

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 24, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session August 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

Members present, viz: Polly Glynn, Chair
Mike Ankeny
Jeff Baldus
John Mueller
Trish Harren, County Administrator
Member excused: Jerry Reinartz

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the agenda adding Retirement Recognition for Charles Marks, Court Security / Corrections Officer. Motion carried.

Court Security / Corrections Officer Charles Marks was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 21 years of service.

Correctional Services Director Steve King provided the Board with a department update. The department has been involved with Council of State Government for a Reinvestment Initiative for review of program funding. Mr. King is also working closely with the new Austin Public Schools Superintendent and has been invited to be on the school district's Covid response team. The support groups have started to meet again with good response including adding a support group for women only. Out of home placements continue to be a challenge due to costs and a limited number of placement facilities.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Workforce Development Grant Application with the requested amount of \$160,000 to fund two Community Health Workers for two years from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. Motion carried.

Under Community Health Business it was reported that the number of positive cases of Covid have been increasing. From August 10 – 24 there have been 216 new cases of Covid with a 10.5% positivity rate among those being tested and most persons testing positive are age 19 – 64. Some shot clinics are scheduled. Lastly, with Operation Allies Refuge the area may be receiving some refugees.

Heather Lukes & Kurt Wayne from MnDOT provided the Board with information pertaining to the 2022-2031 CHIP (Capital Highway Investment Plan). The plan outlines

scheduled and proposed roadway and bridge work over the next ten years. Modifications to the plans occur based on available funding.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, 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. | 5,233.34 | Erickson Engineering Co., LLC | 4,920.00 |
| Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc | 11,407.45 | Gloria Hill Rvoc Tr | 4,760.00 |
| Alex Pro Firearms, LLC | 5,949.93 | Henry G Meigs, LLC | 152,346.25 |
| Apex Equipment LLC | 112,290.00 | Mayo Clinic | 2,186.50 |
| AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE LLC | 27,836.45 | Mayo Clinic Ambulance Services | 3,676.69 |
| Axon Enterprise Inc | 2,416.80 | Mayo Clinic Rochester | 20,876.90 |
| Baudoin Oil Company | 20,075.30 | Midstates Equipment & Supply | 15,028.13 |
| Cedar Valley Services, Inc | 54,609.58 | Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance | 2,906.00 |
| Consolidated Correctional Foodservice | 17,027.37 | Petroblend Corp. | 2,956.50 |
| Dalco Enterprises, Inc. | 2,134.88 | Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc | 2,521.75 |
| Dash Medical Gloves Inc. | 4,785.70 | Village Ranch Inc | 6,824.55 |
| Dave Lucas Consulting | 5,108.75 | WatchGuard, Inc. | 30,870.00 |
| DVS Renewal | 16,703.84 | Ziegler, Inc | 4,379.75 |
| Ecolab Inc | 5,653.90 | 76 Payments less than 2000 | 40,920.97 |
| | | Final Total: | 586,407.28 |

Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:14 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:15 a.m. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Brian Gunderson, applicant, to construct a single-family home W200FT, E970FT, S337FT SE¼, NE¼, (1.5 AC) Section 16 of Austin Township, Minnesota (PIN 02.013.0170)

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one else spoke for or against the Brian Gunderson housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:16 A.M. in regard to a Housing Tax Abatement request of Brian Gunderson, applicant.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:16 a.m.

Date: August 24, 2021

Res. #59-21

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

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 August 24, 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, Brian Gunderson is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

W200FT, E970FT, S337FT SE¼, NE¼, (1.5 AC) Section 16 of Austin Township, Minnesota (PIN 02.013.0170)

WHEREAS, Brian Gunderson has 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 August 24, 2021 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Brian Gunderson has 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 24th day of August, 2021.

Dr. Reichard and Monica Kendall, from Southern MN Regional Medical Examiner's Office, provided the Board with the 2020 Medical Examiner Report. The report covered the number of deaths investigated and data pertaining to manner of death such as by natural or unnatural causes, suicide, homicide, accidental by falls, poisoning or drugs and accidental by vehicle crashes. Falls and poisoning/drugs are the most common causes of death in Minnesota. There has been an increase in the number of pulmonary deaths which is a reflection of Covid.

The Board recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$270,410.52. Motion carried.

Human Resources Director Kristina Kohn presented a few items for the Board's consideration and approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Baldus, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to amend the FTE status of the Interpreter from .75 FTE to full-time effective August 30, 2021 for a 3-year trial period using ARPA funding for the increase and to amend the 2021 staffing levels to reflect the increase in FTE. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve creating a classification for an exempt Lead Property Appraiser position with a DBM rating of B25 and filling the position with an internal promotion effective August 30, 2021. The 2021 staffing levels will be amended to reflect the department having a total of three Property Appraisers and one Lead Property Appraiser with zero net change in staffing. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor for Mower County Correctional Services and authorize the transfer of \$37,163.10 from county wide to Corrections for the purchase. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports Personnel Committee reported to be working on the 2022 staffing requests. Finance Committee reported working on the 2022 budget process. It was reported that the Joint City/County committee met and discussed bridges and budgets related to alternative ways to fund the shared law enforcement center. There have been some discussions between Discover Austin, Development Corp. of Austin and the Fair Board in terms of bringing more events to the Fairgrounds and the possible use of the grand stand.

It was noted that the Emergency Operations Center has started meeting again b-weekly due to the rising number of positive cases of Covid. Lastly, it was reported that the Mower County fair was well attended.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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