln and authorize final payment as specified above.

ADOPTED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners this 21ST day of November, 2023.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson presented the bids for Contract 01-2023 Bridge Replacement that were opened on November 13, 2023. The bids were as follows:

• A & C Excavation, LLC	\$881,202.19	• R & G Construction	\$936,452.15
• Town & Country Exc. LLC	\$985,591.75	• Midwest Contracting, LLC	\$996,196.50
• John Riley Const., Inc.	\$1,097,080.19		

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the low bid from A & C Excavation, LLC in the amount of \$881,202.19 for Contract 01-2023 Bridge Replacement of Bridge #'s 41J80, 41J81, 41J82, 41J94, 41J85, and 41J84 which was 9.57% below the engineer's estimate. All voted in favor.

Wilson presented the bids for Contract 02-2023 Bridge Replacement that were opened on November 13, 2023. The bids were as follows:

• A & C Excavation, LLC	\$826,357.25	• R & G Construction	\$773,283.50
• Gladen Construction Inc.	\$1,063,303.71	• Midwest Contracting, LLC	\$846,642.50
• John Riley Const., Inc.	\$872,768.00		

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the low bid from R & G Construction in the amount of \$773,283.50 for Contract 02-2023 Bridge Replacement of Bridge #41J90 which was 33.15% below the engineer's estimate. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the joint truck station meeting will be held in the DOT building today at 1:00 p.m. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, discussed the budget with the Board. Nelson reviewed past budgets and how close they were at the end of the year. Other items of discussion were moving park improvement to capital improvement, part-time versus full-time 4-H educator, and the health insurance increase. Information only.

Rick Drietz, Lincoln County Maintenance Supervisor, requested approval of the Doom & Cuypers Construction Inc. bid. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the quote of \$70.00 per hour plus materials not to exceed \$18,000.00 from Doom & Cuypers Construction inc. for the construction on the first floor HVAC System. All voted in favor.

Drietz – CPT, Watershed
 Hauswedell – SWHHS, Opioid Meeting, Extension
 Nielsen – ACE, Highway Road Tour
 Sik – None
 VanDeVere – SWHHS, United Community Action, Park Meeting

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #22073- #22135 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$45,916.77, Road and Bridge - \$77,462.75, Debt - \$37,070.14 and Ditch - \$128,689.50. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12 A & C Excavating LLC - \$10,937.50, ACE of Southwest Minnesota - \$4,139.50, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$19,865.16, Black Strap Inc. - \$2,280.36, Bolton & Menk - \$2,320.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,652.00, Deangelo Brothers Inc. - \$35,200.80, Ground Works, LLC - \$11,217.60, MN Pollution Control Agency - \$32,500.00, Office of MNIT Services - \$2,713.75, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$2,645.38, TE Underground LLC - \$113,182.00, Talk Graveling LLC - \$13,935.91, Tyler Electric LLC - \$6,800.00, Vollan Oil - \$2,886.58, WSB & Associates, Inc. - \$5,016.42 and 45 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$17,846.20.

Discussion was held on the SW Consortium. No decision has been made at this time. Information only.

Vierhuf presented 3 policy sections that need to be approved. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the following personnel policy changes; Section 118 to address ESST leave, section 104.4 to address background checks, and section 121 to add Juneteenth to the holiday schedule. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented a quote on a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 Big Horn pickup for Sheriff Bushman. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to approve purchasing a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 Big Horn from Billion Motors in Sioux Falls, SD in the amount of \$40,694.00 plus corresponding fees with the use of forfeited funds if possible. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the USICG Agreement for Consulting Actuarial Services. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the USICG (formerly Hildi) Agreement for Consulting Actuarial Services, which is required for our audit, effective January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024 with a total cost of approximately \$2,950.00 for two years with authorization given to Vierhuf to DocuSign. All voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer