

REGULAR MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: TUESDAY, January 5th, 2021 at 8:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

The Quarterly Joint Governance meeting was held at the Holmes Theatre in Detroit Lakes and offered virtually via Zoom from 7 a.m. – 8 a.m., with the City of Detroit Lakes hosting.

Organizational

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Grimsley. Commissioners in attendance: Grimsley, Nelson, Knutson, Okeson, and Vareberg; County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, and Minute Taker, Cindy Courneya.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The Honorable Judge Thilmony was present and administered the Oath of Office to the elected officials: Commissioner John Okeson (District 3), Commissioner Richard Vareberg (District 4), and Commissioner Barry Nelson (District 5); and Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors, Michelle Andresen (District 2), Travis J. Schauer (District 3), and Tony Beck (District 5).
4. Election of the Board Chair was placed on the table for consideration by current Board Chair, Ben Grimsley. Commissioner Okeson nominated Commissioner Nelson. Chair Grimsley called for any other nominations and there were none. It was moved and seconded to appoint Commissioner Nelson as Chair to the Becker County Board for 2021. (Okeson, Knutson), carried. The meeting was then turned over to newly appointed Board Chair Nelson.
5. Board Chair Nelson called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Grimsley nominated Commissioner Knutson. There were no other nominations and Board Chair Nelson entertained a motion to appoint Commissioner Knutson as Vice-Chair to the Board for 2021. It was moved and seconded to appoint Commissioner Knutson as Vice-Chair to the Becker County Board for 2021. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.
6. Board Chair Nelson thanked Commissioner Grimsley for serving as Chair to the Becker County Board for 2020 and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his leadership and service, commending him on his leadership with the many unique challenges faced with this past year. The Board thanked and congratulated both Commissioners Grimsley and Nelson for their dedication and leadership during this past year, serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Regular Business

Agenda/Minutes:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented, with no changes. (Okeson, Grimsley), carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum: No one was present.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - a. Commissioner Nelson: Highway Committee, Economic Development Authority (EDA), and Finance Committee meetings.
 - b. Commissioner Grimsley: Becker County Historical Society & Museum - Regular meeting, Historical Society/Museum Building Committee meeting, Finance Committee meetings, and MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). He also provided information relative to the (RE)Insurance for Waste to Energy Operations in 2021, as outlined in the report from the Special MCIT Board of Director's meeting held on December 28, 2020 at the MCIT Building in St. Paul, MN.
 - c. Commissioner Okeson: Transit Committee, Highway Committee, and Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC).
 - d. Commissioner Knutson: Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority (PLMSWA) and Environmental Affairs Committee.
 - e. Commissioner Vareberg: None to report on currently.
 - f. County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, had nothing to add at this time; however, asked Sheriff Todd Glander to provide an update on the Sheriff's office project.
 - g. Sheriff Todd Glander reported that Dispatch is now moved back into the Sheriff's office and by the end of this week, all staff should be moved back into the office.

Appointments:

1. It was moved and seconded to accept the 2021 Commissioner's Committee assignments as presented, with it noted that all commissioners of the Board may serve as alternate members, as needed. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to appoint Michael Foley to the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District Board of Managers, to serve a three-term, effective January 1, 2021. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

County Administrator: Mike Brethorst presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to accept the amendment to the purchase agreement from EXP Realty, as presented, to extend the closing date, for the Sale of the Minimum-Security Jail to Recovery Community Resources and to approve extending the closing date to no later than February 15, 2021. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
2. County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, noted that there have been 66 applicants reviewed and 51 payments in the amount of \$2,000.00 sent out to businesses affected by the Governor's orders, as of December 31, 2020. He also provided an update on the State's Emergency Business Relief Grant funding available to Becker County, in the amount of \$681,764.10 and on the remaining County funds available for businesses as well. He reported that the State's Emergency Business Relief Grant funds must be awarded by March 15, 2021 and distributed no later than April 1, 2021, and that the County must return any funds not expended by April 1, 2021 to the State of MN by April 15, 2021.

Discussion was held relative to requirements and disbursement of the grant funds, with it stressed to include businesses and restaurants that didn't meet the 30% net loss requirement previously, and then open up to others, using the \$681,764.10 first and then moving onto any remaining funds.

It was moved and seconded to authorize requesting the Emergency Business Relief Grant Funding from the State of MN, in the amount of \$681,764.10, with 2.5 % allocated for administrative expenses related to the implementation and disbursement, and to submit the required County Relief Grant Certification Form to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.

3. Waste to Energy MCIT Info – Commissioner Grimsley provided information during Reports & Correspondence, as noted above.

