

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

June 6, 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, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Commissioner Drietz and Hauswedell were absent. 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 VanDeVere to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from May 16, 2023, and the agenda for June 6, 2023. All (3) voted in favor.

Kevin Balfanz, MCIT Director of Field Service, presented the 2023 MCIT report. MCIT is a risk sharing pool and covers 81 of the 87 counties. MCIT was formed in 1979 and Lincoln County became a member in 1980. Coverage includes property, liability, auto, and cyber security. MCIT purchases reinsurance to protect the program. MCIT issued dividends (Workers Compensation Division only) in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 in 2022 with Lincoln County's dividend being \$28,111.00. Lincoln County's Workers Compensation Rate is .993 which is above average and generates \$4,075.00 in savings. MCIT provides consultation services, awareness and prevention materials, training for Officials and Employees and access to service partners. Commissioners and Officials are encouraged to learn about the coverage, have contracts reviewed for risk management, support safety initiative, support employee training and education and engage in MCIT. Information only.

Chad Meester, Lincoln County Sheriff, informed the Board that with the recent passing of the state budget, additional public safety aid dollars will be forwarded to each county. The estimated amount Lincoln County will receive is \$69,000.00. Information only.

Meester informed the Board that the Ivanhoe City Police Chief is retiring. The city is actively looking for a police chief at this time. Contracting with the County may be looked at later on. Meester would like to meet with the Personnel Committee regarding issues with law enforcement and come up with a plan to move forward. Commissioner Sik would like to see a presentation given to the full Board on the new post requirements and he would like Meester to try to fill the part-time Deputy Sheriff position. Information only.

Meester requested approval of the renewal server license fees. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to approve the renewal server license fees in the amount of \$26,919.22 (reoccurring fee) to be paid to CentralSquare. All (3) voted in favor.

Meester presented quotes for purchasing two squad cars. The quotes were as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Guardian Fleet Safety 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit SUV | \$ 39,311.00 |
| • Guardian Fleet Safety 2023 Ram 1500 Classic Special Service Pickup | \$ 37,446.00 |
| • Einspahr Auto Plaza 2023 Ram 1500 Tradesman Pickup | \$ 52,360.00 |
| • Einspahr Auto Plaza 2023 Ram 1500 Bighorn-Lonestar Pickup | \$55,053.00 |
| • Einspahr Ford F150 Pickup, Super Crew Cab, V6, 4x4 | \$50,948.00 |
| • Einspahr Ford F150 Pickup, Super Crew Cab, V8 4x4 | \$51,904.00 |

Meester's recommendation is to purchase two 2023 Ram 1500 pickups from Guardian Fleet Safety. Motion by Sik, seconded by VanDeVere to purchase two 2023 Ram 1500 Classic Special Service Vehicle Pickups (Crew Cab, V8, 4x4, Standard options) in the amount of \$74,892.00 plus corresponding fees to be paid to Guardian Fleet Safety. All (3) voted in favor.

Meester presented the Boat and Water grant for approval. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2023 State of Minnesota Annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant Contract Agreement in the amount of \$4,150.00. All (3) voted in favor.

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.
- Bridge Safety Inspections have been started.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Will restart shouldering the roads once the machine is repaired.
- Have started hauling gravel to maintain the gravel road surfaces.
- Had to reseed some ditches where ditch cleanings were done.
- Have done some culvert repairs.
- Have been assisting the Environmental office in preparing for their building project.
- Plan on doing some reclaim work at the Guida and Manly pit with the scraper.

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 has been working with Buffalo Ridge Wind Development to get issues cleaned up from the wind project. Discussion was held on whether the County needs to do something different in order to help get things finished up at the end. Information only.

Wilson presented the 2022 Annual Report to be approved at the June 20th meeting. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the Technician 1, 2 or 3 position will be advertised through June. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the land on the south side of Lake Hendricks has been readvertised. The bids will be opened at the June 20th meeting. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the County has received an additional \$500,000.00 of Transportation Alternative Funds for the ADA project. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that Lake Benton Township has approached the County about swapping 4 miles of Township roads for County roads. A map was presented showing which miles the township would like to swap. The people along that township road are hoping this road will eventually be paved. The cost to regrade and repave this section of road would be estimated at \$3.2 million. Wilson presented a few options. The options are leave as is, swap the miles, or just take additional township miles. If the County does swap roads, the County is required to maintain the roads for the first two years. Another thing to consider is if the Township takes some county miles, the people living along the county road would lose some service. Information only.

Wilson requested authorization to allow a Highway Technician to have a county cellphone. Motion by Sik, seconded by VanDeVere to approve allowing a Highway Technician to have a county cellphone. All (3) voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that interviews have been completed for the truck driver position and approval was requested to hire William Kavanagh for the Highway Department. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Sik to approve hiring William Kavanagh as a truck driver for the Highway Department. All (3) voted in favor.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, informed the Board that he has started the process of requesting quotes for the transfer site project. Part of the grant will cover additional staffing hours. Hauschild would like to hire this person as a full-time position to help with a future retirement. Information only.

