

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 11, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Polly Glynn, Chair
Jerry Reinartz
Mike Ankeny
Jeff Baldus
John Mueller
Trish Harren, County Administrator

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agenda adding 1) update on CUP with Ulland Brothers' request to deposit concrete at the site from a bridge demolition this weekend; 2) Ethics Policy discussion under General Business; and 3) Recognition Policy discussion for revision under Personnel. Motion carried.

County Attorney Kristen Nelsen provided the Board with a departmental update. It has been a challenging time in the world of prosecution due to the current anti-law enforcement climate as well as due to Covid. There is a backlog of some 289 jury trials. Some of them may be settled; however, many of them are crimes against a person including criminal sexual conduct, murder, attempted murder and weapons charges. The victims in each of these cases deserve the time and attention of a trial regardless of how congested the court system is with cases. The department is committed to giving them that.

In addition, there are more than 1000 outstanding body only warrants. Ms. Nelsen is planning an amnesty day where those with a warrant could come in to set a new hearing date and avoid being arrested. Many people missed court dates due to lack of access to the needed technology, other Covid related reasons, or just taken advantage of the shutdown. Ms. Nelsen is effectively managing her available human resources and prioritizing warrants and trial cases based on highest public safety risk.

Ms. Nelsen also noted that the number of Rule 20 assessments with determinations of lack of competency to stand trial have increased. Most of these are related to serious and/or persistent mental health reasons. The challenge is that the state has discontinued their competency restoration programs and there is nowhere for these individuals to go for this type of care/programming so they can possibly stand trial (an example would be getting back on medication and stabilized). Many of these are not a danger to self or others, so they can't be committed. In the cases where they are committed, there is difficulty in finding a place

with an open bed to send them. Ms. Nelsen stated, “We can’t prosecute our way out of this mental health crisis.”

Lastly, Ms. Nelsen advised the Board that the paperwork load on her support staff is staggering. In addition to regular notices that need to be sent, due to Covid, as cases are rescheduled, new notices have to be sent each time to all parties including the victim. A separate Zoom notice needs to be sent as well. Ms. Nelsen ended by stating that she has never been more proud of a group of people than her staff.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson provided the Board with updates that included Financial Unit Performance Report Results 2020, Southeast Regional Crisis Center progress and COVID-19 updates. The Financial Unit Performance Report indicated that the division is performing above average both in responding timely to non-emergency financial/food assistance applications and in responding to emergency financial/food assistance requests. There were 379 emergency financial assistance applications processed in 2020. The Southeast Regional Crisis Center (SRCC) is scheduled to open in late May. This facility is a 24 hour a day mental health crisis center with 16 beds (4 adult, 8 children, 4 either). Lastly, there have been 4637 Covid-19 cases in Mower County with 32 deaths and currently about 50 active cases. Mower County is stable in terms of cases and 58.1% of the population has received at least 1 dose of the vaccine.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$166,317.19. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Social Service Actions. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting at 9:49 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:50 a.m. for regular business items.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the minutes of May 4, 2021. Motion carried.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3D Specialties Inc	4,873.73	Intradyn	6,375.00
Above All Cleaning, Inc	2,128.00	MCHS SE Minnesota	5,627.33
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	15,142.20	Metro Sales Inc	3,278.79
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	3,604.55	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	4,921.00
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	3,675.00	MN Supply Company	3,438.86
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	15,191.35	Motorola Solutions Inc	4,645.40
Dave Lucas Consulting	3,847.50	Pulver Towing	2,900.00

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Donnelly Law Firm, PLLC	2,125.00	Sharrow Lifting Products	4,417.38
Eric Boe and Sons LLC	14,628.18	Southern Lock & Glass	2,031.40
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,059.27	52 Payments less than 2000	17,607.79
Grifols USA LLC	7,463.50	Final Total:	137,981.23

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve a late claim for payment for employee #59. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the renewal application of Adventure Bound for a liquor license (3.2 beer on/off sale) effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the renewal application of Cedar River Country Club for a liquor license (full on sale & Sunday) effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Motion carried.

Nancy Schnable, Executive Director, Discover Austin, MN provided the Board with a program Annual Report. Covid-19 affected the tourism industry with a loss of \$7.1 billion statewide. Discover Austin needed to be creative and encouraged local tourism with “be a tourist in your own hometown.” A new self-service bike rental program will launch at the end of the month. There is a new form of marketing using travel influencer blogs.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson requested a letting date for several projects.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to set the project letting date to June 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the office of Public Works and awarded at the County Board of Commissioner’s meeting for the following County projects:

Township Bridge Project:	SAP 050-599-175: New Bridge 50K88 in Bennington Township
County Road Bridge Project:	SAP 050-604-026: New Bridge 50K30: CSAH 4 Marshall Township
Regular Construction (Sales Tax funded)	CP 50-21-03: CSAH 21: TH 105 to AU Substation

Motion carried.

Ulland Brothers is doing a bridge demolition (28th Street Bridge at I-90) for MnDOT over a weekend and needs to deposit the concrete at an acceptable site. In accordance with Ulland Brothers’ conditional use, permit #890 condition number 21 the company has informed the county of the need to transport the concrete to the Section 23, Lansing Township site on a Sunday, which is outside the normal business hours of the site.

County Administrator Trish Harren presented to the Board a Code of Ethics for discussion and possible adoption.

Date: May 11, 2021

Res. #33-21

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of

Commissioners at a meeting held May 11, 2021 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, effective County government is premised upon public respect and confidence in the integrity and principles of the elected Board members;

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Mower County Board that the trust bestowed upon them as elected officials is of utmost importance in the relationship between themselves and the public;

WHEREAS, the County Board wants to emphasize the priority and commitment they place on maintaining this trust through adopting a County Board Ethics Policy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mower County Board does hereby adopt the following Mower County Board Ethics Policy effective May 11, 2021:

All County Board members shall:

- Observe the highest moral and ethical standards.
- Maintain and respect confidentiality of private and confidential information.
- Avoid discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, pregnancy status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, age, disability, marital status, place of residence, or status with regard to public assistance.
- Comply with the ethical obligations imposed by law, including MN Stat. §10A.07, §10A.071, §382.18, §471.87-.895, including, disclosing conflicts of interest, eliminating conflicts of interest where possible, abstaining from decision-making if a conflict exists, and declining gifts.
- Work to create a positive environment in public meetings where all individuals may feel comfortable in their roles as observers or participants.
- Allow citizens, staff or colleagues sufficient opportunity to present their views in a tolerant, respectful and attentive manner free from comments, body language or distracting activity that conveys a message of disrespect.

Passed and approved this 11th day of May, 2021.

Under Personnel Committee, the committee recommends a change to the Recognition Policy to accommodate recognizing retiring employees that have been working in the public sector but may not have many years of service with Mower County.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz to amend Personnel Policy B220 Employee Recognition Policy effective May 11, 2021 by amending the Retirement Recognition Policy section as follows:

Purpose:

To recognize employees who are retiring or resigning and who have served **in the public sector for at ten (10) years; with at least five (5) years with Mower County** ~~for ten (10) years or more.~~

Motion carried.

Finance Committee is still waiting on guidance and the funds related to the American Recovery Act Plan. The use of the funds toward expanding Broadband will be encouraged.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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