

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

July 5, 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 June 20, 2023, the Board of Equalization meeting minutes from June 20, 2023 and the agenda for July 5, 2023. All voted in favor.

Trisha Sheehan, Extension Regional Director, presented the 2024 budget proposal. Lincoln County currently has an .80 FTE 4-H Extension Educator and is in the process of searching for a new educator. Sheehan and the Extension Committee is proposing that the Extension Educator is moved to a 1.0 FTE. The increased cost to the budget would be \$16,138.00. Sheehan feels there is a need for the 1.0 FTE as we are currently reaching the K thru 3rd grade youth, but do not have programs to reach the 4th thru 8th grade. Sheehan also feels that we would attract more candidates as a 1.0 FTE. If approved, the 4-H Extension Educator would be hired in September as a 1.0 FTE. This is feasible due to our Interim Educator working 3 days per week which has created a cost savings for 2023. Commissioner Sik would like to see the breakdown of the wages for 2024. Sheehan will get that information for the Board. Information only.

Teresa Keifer and Jessica Foley presented the differences between the At Home in Lincoln County and the Explore SW MN websites. The At Home in Lincoln County has 538 listings and the Explore SW MN site has 33 listings that are Lincoln County specific. The Explore SW MN site is more of a tourism site and the At Home in Lincoln County site focuses on all events, activities, and businesses in Lincoln County. Commissioner Sik asked if the cities had been notified. Keifer stated that she has talked to all of the cities and the city EDA's. The cities were very happy with the site, but they have not been asked if they would contribute funds to the site. Keifer stated that they are waiting to see what the County will be contributing. Commissioner VanDeVere asked if the \$34,750.00 is the total cost to maintain the site and stated that the county contributes \$75,000.00 to LCEDC and is wondering if some of those funds would or should help to maintain this site. VanDeVere feels we are already paying for some of this through our appropriation. VanDeVere also wants to be sure the newspapers are on board with the site. No decision was made at this time. 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, ADA Pedestrian Ramps, and Paving Plans out for bid.
- The ADA Project will be advertised soon and the bid opening is tentatively planned for August 7th at 10:00 a.m.
- VanDeVere mentioned that the extra dollars that were designated to box culverts should be used this year if possible.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Shouldering was completed on 39 miles.
- Continue to haul gravel to maintain the gravel surfaces.
- Will be doing some gravel road maintenance while the roads are damp.

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 continues to work with Buffalo Ridge Wind Development to get issues cleaned up from the wind project. Wilson will be meeting with them today. Information only.

Wilson introduced Bill Kavanagh, the new truck driver that was recently hired. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – None
Hauswedell – Western Mental Health, SWHHS
Nielsen – Extension, A.C.E.
Sik – Plum Creek
VanDeVere – SWHHS, United Community Action, Active Transportation Program,

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented a bill to GeoComm in the amount of \$5,000.00. This will need a separate motion. Amber Scholten, Emergency Management, informed the Board that the

bill is for indoor mapping and will be reimbursed through a grant through the State. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the bill from GeoComm in the amount of \$5,000.00. All voted in favor.

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #21121 - #21174 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$43,516.71, Road and Bridge - \$25,057.43, and Ditch - \$250.00. Commissioner Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere voted in favor. Commissioner Drietz abstained due to an Ivanhoe Service Center bill. Motion carried by majority vote.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: Ag Plus Cooperative - \$18,320.00, GeoComm - \$5,000.00, Lyon County Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,972.52, Mustang USA - \$6,895.14, Regents of the University of Minnesota - \$11,831.98, Thomas Plumbing Inc. - \$2,985.84 and 48 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$20,818.66.

Vierhuf presented the Amended DVHHS Fiscal Host Agreement and stated that the amended agreement needs to be approved and signed. The indemnification language was changed due to one of the counties requesting clarification. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the Amended DVHHS Fiscal Host Agreement. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the Amended Pictometry Agreement. The amended agreement is a \$24,000.00 savings for Lincoln County. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the Amended Pictometry Agreement. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that the City of Ivanhoe would like a letter to Sheriff Meester be shared with the Board. The city had let Sheriff Meester know that they are interested in receiving a quote on contracting law enforcement services with the County. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen, to adjourn at 9:57 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer