

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2020

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session September 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the agenda with the addition under General Business to consider a Proclamation to declare September 12 – 20 – Welcoming Week 2020. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson provided the Board with a department update which included information of the status of current roadway projects, bridge projects, the bonding bill, equipment replacements, and ordinance updates.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Gabrielson, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$224,269.86. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Foster Care Transportation Agreement between Mower County Health and Human Services and Lyle Public School District 0497. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson provided updates including introducing Julie Lowe, Office Support Specialist, department space renovation planning due to COVID and a Covid response update indicating that the total number of positive cases in Mower County has now passed 1200.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the renewal Purchase of Service Agreement for Foster Care Transportation effective for the 2020-2021 school year with Austin Public Schools 0492. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to approve the Social Service Actions. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to adjourn the Human Services Board meeting at 9:46 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:47 a.m. for regular business items.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020 Work Session . Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, 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>
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	13,185.48	Department Of Corrections	10,965.00
Anoka County Corrections	23,893.34	Falk Construction Co./L.R.	4,928.07
Baudoin Oil Company	13,511.82	Henry G Meigs, LLC	8,557.19
Beckleys	2,300.00	Lano Equipment Inc	8,698.80
CDW Government	4,267.99	Regents Of The University Of MN	2,286.55
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	3,604.55	Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc	2,348.08
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	39,900.00	Ziegler, Inc	5,653.59
Dave Lucas Consulting	5,517.50	52 Payments less than 2000	19,704.19
		Final Total:	169,322.15

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, to set September 29 for the employee length of service recognition with the exact start time to be determined by staff. Motion carried.

County Administrator Trish Harren presented to the Board for consideration a Proclamation for welcoming week. This is the third year of activities and to date the County has not participated or made this proclamation. The City of Austin, APEX and the Welcome Center participate.

Date: September 8, 2020

Proclamation #01-20

Proclamation

On motion of Commissioner Gabrielson, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Proclamation was unanimously passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 8, 2020 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS: September 12 to September 18, we celebrate Welcoming Week as a way of creating home together with communities around the world. Welcoming Week is about bringing neighbors together across lines of difference to build relationships and work together on shared goals. During Welcoming Week, I invite all residents of Mower County to join this movement by taking action in the spirit of unity across differences; and

WHEREAS: Mower County is home to people of all backgrounds, including those who were not born here, but now call it home. Mower County's success depends on making sure that all residents feel welcome. New residents are a vital part of our community, along with our long-time residents, bringing ideas, starting businesses, serving in civic roles, working in critical industries and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we value; and

WHEREAS: To capitalize on diversity as an asset, our community must strive to create a culture and policies that ensure everyone can belong and thrive. That includes addressing disparities, countering hate, understanding history and helping neighbors come together; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of where we are born or how we identify, we are residents of Mower County and our lives are interdependent. Let us come together to build communities where every resident has the opportunity to contribute his or her best. Let us come together to create more prosperous communities and to reaffirm that Mower County stands as a beacon of freedom and opportunity; and

WHEREAS: We call on our residents to reach across lines of difference and participate in one or more of the Welcoming Week events in Austin. I also call on business leaders, civic groups, government agencies and community institutions to undertake their own initiatives, alongside the Human Rights Commission, beyond Welcoming Week to make Mower County an even more welcoming place for new and long-term residents alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeff Baldus, Mower County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim September 12 through September 20, 2020 as

WELCOMING WEEK 2020

Passed and approved this 8th day of September, 2020.

The Board held a Public Hearing to consider the request of RWF BRON for a tax abatement on a sales and service repair facility in LeRoy, MN (PIN 26.005.0207) in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 469.1813. The request is to abate 50% of the Mower County portion of real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years. .

Trish Harren, County Administrator, reviewed the application and recommended approval.

Ernie Collins was present for the application virtually and spoke in favor of the application on behalf of the company. No one else spoke for or against the tax abatement.

Date: September 8, 2020

Res. #93-20

RESOLUTION

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

Commissioners at a meeting held September 8, 2020 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, RWF Bron has submitted a request to abate 50% of the Mower County portion of real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to Mower County to grant an abatement request subject to a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, a public hearing was held in regard to said request;

WHEREAS, the subject property is legally described as follows:

PIN 26.005.0207
Section 28, Township 101, Range 014
OUT LOT 16 N of Hwy 56, Exc N505Ft W384Ft, Exc N206Ft E495Ft, Exc S179Ft N505Ft W55Ft E495Ft, & Exc E446Ft S400Ft N726Ft 26.0AC

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board of Commissioners finds the request to be in the public interest by providing a long-term stabilization in tax base and by providing employment opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board of Commissioners approves a 50% tax abatement over five (5) years of the County's portion of real property taxes. The period of the abatement shall begin for tax assessment year 2020 payable 2021.

Passed and approved this 8th day of September, 2020.

Date: September 8, 2020

Res. #94-20

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Gabrielson, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held September 8, 2020 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic requires additional efforts to make the election process safe, sanitary and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State is currently soliciting grant applications from counties for grants pursuant to Laws 2020, Chapter 77, section 4 and the federal CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, grants will be provided to each county pursuant to a formula set forth in Section F of the grant application provided by the Office of the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the funds provided by the Office of the Secretary of State are provided for the purpose of the uses set forth in the federal CARES Act and as further restricted by Laws 2020, chapter 77, section 4, subdivision 4; and

WHEREAS, those purposes are primarily for the protection of persons involved with the election process including voters, as well as certain other purchases set forth in law; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State has determined that Mower County will receive a block grant allocation of \$32,217.34; and

WHEREAS, the county will work with the municipalities within the county to determine a fair, equitable, and mutually agreeable allocation of the funds within the County and between municipalities, and if an agreement cannot be reached, the funds will be distributed pursuant to the OSS identified default allocation formula as determined by the Secretary and provided in Section G of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the grant application is to be completed by the staff of the auditor and other staff responsible for the administration of elections in this county; and

WHEREAS, the grant application must be completed, certified by a county official, typically the chief county election official, returned to the Office of the Secretary of State and a grant agreement executed prior to the receipt of the funds to which the county is entitled pursuant to Sections E and F of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, Laws 2020, Chapter 77, section 4 requires jurisdictions to provide a 20% match for the grant, with a 25% match for electronic roster purchases; and

WHEREAS, the grant agreement will reflect the grant application for each county; and

WHEREAS, additional assistance may be forthcoming later in this election cycle from state and federal funds, particularly those funds appropriated for these purposes by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, there are continuing needs throughout the election cycle for both COVID-19 and election security efforts and concomitant costs; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the grant application in the form presented to this Board and to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State is hereby approved and the Board authorizes the acceptance of resources in accordance with requirements of Minnesota Law 2020, Chapter 77; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby appropriates the required match amount (maximum of \$8,054.34) as indicated in the application for the purposes set forth in the grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief elections officer of the County and staff are directed to submit the approved grant application at the earliest opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when the grant agreement is provided to the chief elections officer of the county, that person is delegated the authority to execute that agreement and return it to the Office of the Secretary of State without further approval by this Board; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the chief elections officer of the county is hereby authorized to apply for any additional funds made available by the state for the defrayment of costs of efforts to combat COVID-19 in the election process and for the enhancement of election security, and to execute any grant agreements required to access those funds from this date until the general election on November 3, 2020.

Passed and approved this 8th day of September, 2020.

Under other committee reports there was a brief discussion concerning a complaint the Minnesota Department of Health had received about an event at the fairgrounds on Saturday, September 5. Lack of mask wearing, lack of social distancing and excessive noise were among the complaints.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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