

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

May 16, 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 Nielsen to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from May 2, 2023, and the agenda for May 16, 2023. All voted in favor.

Jay Trusty, Executive Director for Southwest Regional Development, gave an update on Southwest Regional Development. The core programs are transportation, economic development, planning, communication, and financial administration. Information only.

Chris Cauwels, SWHHS IT Director, presented an IT contract proposal for 2024. Cauwels would like to add a staff member and have Lincoln County share the expense of the new employee. If we had a shared employee, that position would spend additional time at Lincoln County. The BCA is requiring many additional security steps and this is requiring additional IT hours. We currently pay an hourly rate for IT. If we share a position, we will no longer pay an hourly rate. After the 1st qtr. of 2023, we are \$10,000.00 over what the whole year cost for 2022. We will continue to monitor the expenses and an update will be brought to the Board at a later date. Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that we received one bid for the Ag Land lease at the Wilno pit. The bid was received from James Stellmach in the amount of \$220.00. The check was not enclosed for the first year's rent. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to accept the bid of \$220.00 from James Stellmach to lease 1.1 acres north of the Wilno Pit in the NE ¼ of Section 26 of Royal Township once the check for the rent is received. All 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.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Fixed washouts caused by the heavy rain last week.
- There are several issues with corn stalks plugging culverts and causing wash out issues.
- Gravel road blading
- Will start graveling the shoulders on paved roads.
- Two Highway employees are helping clean out trees at the Hole in the Mountain Park.
- Working on getting the truck inspections up to date.

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 they are working with the Buffalo Ridge Wind project people to get cleanup items completed. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that the contractor, for the weed spraying contract that was approved at the meeting on April 4, 2023, has backed out. Updated quotes were received from the following:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW Applications \$252.90 per mile for Canada Thistle and \$26.08 per acre plus hourly rate \$TBD for Leafy Spurge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deangelo Contracting Services \$190.00 per mile for Canada Thistle and \$60.00 per acres for Leavy Spurge. |
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Wilson's recommendation is to accept the bid from Deangelo Contracting Services. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the roadside spraying quote from Deangelo Contracting Services at \$190.00 per mile for Canada Thistle and \$60.00 per acre for Leafy Spurge. All voted in favor.

Wilson informed the Board that we are currently advertising for a Technician 1,2, or 3 and a Truck Driver position until May 19, 2023. Wilson plans to set up interviews for next week. Information only.

Wilson requested approval to post the Engineer's Assistant Position internally. The Board would like to wait until we have the new Technician hired. Information only.

Dustin Hauschild, Lincoln County Environmental Administrator, informed the Board that the SCORE funding is no longer in the omnibus bill. Hauschild is hoping we see a 3% increase, but that is to be determined. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Highway Department has started to move some dirt for the landfill building project. Information only.

Hauschild presented information on the following drainage issues:

- CD #7 – Will be meeting with landowners about a ditch cleaning that needs to be done.
- CD #40 – Crossing under US 14 between Tyler and Lake Benton by the vet clinic – MnDOT contacted Hauschild regarding a hole on the in-slope of the road – Hauschild received the permit for the work to be done and TE Underground will do some exploratory work to determine what the issue is.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the chemical testing was done on Lake Stay and the levels were a bit low. An additional bump treatment will be done. Information only.

Committee Reports were given:

Drietz – CPT
 Hauswedell – None
 Nielsen – Lincoln County Enterprise Development
 Sik – None
 VanDeVere – PrimeWest, SWHHS, SW Regional Development

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #20702 - #20803 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$41,544.85, Road and Bridge - \$29,716.91, Debt - \$32,500.00 and LID - \$4,305.10. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12: American Solutions for Business - \$2,106.70, Cady Business Technologies, Inc. - \$2,975.00, Christensen Broadcasting - \$6,000.00, Counties Providing Technology - \$5,752.00, MN Pollution Control Agency - \$32,500.00, PLM Lake and Land Management - \$8,880.00, SHE-Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. - \$9,075.00, WW Tire Service Inc. - \$2,466.10 and 94 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$38,312.06.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that an update on what was spent out of the ARPA and Tribal grant funds was sent out in the packets and if anyone has any questions, they should let her know. Information only.

Vierhuf presented the 2023 SWHHS Lease for approval. The amount remains the same as the previous year. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the 2023 SWHHS Lease. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf informed the Board that a letter from the National Center for Public Lands was sent out in their packets. Information only.

Vierhuf informed the Board that some meetings have been held with ITC on changing our phone service provider. ITC will be able to become our provider later this summer. We have the option of just moving our service or obtaining a new server and phones from ITC. The cost of the new equipment is not huge, so we may want to move Lincoln County to ITC service and equipment. Another option we are currently looking into is a cloud-based service that SWHHS currently has. With our current provider, there are frequent long-distance outages, so switching to a new provider is a necessary move. More information will be brought to the Board at a later date. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to adjourn at 9:53 a.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

 Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

 Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer