

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

November 7, 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 Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Commissioner Drietz 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 Nielsen to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from October 17, 2023 and the agenda for November 7, 2023. All voted in favor.

Stacy Jorgensen, Social Services Supervisor for Southwest Health and Human Services, presented information on the Southwest 18 Consortium. The Consortium was created to support collaboration around mental health services and maximize the State funding to serve across our counties. Lincoln County is currently part of the Joint Powers Agreement between the consortium and the 18 counties. Previously there were services that received funding and this funding was put into reserves. The funding for these services has changed and ultimately, the reserves have been depleted. The consortium historically used these reserves to assist with cash flow while waiting for grant funds from the State to arrive. The Southwest 18 Consortium is requesting \$20,000.00 from each of the 18 counties to cover expenses prior to the receipt of grant funds. This is a one-time request. If the funds are used during the gap, they are reimbursable back to the fund. The fund will not be depleted. Lincoln County would get these funds back if the consortium is dissolved, but the funds will remain with the consortium till this happens. The Consortium needs an answer by the second Friday in December. Commissioner Nielsen asked what would happen if some of the counties decide not to contribute? Jorgensen did not have a good answer at this time. The Board will consider the request and discuss this at a future meeting. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, reviewed the SCORE funding for Lincoln County. Lincoln will receive \$36,220.00 in the Fall of 2023 and \$36,220.00 in the Spring of 2024. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that Lyon County will be applying for the Waste Wise Regional Grant and requested approval of a letter of support from Lincoln County. This grant will provide a solid waste audit to businesses that apply. The Lincoln County businesses can apply for the solid waste audit as well. If a Lincoln County business applies, it may require some administrative time from the Environmental office. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve sending a letter of support to Lyon County for the Waste Wise Regional Grant Application. All (4) voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board that A&C Excavating has cleaned JD 30 and has indicated that there are two culverts that are failing. One was removed for safety reasons and the other one should also be removed. Once removed, a parcel will be land locked. Hauschild would like to replace with a pipe from True North at a cost of \$13,000.00. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to purchase a 10-gage pipe from True North not to exceed \$13,000.00 to be used for the JD 30 ditch system. All (4) voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board that the final hearing for JD31BR24 is tentatively set for December 7th to set the final assessment. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that there are still a few items that need to be completed at the Lake Shaokatan Dam replacement. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that he has checked with Double D in regards to hauling the demo for the Verdi forfeited property. Double D is willing to take the demo at their pit if they are hired to do the hauling. The Board was in consensus with moving forward with this. Information only.

Hauschild presented the Feedlot Work Plan for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the Feedlot Work Plan. All (4) voted in favor.

Hauschild requested authorization to hire an Environmental Tech to utilize some of the grant money. Through the grant, there are funds to cover the salary and benefits for two years. This would help with an upcoming retirement as well. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve hiring a full-time Environmental Tech with the salary and benefits covered through a grant for two years. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Sik voted in opposition. Motion carried.

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.
- Will be opening bids for the Township Box Culvert and County Highway 8 Culvert on Monday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m. The bid will be awarded on November 21, 2023.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Continue to look for a replacement Semi.
- Most of the snow equipment is in place.
- Fall mowing is close to complete.
- Shouldering is finished for the year.
- Sand and salt mixing is being completed.
- Will be working on a few trouble areas to prevent snow issues.

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. Some discussions have taken place. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that once he removed the health insurance increase, the budget was at a 0% increase. Information only.

Wilson presented Resolution 32-2023 which is a resolution for the sponsorship of the city of Tyler for the Street Improvement Project. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve Resolution 32-2023 Resolution of Sponsorship for the City of Tyler Street Improvement Project. All (4) voted in favor.

Resolution No. 32-2023
Resolution of Sponsorship from Sponsoring Agency

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner VanDeVere and moved for adoption at a Regular Meeting held on November 7, 2023 at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Ivanhoe, MN:

WHEREAS, the City of Tyler would like to submit Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) applications; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tyler needs the County to sponsor their LRIP applications; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tyler has requested Lincoln County be the sponsoring agency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Lincoln County, Minnesota agrees to act as sponsoring agency for LRIP Projects identified as **Lincon Street Improvements** and has reviewed and approved the projects as proposed. Sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this applicant.

Seconded by Commissioner Hauswedell and the same being put to a vote was duly carried. This Resolution shall become effective immediately and without publication.

Adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4 Nays 0

Dated this 7th day of November, 2023.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson informed the Board that he has 3 culverts he would like to proceed with the bridge hydraulic analysis on. These will be sent out for pricing. The Board was in consensus with proceeding. Information only.

Wilson presented a quote for maintenance culverts. Many of the culverts are for steel culverts on roads that are scheduled to be re-paved. We will be replacing the culverts with concrete. We could not get another quote for comparison. Since the order was large, we did receive a 10% discount. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the quote from Rinker Material for concrete culverts in the amount of \$159,814.40. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson requested approval of the updated Highway Accountant job description and wage scale. The 2024 wage scale included the cost-of-living increase for 2024. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the updated Highway Accountant job description and wage scale. All (4) voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Lake Benton Township Supervisors are scheduled to attend the second Board meeting in January. They would like to have a discussion about some of the roads in their township. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he has a retiree that he would like to hire for part-time work. The Board was in consensus with this. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the CDL training agreement is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the DOT meeting will be held after the next Board meeting. Information only.

The Committee of Safety and Voter Integrity were present to address the Board. Members present were Cindy Frensko, Kevin Downing, Paul Fehrman, and Val Downing. Cindy Frensko addressed the following concerns:

- They would like the voter polls cleaned up. They have a concern about dead people still appearing on the roster. The committee feels the Department of Health (DOH) is not doing their job. Deb Vierhuf stated that the DOH does send a deceased listing through the election system if the person dies in Minnesota. The issue is if a person dies in another state, it does not go through the DOH. This topic had come up after an election and the Auditor-Treasurer's office researched the deceased voters that are still on the roster. In all cases researched, those deceased individuals died outside of the state of Minnesota. In those situations, the person's name will get removed from the election system if a form is filled out by a relative. The forms are available in the Auditor-Treasurer's office.
- The committee would also like no more mail-in ballots. (Absentee) Previously, people they know have received several applications for an absentee ballot. Vierhuf stated that the absentee ballot process is a state law and individual counties cannot decide to do away with absentee ballots. The applications that went out were from other organizations and although the legislature tried to stop that, a few have still been sending them. Lincoln County has no control over this. If we receive more than one application for a voter, we only keep one of the applications and the voter only receives one ballot. We have many checks in place to assure that only one ballot goes out per person.
- The committee would like Lincoln County to go back to hand-counting the ballots because they feel the machines can be manipulated. Vierhuf stated that after election, two precincts are picked at random and those ballots are hand counted and in the twenty years of doing elections, we have not found an error. The machines are also tested before the election. Hand counting is a very long process and leaves more room for error.
- The committee also wants to be sure our machines are not hooked to the internet. Vierhuf stated that our machines are not hooked to the internet.

Commissioner Sik asked if the Board has any authority to change the way people vote in Lincoln County. Vierhuf stated that the absentee process is set by State Law and the Commissioners cannot change it. Commissioner Nielsen stated that he is not for going back to hand counting. Vierhuf stated that a recent legislative change states that once an entity moves to using the machines, they cannot go back to hand counting. Information only.

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, requested approval for the trade-in of the current mower for a new mower. Kibble Equipment is offering a higher trade-in value than the purchase price of the new mower with \$1,300.00 coming back to Lincoln County. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve purchasing a John Deere Z997R Diesel mower in the amount of \$22,275.00 less the trade in value of the 2022 John Deere 1580 in the amount of \$23,575.00 from Kibble Equipment with the county receiving \$1,300.00 after the trade is complete. All (4) voted in favor.

Schlapkohl presented two quotes for a new pickup. The first quote is from Higley Ford for a 2023 Ford F250 in the amount of \$59,580.13 which includes sales tax and fees. The second quote is from Dahl Motors for a 2024 Chevy Silverado in the amount of \$60,390.63 which includes sales tax and fees. Schlapkohl's recommendation is to go with the 2024 Chevy Silverado because it is a 4-door and the resale value would be higher. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to purchase the 2024 Chevy Silverado from Dahl Motors, for the Parks Department, in the amount of \$60,390.63 which includes sales tax and fees. All (4) voted in favor.