Finance Committee – Auditor-Treasurer, Mary Hendrickson presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants, Over-90 Days Claims, and Additional Issues, as presented:
 - a. Auditor's Warrants
 - i. 12/15/2020 in the amount of \$ 28,837.14
 - ii. 12/20/2020 in the amount of \$ 26,425.36
 - iii. 12/22/2020 in the amount of \$ 289,824.98
 - iv. 12/30/2020 in the amount of \$ 633,425.19
- for a total amount of \$ 978,512.67

- b. Over-90 Day Claims:
 - i. Forum Communications in the amount of \$4,383.69 (invoices dated September 6, 2020 just received);
 - ii. Jiffy Lube in the amount of \$47.55 (dated September 9, 2020 – just received);
 - iii. K & K Truck & Auto Repair in the amount of \$250.00 (invoice just turned in).

- c. Additional Issues:
 - i. Darwin Nundahl turned in an Employee expense report for Tobacco Compliance check hours which were turned into payroll. Mileage of \$99.48 will be paid this week.

(Knutson, Grimsley), carried.

Auditor-Treasurer: Mary Hendrickson presented:

1. Licenses & Permits: There were none.

2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 01-21-1A (Option 1), that the Detroit Lakes Sunday newspaper was the low quote received, and is hereby designated as the official County newspaper for 2021, in which the notice and list of real estate taxes remaining delinquent on the first Monday of January 2021, shall be published and in which proceedings and other notices of the County Board shall be published, and in which the first publication of the financial statement will be published, and the Frazee Forum newspaper is hereby designated as the newspaper in which the second publication of the financial statement will be published as required by MN Stat. Sec. 375.17. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

3. It was moved and seconded to accept the November 2020 Cash Comparison and Investment Summary, as presented. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.

Human Services – Denise Warren presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Amendment #3 to MN Department of Human Services – Behavioral Health Grant Contract No. 133774 with Becker County, with the amount of this amendment at \$918,305 (2-year contract renewal for Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response Services), with the total contract amount not to exceed \$2,113,032. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

2. It was moved and seconded to approve the Human Services claims for Human Services, Public Health, and Transit, as presented. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

Highway: Jim Olson presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 01-21-1B, as presented, the Notice of Annual Highway Construction Advertisements; to authorize the County Engineer to advertise as follows: Initial advertisements in the Detroit Lakes Tribune stating the intent to utilize internet advertising, and all Highway construction advertising for 2021 be placed on the official Becker County web page and on the MnDOT site, www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid using the EAdvert link. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.
2. There was also a brief discussion held relative to the West Central Regional Juvenile Center (WCRJC) and specialized therapy offered to residents of the program, with it recommended to research other possible options and future funding for Becker County participants of the program. County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, will contact Administration at WCRJC and Clay County, and work with Becker County Human Services Director, Denise Warren, and County Attorney, Brian McDonald.
3. Additional Funds for Legal Fees - West Lake Drive Project – Right-of-Way: Jim Olson presented:
 - a. County Attorney, Brian McDonald, recommended that the meeting be closed due to ongoing litigation strategy/settlement proposals related to the West Lake Drive Project – Right-of-Way, with the case still open and active at the district court level.
 - b. It was moved and seconded to approve adding to the Agenda: Closed Session to discuss Additional Funds for Legal Fees and other compensation for the West Lake Drive Project, as noted. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
 - c. It was moved and seconded to Close the meeting, relative to the agenda item: Additional Funds for Legal Fees and other compensation for the West Lake Drive Project; to allow for discussion on legal fees and ongoing litigation strategy relative to the West Lake Drive Project – Right-of-Way, with County Attorney, Brian McDonald present. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
 - d. Closed Session –
 - e. It was moved and seconded to open the meeting back into regular session. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

f. Open Session –

- i. It was moved and seconded to approve the expenses and payment of current invoices, as presented, related to the additional legal fees and other compensation incurred for the Right-of-Way - West Lake Drive Project, with a return to the Board, to provide an updated statement. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

- 4. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 01-21-1C, to enter into a Cooperative Agreement, with corrections from the previous agreement as noted, with the MN Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR) for Heartland Trail Design, and to begin soliciting for consultants for the engineering and design of the segment of Heartland Trail from CSAH 10 to the City of Frazee, MN. (Okeson, Grimsley), carried. It was noted that the County will receive \$200,000.00 to expend on consultant services.

Other: It was noted that a Work Session will be held on February 2nd regarding the Public Works Building.

Being no further business, Board Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting.

/s/ Michael M. Brethorst
Michael M. Brethorst
County Administrator

/s/ Barry Nelson
Barry Nelson
Board Chair