

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION**

January 4, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on January 4, 2022 at 2:38 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, Polly Glynn, Jerry Reinartz, and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Administrator Trish Harren and Executive Assistant Denise Barthels.

The Board discussed Personnel Policy F120 Emergency Closing Policy due to the recent closure of the government offices on December 30 at noon due to the scheduled protest on government property for 2 pm. The Board was unaware that a policy existed related to closing that provided for authority to close and the procedure for how to handle compensation. The policy was approved in 2013 and has not been utilized. The policy provides authority for the administrator and/or board chair to close buildings. Having read the policy, the Board is more clear about the process and expectations. The policy will be referred to personnel to review to see if any changes or clarifications are recommended.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson was asked to come to the Work Session to discuss the proper protocols for wearing the surgical type masks. Ms. Peterson also provided a brief workforce strategy.

Commissioner Glynn informed the Board about continued questions from her constituents regarding the County's requirements for a septic inspection when construction is not related to a septic such as putting up a machine shed. A discussion followed concerning the purpose of the requirements, age of systems, clean water initiatives and the need to ensure anything built isn't being built on the only other available (secondary) septic site on the parcel. The Land Use committee will review.

It was noted that the Supreme Court decision is expected soon regarding the OSHA Emergency Temporary Order related to vaccine mandate for large employers. It was noted that if the Supreme Court doesn't overturn the ruling, it is Mower County's intent to follow option three which allows for voluntary vaccination and mandatory testing for non-vaccinated employees. Mower County would agree to pay for the first three months of testing. After that the non-vaccinated employee will be required to pay for their own testing.

The work session concluded at 3:35 p.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attest:**

**Chairperson**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk/Administrator**