

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

March 2, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on March 2, 2021 at 2:25 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Polly Glynn, Chair
Jerry Reinartz
Mike Ankeny
Jeff Baldus
District One Seat Vacant
Trish Harren, County Administrator

The Board held a discussion concerning a small parcel of land in the City of Austin located near the fair grounds and commonly referred to as the Sterling Park. The City has offered this parcel to the County. The Fair Board uses this parcel during the fair for overflow camping. The County will find out if the Fair Board is interested in the county owning the property and if they would be willing to maintain it. If so, the County may pursue obtaining ownership of the property.

The County Administrator provided the Board with an update of the current status of the new Federal Stimulus Bill. The bill has passed the house with funding for states and local units of government included. The bill has been sent to the senate. A vote is expected by the end of the week and the President is anticipated to sign the bill before March 15.

In addition, the County Administrator indicated that Sergeant Township had called concerning the status of the CARES money. They had submitted their certification to the State to receive their CARES Act funds but did not receive the funds. In following up, the state informed the township errantly that the county received their funds and were supposed to distribute them to the township. Sergeant is a township over 200 so that is not the case. The state then told Sergeant Township there is nothing they can do. They were supposed to receive \$7625. Administrator Harren asked if the county had any interest in covering the loss for Sergeant Township. The Board advised finding out more information regarding the use of the funds and whether the township would be receiving funding in the Federal Stimulus bill.

The County Administrator also informed the Board that a service organization was instructed to seek economic relief through the County when they did not receive direct relief from the Department of Revenue as they anticipated. However, the request was received after the county's application period was closed and all funds disbursed.

The County Administrator indicated the B&J is looking to expand outdoor seating. The City has agreed to sell them the city owned public parking lot on the east side of B&J. The City approached the County regarding the County's adjacent parking. The City wondered if the County would be willing to allow some of the spaces on the Northeast side

(across from the parking reserved for buses) to be signed for public parking and allow the rest of the parking on that one-way street segment to be signed for public parking after 5 pm. and on weekends. The Board thought the parking areas was already signed for public parking after 5 pm and on weekends and directed the Administrator to research current agreement and signage.

The Administrator advised the Board that it has been two years since the first strategic planning session. Research & Program Development Manager Heather Bardeen, who conducted the previous strategic planning session would be available to do a follow up session. A time following the special election of the new District 5 Commissioner would seem prudent, depending on the ability to safely meet in person. Perhaps June or August. In the first strategic planning session the county set a vision, mission, adopted a motto and set some general goals. This strategic session would be focused on clarifying county wide-goals and setting specific objectives and timelines. A discussion on preferred communication methods between the Administrator and the Board followed.

The Administrator informed the Board that a Work Place Culture survey will be sent out to the employees.

The work session concluded at 3:49 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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