Commissioner VanDeVere brought up the discussion of the \$60,000.00 that is in Daryl's budget for improvements to Picnic Point. VanDeVere feels this could come out of the capital improvement account and this would decrease the final levy to the taxpayers. This will be considered as the Board determines the final budget. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, discussed the budget with the Board. When the insurance was removed from the Highway budget, the Highway shows a zero increase. The increase to

the budget due to the health insurance increase was discussed. Large departmental projects using capital improvement funds was also discussed. Commissioner VanDeVere would like to get the levy increase down to 3%. Commissioner Nielsen is wondering how close to budget we were in past years. Nelson will check into this. Information only.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, presented registered property surveys 11 & 12 for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve registered property surveys 11 & 12. All (4) voted in favor.

Drietz – Absent
 Hauswedell – SW 18 Consortium, Western Mental Health, SWHHS
 Nielsen – AMC, LCEDC, Personnel
 Sik – Labor Management, Personnel
 VanDeVere – AMC, SWHHS, PrimeWest, UCAP, Supporting Hands

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #21964-#22034 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$173,260.69, Road and Bridge - \$59,812.15, and Ditch - \$11,524.44. All (4) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12 Alpha Wireless Communications Co - \$28,111.50, Bisbee Plumbing and Heating - \$56,076.00, Black Strap Inc. - \$9,615.27, Fidler Companies - \$4,819.72, Garrett J Beck - \$51,900.00, Ground Works, LLC - \$9,968.84, Ivanhoe Electric Inc. - \$4,189.65, Linc. Co Editorial Assn. - \$2,140.45, Lipinski Garage - \$2,292.00, Locators and Supplies Inc. - \$2,005.75, Midwest Alarm Company, Inc. - \$6,597.36, PB Electronics Inc. - \$3,115.00, Roggenbuck Tree Service - \$4,000.00, Sterzinger Construction - \$11,424.90, Sterzinger Crushing, Inc. - \$4,250.00, TrueNorth Steel Inc. - \$21,495.24, Tyler Lumber Co. - \$2,239.09 and 54 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$20,356.51.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that the bid opening was set for 9:30. We did not receive any bids by that time, but we did have a bid come in at 10:36. Since this is the only bid, Attorney Petersen said it could be opened and if the Board chooses to accept it, they would waive irregularities. The bid for 46 acres of pasture land in section 25 of Verdi Township was opened. The bid was from Joshua Grooters in the amount of \$3,000.00 per year. Motion by Sik, seconded by Nielsen to waive irregularities and accept the bid for 46 acres of pasture land in section 25 of Verdi Township in the amount of \$3,000.00 per year. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented a request from SWHHS for Opioid Funds. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve sending Opioid funds in the amount of \$6,595.19 to SWHHS for two of the approved projects that affect Lincoln County. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented Resolution 33-2023 for approval. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve Resolution No. 33-2023 Appointing Certain Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County, Minnesota. All (4) voted in favor.

Resolution No. 33-2023
RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS
OF THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.428, Subdivision 1, authorizes the governing body of a county to appoint Commissioners of a Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, Minnesota:

1. Jennifer Nordmeyer of Lake Benton is hereby appointment as a Commissioner of the Lincoln County HRA for a term of office ending July 11, 2028, from and for County Commissioner District 1.
2. Nikki Facile of Tyler is hereby appointment as a Commissioner of the Lincoln County HRA for a term of office ending July 11, 2028, from and for County Commissioner District 2.
3. The Board finds that the terms of office of the other HRA Commissioners are scheduled to end as follows:

John Lichtsinn of Lake Benton From and for County Commissioner District 1	July 11, 2026
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Julie Hogie of Hendricks From and for County Commissioner District 3	July 11, 2027
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Cindy Winter of Ivanhoe From and for County Commissioner District 4	July 11, 2025
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Amanda Engels of Minneota From and for County Commissioner District 5	July 11, 2024
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Paul Olson of Hendricks From and for County Commissioner At large	July 11, 2027
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ADOPTED this 7th day of November, 2023.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Vierhuf informed the Board that the door and HVAC projects, approved at the October 17th meeting, need approval to pay out of the capital improvement account.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve paying for the two additional doors (Server door and SWHHS office door) for the new badge system (approved October 17th) out of the capital improvement account. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve paying for the HVAC Equipment and First Floor bid (approved October 17th) out of the capital improvement account. All (4) voted in favor.

Vierhuf requested approval to void check number 21898 due to an incorrect vendor. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve voiding check number 21898 to Patrick Haynes Computers in the amount of \$4,250.00 which should be paid to Sterzinger Aggregate. All (4) voted in favor.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer