

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 23, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session March 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Lisa Dierks, Regional Director; Thelma Garcia, SNAP Educator; and Jessica Moreno, STEM Coordinator provided the Board with an Extension update. The SNAP program created a video resource as an education tool on how to use farmer's market. Healthy eating, physical activity education and/or cooking classes have been coordinated for Austin Manor as well as with SEMCAC head start. Also Ms. Garcia is working with the Mexican Grocery to stock healthier food choices and the Salvation Army to provide recipes and food resource information to share with patrons. Both Ms. Garcia and Ms. Moreno are working on recruiting children for a "Soccer for Success" program that combines learning soccer and nutrition. The STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) program has been hosting computer technology classes at the library. Through this program also introduce more youth to 4-H that it isn't just for farmers but that it engages in the community and prepares youth for life and their futures. Extension is planning on fair participation in the hopes that it will happen.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson provided the Board with Community Health Updates. The five year planning cycle is due for updates for the WIC grant program and Community Health Strategic Planning. The expiring strategic plan focused on staffing and educating RNs to PHNs. With the next cycling the department plans to look at priority gaps and on where to improve. As a Covid update there have been 4286 cumulative cases and 31 deaths reported in Mower County. Vaccinations are on-going.

Mike Hanson, Public Works Director, presented bid information received for seasonal projects and recommended awards to the low bidders.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the bids to the low bidders as follows for the following seasonal projects:

Seasonal Projects:	Awarded to Low Bidder	With Bid
CP 50-21-03: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel	Baudoin Oil Co. Inc.	33,850.00
CP 50-21-04: Roadway Striping	AAA Striping Service	147,000.00
CP 50-21-05: Bituminous Material for Sealcoat	HG Meigs LLC	252,075.00
CP 50-21-06: Roadside Spraying	Sunshine Ent. LLC	18,225.00
CP 50-21-07: Roadway Aggregate Delivered	Bruening Rock Pdts	197,554.50

and have the projects commence. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the Peterson OnSite Independent Contractor Professional Service Agreement effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for septic system inspections to be performed by Matt Davidson. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the following Commissioner warrants for payment:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
180 Degrees, Inc.	12,218.34	Minn Dept Of Agriculture	225,000.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	31,105.80	MJ O'Connor Inc	2,132.50
Baudoin Oil Company	5,308.90	Office Of Mn It Services	5,424.06
Benchmark Behavioral Health Systems	13,300.00	Petroblend Corp.	2,295.63
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	57,601.40	Powerplan	48,106.46
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	14,706.37	Ronco Engineering Sales Co., Inc.	2,193.10
Continental Research Corporation	2,164.49	Sharrow Lifting Products	3,435.74
Department Of Corrections	12,880.00	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	4,107.30
Grifols USA LLC	7,523.30	Ulland Brothers Inc.	10,987.52
Mayo Clinic	2,003.00	US Prisoner Transport	3,867.00
Midstates Equipment & Supply	2,794.28	Village Ranch Inc	17,351.75
Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	4,808.75	78 <small>Payments less than</small> 2000	35,275.51
		Final Total:	526,591.20

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz seconded by Commissioner Baldus to approve the 2020 County Feedlot Officer (CFO) Annual Report. Motion carried.

Jeff Weaver, Solid Waste Officer, was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 33 years of service.

The Board recessed at 10:29 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:29 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Kody and Brooke Retterath, applicants, to construct a single-family home on property legally described as Section 30 Township 102 Range 15 5.9 AC in E1/2 of Section N Of Old RRY DOC #535917 PIN 04.030.0010.

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant Kody Retterath was present. No one else spoke for or against the Retterath housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Retterath, applicant.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:31 a.m.

Date: March 23, 2021

Res. #26-21

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held March 23, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Kody and Brooke Retterath are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Section 30 Township 102 Range 15 5.9 AC in E1/2 of Section N Of Old RRY DOC #535917
PIN 04.030.0010

WHEREAS, Kody and Brooke Retterath have made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on March 23, 2021 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Kody and Brooke Retterath have met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the single-family home.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction

of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.

3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the "original value." Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

Passed and approved this 23rd day of March, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$215,555.75. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Commissioner Reinartz recommended an extension to Emergency Paid Sick Leave and to adopt Interim Policy 2021-02 and recommended approval of a software agreement.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adopt Interim Policy 2021-02: **COVID-19 Program for Utilization of Paid Leave** effective April 1, 2021 (*replaces Interim Policy 2021-01 adopted 1/26/21*). The policy as follows:

Interim Policy 2021-02: COVID-19 Program for Utilization of Paid Leave

PURPOSE:

In response to the community spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, Mower County has declared a local emergency. Mower County believes in the importance of a healthy workplace and wellness and wants to work together with employees to ensure that employees are supported to protect each other from disease transmission.

We recognize that the evolving nature of the pandemic will likely create the need for this policy to be amended, updated, and replaced. This policy is numbered in order to identify the most current policy. It is expected that, in the event this policy is amended, updated, or replaced, a new policy number will be issued and the prior policy will be automatically withdrawn. This policy is effective April 1, 2021 and replaces the Mower County Interim Policy 2021-01: COVID-19 Program for Employees that expired on March 31, 2021.

Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

Mower County was charged with implementing the requirements of the FFCRA and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act that was effective March 23, 2020 - December 31, 2020. This policy is intended to extend the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act provision for a 2nd time from December 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021, to April 30, 2021. The following is a general summary of the provisions:

Emergency Paid Sick Leave: *Emergency Paid Sick Leave is available to eligible employees who are unable to work (or telework) due to a need for leave because:*

- *The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or is caring for an individual subject to such an order.*

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

- *The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 or is caring for an individual advised to self-quarantine.*
- *The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.*
- *The employee is caring for a son or daughter if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, or the childcare provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID- 19 precautions.*

*Full-time eligible employees will be paid for up to 80 hours of work. Part-time eligible employees will be paid for the equivalent of two weeks of their normal scheduled work. **The 80-hour allotment of Emergency Sick Leave is available only once to employees.** Therefore, employees who've already used some or all of the 80-hour allotment in 2020 would not receive a new 80-hour allotment in 2021. This allotment would also not be paid out in a severance or retirement pay-out.*

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve contract with Ultipro for the payroll/HRIS software. Motion carried.

There wasn't any other business or discussions under Committee Reports to be noted.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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