

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 12, 2020

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Jeff Baldus, Chair  
Polly Glynn  
Tim Gabrielson (via phone)  
Jerry Reinartz  
Mike Ankeny  
Trish Harren, County Administrator

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda with the addition to approve Liquor license for Cedar River Country Club effective 7/1/2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

County Attorney Kristen Nelsen provided the Board with a department update. Many staff are teleworking and coordinating schedules for in office time. Court hearings have been conducted virtually. Support staff has been able to work on specific projects that have been deferred including cleaning out the file room. Arrests are down; however there is an increase in custody disputes. Child support hearings are on hold. Hundreds of case files were postponed due to COVID-19 and re-scheduling them and getting caught back up will take some time. There is a pilot program for courts in which five places within the state will be hosting jury trials.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, 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>
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	12,775.85	Olmsted County Community Services	3,600.00
Baudoin Oil Company	6,919.60	Slowinski Flooring	3,875.00
Benchmark Behavioral Health Systems	14,250.00	53 Payments less than 2000	19,753.96
		<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>61,174.41</b>

The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the letter to the Minnesota Legislative Delegation requesting an extension of the Department of Human Services waivers and service modifications following the end of the COVID-19 peacetime state of emergency until a vaccine or effective treatments have been established. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the monthly investment report for the month ending April 2020. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve Professional Services Agreement with Schneider Geospatial for on-line permitting implementation services and to amend the County Public Works 2020 budget for the geospatial agreement in the amount of \$40,885 to include approving the transfer of \$20,885 from the general fund as part of the budget amendment. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to approve the application of Cedar River Country Club for a Liquor On Sale and Sunday license effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$217,928.52. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Director Lisa Kocer provided the Board with department updates that included 1) acknowledging the work of Val Kruger noting DHS's 2019 financial reporting commendation; 2) introducing new staff (Allyson DeBoer, Case Aide in the Child and Family Unit); and 3) reporting on the successful efforts of Val Kruger and Trisha Blaser in medical assistance estate recovery work rating among Minnesota counties 11<sup>th</sup> in 2018 recovering \$515,569 and 14<sup>th</sup> in 2019 recovering \$478,682. (Mower County retains twenty-five percent of the funds recovered.)

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to approve the social services actions. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner

Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Director Kocer gave a brief COVID-19 update. There has been an increase in testing and an increase in the number of cases in Mower County. There are some mini clusters of cases geographically and in businesses. To date Mower County has not had any cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes. However, based on the high percentage of deaths occurring from patients in nursing homes compared to total cases, the Governor has established a five point plan to address prevention and containment. Mower County public health is assisting as a liaison for different assisted living facilities. Public Health continues to serve in its key role as provider of essential services for those who have tested positive. Ms. Kocer reported that she and the Sheriff sent out a letter of guidance to local businesses with the assistance of the Chamber. In addition, her department sent letters of guidance to schools regarding graduation ceremonies.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting at 10:04 a.m. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

### **COUNTY BOARD**

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 10:05 a.m. for regular business items.

There was not any Personnel business but it was noted that interviews are being conducted for the position of Veteran Service Officer and IT Specialist – Service Administrator.

Commissioner Glynn on behalf of the Finance Committee informed the Board that the committee had discussed the request to waive the fees for liquor licenses due to Covid-19 hardships. The committee does not recommend making any changes or allowances from the fee schedule to abate any license fees for any of the businesses.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to deny the request to abate alcohol license fees due to Covid-19 and affirm that Mower County will not abate any fees for any licenses processed by Mower County for any business. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson nay, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 4 – 1 .

Under Building Committee it was noted that the basement conference room is not being used at this time due to its small size and maintenance is taking advantage of this opportunity to repaint and replace the flooring.

Under Solid Waste Committee it was noted that the operations of the recycling center appear to be working smoothly.

Under other committee reports, Commissioner Ankeny reported on attending the fair board meeting. The fair is still scheduled to commence. The restrooms in the Purple Ribbon Plaza still need to be completed. There has been some community response thankful that the fair is still scheduled with everything else being canceled. The Fair Board will finalize its decision with their July meeting.

Also under other committee reports Commissioner Baldus noted that he had received a letter from the Auditor-Treasurer's office regarding his automatic withdrawal of property taxes. It was noted that the Auditor-Treasurer had removed the automatic payments due to the Board action to defer penalty for the late payment of taxes from May 16 to July 16. Because it had to be all or none, this allowed ACH taxpayers the same opportunity to pay later if under duress of Covid-19.

County Administrator Harren informed the Board that the Sheriff has been meeting with the Courts regarding adequate court space for social distancing that allow for his staff to provide adequate security as the courts start holding hearings.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The Commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Glynn aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Gabrielson aye, Commissioner Ankeny aye, and Commissioner Baldus aye. Motion carried 5 – 0. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Attest:**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk/Administrator**

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