

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

September 19, 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 Drietz to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from September 5, 2023 and the agenda for September 19, 2023. All voted in favor.

Doug Host, CliftonLarsonAllen Audit Principal, presented the 2022 Audit. The audit went very well and the staff was great to work with and were well prepared. Lincoln County was issued a "clean" opinion on the financial statements for 2022. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to accept the 2022 Audit Report as presented. All voted in favor.

Bob Bushman, Lincoln County Sheriff, presented an updated Chief Deputy job description for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the updated Chief Deputy job description. All voted in favor.

Bushman informed the Board that according to state statute §387.145, he would like to appoint Isaiah Wahl to the Chief Deputy position and requested approval from the Board. Bushman stated that Isaiah has the most years of service and knows what is expected of the department. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Sik to approve Sheriff Bushman's appointment of Isaiah Wahl to Chief Deputy to be effective October 1, 2023. All voted in favor.

Bushman presented a quote from Midwest Alarm Fire and Security Systems for an upgrade to the jail door alarm in the amount of \$17,489.40 and requested the Board pay it out of the capital improvement account. The Department of Corrections has recommended that we change the entrances and exits for the jail and install keypad doors. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the jail door alarm quote from Midwest Alarm Fire and Security Systems in the amount of \$17,489.40 to be paid out of the capital improvement fund. All voted in favor.

Bushman presented a quote from Marshall Decorating Center, Inc. in the amount of \$22,101.78 to recarpet the Sheriff's Office and a quote for \$2,172.97 to recarpet the lobby area and requested that this is paid out of the capital improvement account. The Commissioners would like to see another quote for the recarpeting of the Sheriff's Office and lobby area. Bushman will bring this back at the next meeting. Information only.

Lisa Graphenteen, Director of Housing and Economic Development at DSI, presented a contract amendment for additional Archeological Services. Jason Amberg from WSB and Steven Blondo from Blondo Consulting were also present through zoom. Graphenteen informed the Board that during the archeological dig, nine times the amount estimated artifacts were found. The contract amendment shows the charge for the additional work that needs to be done. The additional cost is a not to exceed amount of \$9,877.29. This amount would come out of local funds as it is not an eligible expense for the Legacy Grant funds. Many of the artifacts have been found where the trails are expected to go. This will not stop the project, but the findings will need to be evaluated and the trails may need to be rerouted. The design work on the sledding hill should not be affected. In the future, archeological expenses can be included in the Legacy Grant dollars, but since this project was started prior to this rule, it cannot be included for this phase of the project. The archeological grant dollars will need to be applied for a year in advance of the work. Commissioner VanDeVere inquired as to if the artifacts found could come back to Lincoln County. Steve Blondo informed the Board that since this project is reviewed by the State according to Statute §138, the artifacts need to go to a qualified repository. This repository needs to be a secure storage location and needs to be accessible for research. There are only a few places that are qualified repositories in Minnesota, but they are always looking for additional qualified repositories. If we have a historical society that would be interested, Blondo will get them the information to do that. Commissioner Sik inquired as to if we could get prints of the artifacts to have on display. Blondo said he would get prints of the artifacts to us. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the contract amendment for the Hole in the Mountain Park additional Archeological Services in the amount not to exceed \$9,877.29. All voted in favor.

Vince Robinson, Executive Director of HRA, informed the Board that Lincoln County will be receiving Statewide Housing Aid in the amount of \$84,033.00 for 2023 and \$84,033.00 for 2024. These dollars should be used for affordable housing to keep families from losing housing and to help those experiencing homelessness find housing. There are employers within the County that are interested in workforce housing. This could be a good recruitment tool for a large employer. The fund can also be used for related costs such as infrastructure for a housing development. The funds do have income guidelines attached to it. The County can create their own program or give the money to another non-profit to

support their housing program. This is informational at this time, but the County does have to come up with a plan of how they will use these funds. Information only.

Kenton Stanek, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, presented the 2024 CVSO Program Agreement. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2024 CVSO Grant Program Agreement in the amount of \$7,500.00. All voted in favor.

Stanek gave an update. The update covered the following items:

- Burn pits are now recognized as a toxin for veterans' benefits.
- Stanek is now nationally accredited.
- Stanek would like to do additional suicide prevention training.
- If the Veteran's qualify for tax abatements, they are assisted with submitting that application.
- Lincoln County currently has about 400 registered veterans.
- 1.8 million dollars in benefits are going back to our Lincoln County veterans.
- Grave site markers are available to deceased veterans, but the family needs to apply within 1 year of death. If the marker is not applied for within 1 year, the family has to pay for the marker. There are grant funds available through the Disabled American Veterans to pay for the cost of the marker in these situations.
- Stanek presented a seal that was created for the Lincoln County office. The Board was in consensus with using the new seal.
- Stanek would like to comment that all of the employees at Lincoln County have been great to work with and he has not had any complications getting information from any of the other offices.

Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, informed the Board that the concrete was poured at the Transfer Site and the first round of the grant has been submitted. Information only

Hauschild informed the Board that the Tyler Rural Garbage Site has received a lot of remodel demo. Letters have been issued and some of the charges have been paid. The Verdi Rural Garbage Site is getting the disposal of car parts. Hauschild is working on getting fences and signs installed and will be installing a camera to help police the site. Commissioner Hauswedell inquired about damaged dumpsters. Hauschild informed the Board that the dumpsters are maintained every 3 months. Information only.

Hauschild gave a ditch update. The updates were as follows:

- CD 7 Ditch cleaning – This has been started on the South mile between Tyler and Lake Benton. There is a 1,000-foot stretch that needs some touch up.
- CD 37 Ditch Crossing Culvert replacement in Royal Twp. Section 34 North of Ivanhoe – The pipe will be delivered on September 22, 2023.
- JD 31 Br 24 – the Final Hearing for the improvement will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Courthouse. The purpose of the Hearing is to finalize the contract. Once the rest of the bills are received, a final assessment will need to be approved. The cost is about \$30,000.00 below the engineer's estimate.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the riprap has been delivered for the Lake Shaokatan Dam Replacement. A & C Excavating is working on this project. Information only.

Hauschild presented Amended Resolution 26-2023 The Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 52. The resolution that was approved on August 15<sup>th</sup> had Resolution No. 42, but should be No. 52. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Amended Resolution No. 26-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 52 Amending Lincoln County Comprehensive Development Ordinance No. 40. All voted in favor.

**Resolution 26-2023 Amended  
ORDINANCE NO. 52  
LINCOLN COUNTY**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 52  
AMENDING LINCOLN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE  
NO. 40.**

**WHEREAS**, The County Commissioners of Lincoln County have determined the publication of the title and summary of Ordinance No. 52; an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 40 and Pertaining to the Comprehensive Land Development of Lincoln County, Minnesota and replacing it with Ordinance No. 52 would clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of Ordinance No. 52; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 375.51 Subd. 3 and Minnesota Statutes 331A.01, Subd. 10, the Commissioners may direct that only the title of the Ordinance and a summary be published with

notice that printed copy of the Ordinance is available for inspection by any person during regular business hours at the office of the County Auditor; and,

**WHEREAS**, Prior to publication of the Title and Summary, the Commissioners have read and approved the text of the summary and determined that it clearly informs the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; the publication shall read as follows:

On August 15th, 2023, the County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Minnesota approved Ordinance No. 52, entitled Lincoln County Comprehensive Development Ordinance.

The following is a summary of Ordinance No. 52. Ordinance 52, in its entirety is available for review and/or photocopying during regular office hours at the Office of the County Auditor 319 North Rebecca Street, Ivanhoe, Minnesota 56142 (507) 694-1529 or at the Lincoln County Environmental Office, Lincoln County Highway Department, Ivanhoe, MN 56142 (507) 694-1344.

ATTEST:

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Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, requested approval to pay the bill to Jared Rouge Construction in the amount of \$13,060.00 for re-shingling the Chalet due to hail damage. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve paying Jared Rouge in the amount of \$13,060.00 for re-shingling the Chalet due to hail damage. All voted in favor.

Schlapkohl would like to look into refurbishing the log cabin at Hole in the Mountain Park and would like some ideas on who to contact. The city of Pipestone was mentioned as a possible contact. A Hendricks resident was also mentioned. Information only.

Schlapkohl informed the Board that the Highway Department is working on the big culvert coming into the park. 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 and Township Box Culverts, and Paving Plans out for bid.
- Working through permitting for County Highway 8 Bridge.
- The bids for Gravel Crushing at the Skime Pit will be opened on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Culvert replacements have been completed on County Roads 110, 118 and 123. A replacement still needs to be done on County Road 124.
- The re-graveling will be completed this week.
- 1200 tons of gravel needs to be hauled.
- One of the loaders is out of service.
- Plan to do some blading once we receive some rain.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he continues to work on finalizing and closing out projects from 2020, 2021, and 2022. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he is working on the final sign off on the Wind Tower Project. They have started knocking down weeds and finishing seeding Information only.

Wilson requested approval on Resolution 29-2023 Final Payment on Contract 01-2022. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution 29-2023 Final Payment on Contract 01-2022. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION  
29 - 2023**

WHEREAS, the construction of Contract 01-2022 Paving and Patching Projects on CSAH 7, 8, 13, 24M, & 25M has in all things been completed by Duinick, Inc., the final contract costs are as follows:

Original Contract Amount	\$2,718,775.81
Contract Changes	\$ 15,698.23
Revised Contract Amount	\$2,734,474.04

Final Contract Amount	\$2,824,172.82
Final Payment Amount	\$ 184,559.97

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 19<sup>TH</sup> day of September, 2023.

ATTEST:

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Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson requested approval to hire Ben Bloch as a Highway Motor Grader Operator. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to hire Ben Bloch as the Highway Motor Grader Operator contingent on passing the drug and alcohol test. All voted in favor.

Wilson inquired on if the Commissioners would like a road tour of the whole county or if they would rather go out individually and view the roads in their district. The Commissioners were in favor of doing a road tour of their individual district. Information only.

Wilson would like to extend the summer hours. The Board is in favor of extending it through the first week of October. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, presented Resolution No. 30-2023 2024 Proposed Levy. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Resolution No. 30-2023 2024 Proposed Levy which shows a levy increase of 6%. All voted in favor.

**Resolution No. 30 – 2023  
2024 Proposed Levy**

**WHEREAS**, the County Auditor of Lincoln County, Minnesota, has made and submitted her estimate of expenses and revenues of said county for the year 2024, as required by law, and the county board of said county having duly examined and considered the same,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that there is hereby approved, the following proposed levy, against the taxable property of said county of Lincoln for the year 2024.

**2024 PROPOSED Levy  
\$6,415,968**

ADOPTED by unanimous vote, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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Corey Sik, Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Drietz – RCRCA & Area II, CPT, Workforce Development  
Hauswedell – Personnel  
Nielsen – LCEDC, Personnel  
Sik – Personnel  
VanDeVere – PrimeWest, SW Regional Dev

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #21657-#21726 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$177,961.19, Road and Bridge - \$82,296.72, and Ditch - \$19,048.00.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12 Ag Plus Cooperative - \$19,942.96, Axon Enterprise, Inc. - \$6,239.81, Bolten & Menk - \$14,100.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,652.00, Duinick Incorporated - \$20,211.20, Ivanhoe Public Library - \$8,239.00, Jared Rouge Construction - \$13,060.00, Kjergaard Sports - \$3,745.38, Lake Benton Library - \$8,239.00, Lincoln Soil-Water Conservation District - \$49,022.50, MN Dept of Agriculture - \$44,265.20, Rinke-Noonan LTD - \$4,948.00, Rinker Materials - \$36,726.20, Siverson Public Library - \$8,239.00, Southwest Health and Human Services - \$3,837.63, Tyler Lumber Co. - \$2,142.00, Tyler Public Library - \$8,239.00, West Shore Services, Inc. - \$2,150.00, and 51 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$20,307.03.

Amber Scholten, Lincoln County Emergency Management, presented a quote for 6 portable radios and 2 apex radios for the new squad cars in the amount of \$44,603.96. The Board would like to approve 3 portable radios and 2 apex radios for now and see if that is sufficient. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve 2 Apex6500 mobile radios and 3 Apex6000 portable radios from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$27,586.50 plus corresponding fees with one of the radios being loaned to the City of Tyler PD. All voted in favor.

Scholten requested approval of the EMPG Grant. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the 2024 EMPG grant in the amount of \$15,526.00. All voted in favor.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, discussed the bid that was approved at the September 5, 2023 meeting from Chappell Central. The project was bid previously by Bisbee and rebid in September by Bisbee and Chappell Central. There have been some issues that have arisen regarding the engineering plans. Petersen feels the safest course of action would be to rescind the motion from September 5<sup>th</sup> awarding Chappell the bid and table further action until the next meeting. In the interim, Petersen feels the Building Committee should meet and come back with a recommendation for the full Board. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve rescinding the September 5, 2023 motion accepting the Chappell Central quotes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Heating and Cooling Project due to attorney review and table any additional motion on the project until the next meeting. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf requested approval to change the voting member on the Regional Advisory Board. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve changing the voting member on the Regional Advisory Board (RAC) from Commissioner Sik to Amber Scholten and to change the alternate from Chad Meester to Robin Sik. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that the DNR had sent a handout regarding the DNR Field Day which was included in the Board packets. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere, to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

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Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer