

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 18, 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 Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from April 4, 2023, the agenda for April 18, 2023, and the Wilno 1 Day On-Sale Liquor and Gambling License for the event to be held July 4, 2023. All voted in favor.

Teresa Keifer and Jessica Foley presented a new website that is titled At Home in Lincoln County. The site is intended to be an on-line marketing initiative and a promotional and marketing tool for all of the cities and communities within Lincoln County. The resources within the site show what Lincoln County has to offer to residents, visitors and people that are looking to relocate. The site was started with a grant through the Blandin Foundation and will cover the expense for about a year. The site has 50 pages with over 800 links. Connections to the website are also done through Facebook. Keifer and Foley have met with all of the cities and EDA's. The site was accessed and presented to the Board. The cost to maintain the website is about \$35,000.00 per year. Commissioner VanDeVere has concerns about this type of advertising taking away from our local newspapers. Keifer commented that they encourage individuals to advertise in their local papers as well. Information only.

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

- Plan to open the Seal Coat bids on May 1st at 2:00 p.m.
- Continue to work on 2023 plans and proposals for county bridges, township bridges, paving, and ADA Pedestrian Ramp.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Started disking shoulders on gravel and paved county roads.
- Have not started crack filling yet due to cold weather – repairs are needed for the melter.
- 3 barricades were put in place due to high water.

Information only.

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

Wilson informed the Board that 3 bridge structures will need to be load rated. The bridges are located in Ash Lake, and Alta Vista Township. There is some concern about one of the structures on County Highway 7 that is used by one of the gravel haulers. Wilson will look into a solution for this structure. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the 2010 Freightliner is currently listed on Purple Wave and the bids close on May 2nd. Information only.

Wilson requested authorization to advertise selling 1.35 Acres with the legal description of Part of Jorgenson Beach Lots 1-6, Part of Gov's Lot 5 in Section 19 – T112N – R46W. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to sell Part of Jorgenson Beach Lots 1-6, Part of Gov't Lot 5 in Section 19 – T112N – R46W which has a parcel number of 06-0229-000. All voted in favor.

Wilson requested authorization to advertise leasing approximately 1.1 acres of tillable agriculture land, as located North of Wilno Pit located in the NE ¼ of Section 26 of Royal Township. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to advertise a 3-year lease of approximately 1.1 acres of tillable agriculture land, as located North of Wilno Pit located in the NE ¼ of Section 26 of Royal Township. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that the Engineer's Assistant position will be vacant after April 21st. Discussion was held on the needs of the Highway department. The discussion included whether to hire an Engineer's Assistant or an additional Engineering Technician. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to advertise for an additional Engineering Technician for the Highway Department instead of the Engineering Assistant Position. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that he would like to begin summer hours on Monday, April 24th. The Board was in consensus with starting summer hours. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, informed the Board that the MPCA Greater MN Recycling and Compost Grant has been signed and we will hopefully have quotes for the May 2nd meeting. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Joint JD #31 Board met on April 12th and the project was awarded to TE Underground. Information only.

Hauschild presented information on the following drainage issues:

- CD #7 – West of Tyler – a couple crop culverts have washed out – This will be looked at.
- CD #10 – a large Cottonwood tree has fallen across the ditch and needs to be removed.
- CD #35 – South of Ivanhoe – slow drainage – this will need to be looked into to see if there is a blockage.
- CD #37 – There is concern with sediment in the ditch – this will be assessed to see if the ditch needs to be cleaned.
- JD #31 – A deep tile was previously replaced. There is water ponding over the top of this tile so this will need to be looked at.
- JD #32 – slow drainage causing a big lake – will need to look for a possible blockage.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that TE Underground has purchased a camera and we may look into using that. Information only.

Hauschild inquired about the Ditch Repair amount of \$5,000.00 being the max prior to Board approval. The purchasing policy will be checked to see if that is the limit for ditch maintenance. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that he would like to set a hearing on June 20th for Drainage Systems for Redetermination of Benefits on JD #11, CD #49, JD #21, CD #45 and possibly JD #32. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that we have been approved for \$720,000.00 in loan funds for MPCA Clean Water Partnership loan program for the replacement of failing septic systems. The loan terms are set at 1.5% interest to be paid back over 7 years. Hauschild recommends setting the County terms for payback at a 3% interest rate, with a payback of 7 or 10 years, a \$200.00 application fee and to raise the minimum assessed value of \$20,000.00. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to set the septic loan terms at a 3% interest rate, a payback of 10 years, a \$200.00 application fee and a minimum property assessed value of \$20,000.00. All voted in favor.

Hauschild requested the Board to consider having a county funded septic loan program sometime in the future. This would reduce the amount of reporting we would need to do. Information only.

Rick Drietz, Lincoln County Maintenance Supervisor, informed the Board of a roof drainage issue at the Highway Building. If the drain pipes freeze, water leaks through the walls and when the water does drain outside, it pools and creates a hazard for slipping on the ice. Drietz would like to have baffles put in the ceiling to divert the water to the sewer system during the winter months and have valves in place to divert the water to the outdoors during the summer months. Drietz presented two quotes. The quotes were as follows:

- Bisbee Plumbing \$7,865.00
- C.A.S Plumbing & Heating \$10,080.00

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the quote from Bisbee Plumbing in the amount of \$7,865.00 to fix the drainage issues at the Highway Building to be paid out of the capital improvement account. All voted in favor.

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, requested approval to pay for a tractor repair in the amount of \$8,643.28. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to pay for the New Holland tractor repair in the amount of \$8,643.28 to be paid to Christianson Farm Machinery Inc. All voted in favor.

Schlapkohl informed the Board that there is a huge amount of branch cleanup to be done at the parks. A quote was received from Roggenbuck Tree Service in the amount of \$5,000.00 - \$8,000.00. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the quote from Roggenbuck Tree Service not to exceed \$8,000.00 for tree cleanup at the county parks. All voted in favor.

Jean Nelson, Lincoln County Assessor, requested approval to hire the Deputy Assessor position. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to hire the Deputy Assessor position. All voted in favor.

Michelle Facile, Lincoln County Recorder, requested approval for out-of-state travel. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the Lincoln County Recorder's out-of-state travel to Davenport, IA for the land records training held by Fidler Annual Symposium. All voted in favor.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, presented Resolution No. 20-2023 for approval. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve Resolution No. 20-2023 Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the County of Lincoln on behalf of its County Attorney and Sheriff which includes the Court Services Agreement. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-2023
RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN ON BEHALF OF ITS COUNTY ATTORNEY AND SHERIFF**

WHEREAS, the County of Lincoln on behalf of its County Attorney and Sheriff desires to enter into Joint Powers Agreements with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to use systems and tools available over the State's criminal justice data communications network for which the County is eligible. The Joint Powers Agreements further provide the County with the ability to add, modify and delete connectivity, systems and tools over the five-year life of the agreement and obligates the County to pay the costs for the network connection.

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

1. That the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements by and between the State of Minnesota acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Lincoln on behalf of its County Attorney and Sheriff are hereby approved.

2. That the Lincoln County Sheriff, Chad Meester, or his or her successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the Sheriff. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

To assist the Authorized Representative with the administration of the agreement, the Lincoln County Attorney is appointed as the Authorized Representative's designee.

3. That the Lincoln County Attorney, Glen A. Petersen, or his or her successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the County Attorney. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

4. That Corey Sik, the Chair of the County of Lincoln, and Deb Vierhuf, the County Board Clerk, are authorized to sign the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements.

Passed and Adopted by the Council on this 18th day of April, 2023.

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Petersen presented a corrective deed for approval. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the corrective deed conveying land from Lincoln County to Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Lincoln County (Parcel #13-0182-003). All voted in favor.

Discussion was held on the annexation of parcel #13-0182-006 into the City of Ivanhoe. The Board did not want to proceed with annexation at this time. Information only.

John Engels, Attorney with Engels & Larsen, PLLC and Jerry Bottelberghe held a discussion with the Board on parcel #18-0020-000 and #18-0023-000 which was previously owned by Divine Providence Hospital and Home Inc. Due to losing the public hospital exemption, the taxes were increased by a large amount. The facility, know as Safe Place Inc., will get this exemption status once it is an operating facility. Bottelberghe would like to receive an abatement to get his taxes down to what they were the previous year. This would amount to a county abatement of \$6,330.70. The city and school will need to be contacted to receive an abatement of that portion of the tax. The Board will take this into consideration and will need to set a public hearing if they want to move forward with this abatement. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – RCRCA and Area II, CPT, CPT Personnel, JD #31 Joint Ditch Meeting
Hauswedell – Personnel, PrimeWest, JD #31 Joint Ditch Meeting
Nielsen – Two Personnel Meetings
Sik – Lake Improvement Meeting
VanDeVere – Transit, PrimeWest

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #20508 - #20571 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$61,146.67, Road and Bridge - \$48,599.44 and Ditch - \$2,613.70. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$26,592.64, Anoka County Treasury Office - \$2,375.00, Bolton and Menk - \$2,542.50, Circuitworks - \$3,020.00, The Computer Man Inc. - \$3,346.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,652.00, Mactek Systems Inc. - \$7,378.00, OnSolve LLC - \$4,408.75, Southwest Health and Human Services \$22,083.63, Ziegler Power Systems (CAT) - \$8,121.34 and 54 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$26,839.95.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that a Sheriff's Department bill to Mactek Systems Inc. will need approval since it is over \$5,000.00. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Sik to approve the yearly maintenance for Mactek Systems Inc. in the amount of \$6,388.00. All voted in favor.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere, to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer