

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 1, 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 Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from July 18, 2023 and the agenda for Aug 1, 2023 with the addition of accepting Sheriff Meester's letter of resignation. All voted in favor.

Sheriff Chad Meester's letter of resignation, presented at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, was discussed. Commissioner Sik thanked Sheriff Meester for his years of service to Lincoln County. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to accept the resignation letter from Sheriff Chad Meester. All voted in favor.

Discussion was held on the interviews to appoint an Interim Sheriff to fill out the current term. A hiring committee conducted the interviews. The hiring committee consisted of Commissioner Nielsen, Commissioner Sik, Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Keith Vreeman, Pipestone County Sheriff and Danny Louwagie, Special Agent with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to appoint Bob Bushman to be the Lincoln County Interim Sheriff to be effective on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 a.m. until January 4, 2027. All voted in favor.

Michelle Baumhoefner, A.C.E. of SW MN Executive Director and Jody Hexem, A.C.E. of SW MN Lincoln County Program Manager were present for an update. Baumhoefner presented the 2022 annual report and thanked Lincoln County for their continued support. Baumhoefner stated the Jody Hexem is doing a phenomenal job in Lincoln County. Baumhoefner gave an update of the following items:

- A.C.E. has 2,337 volunteers that have recorded 256,034 hours of service at 338 active volunteer stations throughout the seven counties which is equivalent to 123 full-time employees.
- The cumulative cost to Lincoln County per hour for the volunteers is \$1.91.
- The value of MN volunteer time has been calculated at \$34.47 per hour.
- Hexem enrolled 91 new volunteers in 2022.
- Hexem's Caregiver Program is the top producing caregiver program within the organization.

Hexem gave an update on the following items:

- Hexem invited all the commissioners to the Volunteer Appreciation Event that will be held September 27<sup>th</sup> in Lake Benton from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and stated that the volunteers love to see their County Commissioners. This is run by the Active Generations Committee.
- Hexem works with 67 stations and 454 volunteers.
- One of the low spots this year was that the Lincoln County Produce Distribution Program was discontinued due to lack of manpower. We do have a food shelf in all four Lincoln County cities so they are able to distribute produce through that program.
- A highlight is that a couple volunteers received SAIL training which stands for Stay Active and Independent for Life.
- Hexem has applied for the Blazing Star Wind Grant and the Lake Benton Lake Area Foundation Grant to help with the volunteer appreciation fall fling event. Hexem has also been doing some fund raising.
- Caregiver support groups are available and Hexem is trying to get them in each city.
- A MINRA grant was given to supply caregiver bags with information and support.
- Hexem is a program manager, but gives the credit to all of the volunteers.

Information only.

Trisha Sheehan, Extension Regional Director, presented information on how the county contribution is spent. The average MOA cost is just below \$80,000.00 per year. The salary and fringe cost is \$75,483.00. The average salary is \$55,057.00 and the fringe cost is \$20,426.00. The fringe includes PERA, FICA, Medicare, and insurance benefits. The other items that are paid through the MOA is mileage which has an average cost of \$4,400.00 and continuing education. Sheehan is hoping that with this information, the Commissioners will consider moving the 4-H educator to a full-time position. Information only.

Rick Drietz, Maintenance Supervisor, informed the Board that Fuller Paving was scheduled to fix the Sheriff's Office parking lot and they were unable to get that done. Since costs have gone up since the accepted quote, they are submitting a new quote. Fuller Paving provided a quote to fix the bad sections of

the parking lot at a cost of \$18,680.00 and a quote to mill out and fix the entire parking lot at a cost of \$25,200.00. The previous quote was around \$12,000.00. Commissioner VanDeVere stated that since asphalt has gone up so much, we should take another look at concrete. Drietz will obtain some quotes to repair the Sheriff's parking lot with concrete. Information only.

Daryl Schlapkohl, Lincoln County Parks Manager, informed the Board that the 1999 Ford Pickup was totaled out due to hail during the 7/13/23 storm. The amount we will receive from MCIT is \$5,610.00. MCIT would prefer we take that pickup out of service since it will only have liability coverage moving forward. The 2010 pickup received \$1,974.00 in damage. We will receive a check for \$1,474.00 after the deductible. Schlapkohl will get the 2010 pickup fixed this fall and will need to replace the 1999 at some point. The Chalet and maintenance shed received some damage as well. The Chalet will need a new roof and two sides will also need to be repaired. The maintenance shed will also need a new roof. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, presented the proposed 2024 appropriations. All of them have been entered except MN Rural Counties. We also do not have SWHHS's numbers yet, but the Board felt we should put them at an estimated amount of a 7% increase. The library appropriation is up 6% and the Fair is up 2%. Some of the Legion Posts have requested an amount larger than \$300.00, but by statute, we can only give them \$300. All of the sportsman clubs should be at \$1,000.00 to help pay for the aeration systems. Nelson will be attending the first meeting in September with the full budget proposal and the levy increase will need to be approved by the last meeting in September. 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.
- The ADA Project is currently being advertised and the bid opening is planned for August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- We will need to resubmit a permit to US Corp of Eng. For County Highway 8 due to an issue that has come up. We will work through this as quickly as possible.
- A request for quotes has been sent for the Maintenance Striping Project.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- We have completed the blade patching.
- We are getting ready to do some wheel track patching.
- We have started the second round of shoulder mowing. Sweet clover has been the biggest issue.
- We are about 50% complete with the gravel hauling.
- Concrete culverts have been ordered for some replacement projects.

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 he is ready to have the final sign off on the Wind Tower Project. Wilson has not heard back on the road usage buyout at this time. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that MnDOT has offered to come in and review the tentative road plan. The Board felt that Commissioner VanDeVere and Wilson can keep them up to date. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, presented 13 minutes of drone video of Lake Shaokatan to be shown while he gives his update. The video was very clear and the vegetation issues were easily viewed. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that he has received the Waste Management Agreement. Hauschild has been reviewing the agreement with the County Attorney. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that he has been looking into a different area for the Marble Store Garbage Site. The site may need to be closed for a short time. If the site is closed, Signs will be posted. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the concrete in the transfer site cold storage building has been poured. Due to a need to tie the timber wall into the concrete and doing some frost piling, there will be an extra cost of \$2,430.00. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the additional \$2,430.00 for the extra cost, due to tying the timber wall into the concrete and doing some frost piling, at the landfill transfer site cold storage building. All voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Lake Shaokatan vegetation treatment has been tentatively scheduled for today (August 1<sup>st</sup>). Hauschild would like clarification on what account to pay the county contribution of up to \$5,000.00 out of. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the Lake Shaokatan contribution of up to \$5,000.00 for vegetation treatment be paid out of the capital improvement account. All voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board that he will be sending plans out to contractors for the Shaokatan Outlet. The contractors will submit their quotes by the last week in August and these quotes will be brought to the Board on September 5, 2023. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that a public hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning meeting, on July 19<sup>th</sup>, regarding the Shoreland and Floodplain ordinances. The Planning Commission approved the ordinances to be brought to the Board of Commissioners. The Floodplain Ordinance needs to be in place by September 7<sup>th</sup>. If it is not in place, landowners flood insurance could be affected. These ordinances were reviewed by an attorney that specializes in this area. The ordinances were presented to the Board. There were no substantial changes.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the updated Shoreland Ordinance. All voted in favor.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the updated Floodplain Ordinance. All voted in favor.

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

- CD #7 – The total cost for the work requested is \$46,266.60.
- TE Underground presented a quote in the amount of \$31,312.50 for the ditch cleaning and \$6,000.00 to repair the field crossing. C & K presented a quote in the amount of \$2,000.00 to repair the field crossing.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen to approve the quote from TE Underground in the amount of \$31,312.50 to do the ditch cleaning on CD #7 and the quote from C & K in the amount of \$2,000.00 to do the field crossing repair. All voted in favor.

- CD #7 – a request for a culvert replacement was received. The cost of the culvert was originally split 50/50 with the Township. The cost of the pipe is \$19,408.20 from True North Steel. A quote was received from TE Underground in the amount of \$6,500.00 for the removal and install of the pipe. Two additional loads of riprap may be needed which would increase the cost. Hauschild also reached out to C&K, but they were not interested in submitting a quote. Lincoln County will pay the full amount and then bill the Township for their portion.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the quote in the amount of \$25,908.20 and to allow for additional cost (\$1,500.00 est.) if two loads of riprap are needed. The \$25,908.20 represents \$19,408.20 to be paid to True North Steel and \$6,500.00 to be paid to TE Underground. The township will be billed for 50% once Lincoln County pays the expense. All voted in favor.

Hauschild informed the Board that Lyon County will be calling in at 11:00 to set the date for the final hearing on the JD #31 Br #24 project and to set a date for a meeting on JD #12 to discuss issues with a field crossing bridge. A zoom meeting will also be set prior to the regular board meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup> to reconstitute the joint board on JD #12. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that they are invited to the DNR field day on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to review the grazing management and the prairie restoration. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – CPT, Missouri Watershed  
 Hauswedell – SWHHS  
 Nielsen – Interim Sheriff Interviews  
 Sik – Labor Management, Interim Sheriff Interviews  
 VanDeVere – SWHHS, SW Reg Dev, Rural MN Energy Board

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #21314 - #21356 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$19,973.43 and Road and Bridge - \$5,567.71. Commissioners Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained due to an Ivanhoe Service Center bill. Motion carried by a majority vote.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: CliftonLarsonAllen LLP - \$2,625.00, Country Side Nursery - \$2,958.06, Lyon County Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,041.39, MN Dept of Transportation-St. Paul - \$2,778.01 and 39 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$15,138.68.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that a decision will need to be made by the end of August on what kind of financial support will be given to the At Home in Lincoln County website. Information only.

Vierhuf informed the Board that an inquiry was made as to if the Board would be interested in selling parcel #13-0182-005. The Board was not interested at this time. Information only.

Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney, presented some samples of an ordinance related to the use and permitting of Cannabis. The County has to allow 1 permitted Cannabis retailer per 12,500.00 people. This will be discussed again at a later date. Information only.

At 11:00 a conference call was held with Lyon County. Lincoln County Commissioners Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere were present along with Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Glen Petersen, Lincoln County Attorney and Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator. The Lincoln County news reporters were also present. Lyon County Commissioners Andreas, Anderson, Crowley, and Graupmann were present along with Aurora Heard, Lyon County Auditor-Treasurer, Loren Stromberg, Lyon County Administrator, Abby Wikelious, Lyon County Attorney and John Biren, Lyon County Environmental Administrator. The Lyon County news reporters were also present.

A date of September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to be held at the Lyon County Courthouse was set for the final hearing for JD #31 Br #24. The Joint Board consists of Commissioner Drietz, Hauswedell, Crowley, Anderson and Andreas.

Biren stated that a repair needs to be done on a field crossing bridge on JD #12. In lieu of a bridge, an easement is being looked at. The purpose of the meeting would be to assess the damages and determine what type of repair will need to be done. A date of August 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. via zoom was set. The joint board needs to be reconstituted as well. A majority of the ten commissioners will need to attend.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to adjourn at 11:20 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