Hauschild requested approval of the Marble Store Lease Agreement which is for leasing a portion of land for the garbage/recycle dumpsters. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the Marble Store Lease Agreement with Don Olsen. All (3) voted in favor.

Hauschild presented information on the Solid Waste/Recycle Agreement with Waste Management. The new agreement has a 12.94% increase. Hauschild requested that the wording of the yearly increase would have a cap of 5%. Commissioner VanDeVere felt we should look at increasing our solid waste assessment due to our agreement cap being at 5% and our Score funding being around a 3% increase per year. The Board was in consensus to move forward with the final agreement. The agreement will be brought to the Board for approval at a future meeting. Information only.

Hauschild presented information on the following drainage issues:

- CD #7 – Hauschild met with the landowners. There is approximately 18,500 feet of ditch to be cleaned. A township culvert may have been put in too high. The slope is being looked at to see if this can be corrected. The cost of the cleaning will be between \$65,000.00 and \$75,000.00. An estimate to fix the culvert is about \$5,000.00. The balance in CD #7's repair account is about \$27,000.00. A loan may need to be done from the revenue fund. Hauschild plans to send a letter out so the landowners have a chance to ask questions ahead of time.
- CD #40 – Crossing under US 14 between Tyler and Lake Benton by the vet clinic – TE Underground ran a camera under the road and there are some items that need to be addressed. Hauschild would like to put a liner in the tile and look at doing liners under all state highways to avoid road damage. The estimate for the liner is \$12,000.00 - \$15,000.00. The Board was in consensus with moving forward on this plan.
- JD #31 Br #24 – the preconstruction meeting is being held June 6, 2023.

Information only.

Hauschild presented Resolution 22-2024 Support for the Redwood River One Watershed One Plan. Hauschild stated that Lincoln County has 25% of the acres. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere

to approve Resolution No 22-2024 Resolution to support a Redwood River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan project. All (3) voted in favor.

RESOLUTION #22-2024
**Resolution to support a Redwood River Watershed
 One Watershed, One Plan project.**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Redwood River & watershed 21, as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Lincoln County recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lincoln County welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Redwood River Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Redwood River Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners this 6th day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:

 Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

 Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Hauschild informed the Board that the Legislature added another million to the feedlot funding. The county currently receives \$46,000.00 and has a \$32,000.00 match. Due to the increase, the County will now receive about \$71,000.00 and the match will go to about \$50,000.00 for 2024. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the MPCA will be looking at changing how they do the oversight for the feedlots. Hauschild has offered to be on the steering committee and will help decide these changes. Information only.

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant presented a list of asset disposals. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the asset disposal as per list provided. All (3) voted in favor.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – absent
 Hauswedell – absent
 Nielsen – Personnel, MN Rural Counties
 Sik – Personnel
 VanDeVere – Solid Waste Recycling Commission, Rural MN Energy Board, United Community Action, PrimeWest

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #20858 - #20954 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$204,494.31, Road and Bridge - \$49,180.96, Ditch - \$3,805.49 and Solid Waste - \$1,665.00. All (3) voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: A&C Excavating LLC - \$2,100.00, Ag Plus Cooperative - \$25,253.41, Arnold Motor Supply - \$3,575.00, Central Square Technologies - \$26,919.22,

IdentiSys Inc - \$2,982.64, Linc Co Council Aging - \$2,000.00, Linc. Co. Enterprise Dev. Corp - \$33,095.00, Linc. Co Fair Assn - \$18,887.00, Linc Co Historical Society - \$10,000.00, Linc. Soil-Water Conserv. Dist. - \$49,007.50, Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. - \$3,314.19, Office of MNIT Services - \$20,000.00, PLM Lake and Land Management - \$4,460.00, Plum Creek Library Sys. - \$3,250.00, Southwest Health and Human Service - \$4,424.88, SW Initiative Foundation - \$2,340.00, SW MN Private Industry Council - \$2,080.00, TrueNorth Steel Inc. - \$3,360.16, Vollan Oil - \$3,375.00, WSB & Associates, Inc. - \$7,918.00 and 76 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$30,803.76.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, presented a Memorandum of Agreement from the Courthouse Union and a Memorandum of Agreement from the Highway Union for approval. The Memorandums allow Juneteenth to be added to the current list of holidays. There is no public service allowed on this holiday. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the Memorandum of Agreements between the County and the Courthouse Union and between the County and the Highway Union to allow Juneteenth to be recognized as a paid holiday. All (3) voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the RCRCRA JPA and requested that the delegate be given authorization to sign. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere to authorize Joe Drietz, the Lincoln County delegate for RCRCRA to sign the Joint Powers Agreement between Lincoln County and the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area. All (3) voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that back in 2017, the Board moved \$359,867.43 from the health insurance account into the administrative budget. Since that time, premiums have increased and the health insurance account is now showing a deficit balance. Vierhuf would like to move \$200,000.00 back into that account. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve moving \$200,000.00 from administration into the Health Insurance Account. All (3) voted in favor.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by VanDeVere, to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. All (3) voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer