

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY,  
MINNESOTA**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, in the Commissioners Room, at the Nobles County Government Center, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Justin Ahlers, Gene Metz, Matt Widboom, Robert S. Demuth and Donald Linssen.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Demuth at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
<b>2. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
<b>3. Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the agenda with additions including items 7.1 C. Public Works Utility Permit Request and 8.6 CERT's & SolSmart. Moved by: Widboom, Matt Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>4. Recognition</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Visitors &amp; Guests Welcome</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Years of Service Award</b>
	Sara Henderson, Child Support Officer, was recognized for 20 years of service with Nobles County and was presented with her anniversary gift.
<b>5. Consent Agenda</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>May 8, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> May 8, 2018 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Meetings &amp; Conferences - Travel Expenses</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Travel Expenses paid May 11, 2018
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Auditor's and Commissioner's Warrants</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor's Warrants Commissioner's Warrants – General Revenue Fund Commissioner's Warrants – Public Works Fund Commissioner's Warrants – Family Services Fund
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	

<b>6. Public Hearing</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<p><b>Proposed Property Tax Abatement (Dan Krueger, South Lake Development Parcel 31-4003-400)</b></p> <p><b>A. Open Hearing</b>  <b>B. Proposed Abatements – Discussion</b>  <b>C. Public Comment</b>  <b>D. Close Hearing</b>  <b>E. Decision - Resolution 201824</b></p>
	<p>A. On a motion by Justin Ahlers and seconded by Gene Metz, it was duly passed to recess the regular Board meeting and open the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.</p> <p>B. Tom Johnson, County Administrator, reviewed the proposed property tax abatement request and supporting documents with the Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>C. No public comments were received.</p> <p>D. On a motion by Gene Metz and seconded by Justin Ahlers, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.</p> <p>E. On a motion by Donald Linssen and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 201824 approving tax abatement for parcel 31-4003-400 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813.</p> <p>On a motion by Donald Linssen and seconded by Robert S. Demuth, it was duly passed to resume the regular Board meeting.</p>
<b>7. Department Presentations</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Public Works - Stephen Schnieder</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Rural Intersection Lighting Grant</b>
	<p>Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director/County Engineer, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of state funding for the Local Partnership Program (LLP) to make improvements on the state highway system. An application for \$180,000 was submitted to install intersection lighting at 12 paved county road and state highway intersections. This grant funding was not identified in the 2018 budget and the utility fee did not include the added cost. The cost may not be incurred this year or very little cost due to the construction timeline. The estimated costs for the 12 proposed sites would be \$4,200 per year. Mr. Schnieder answered questions of the Board in regard to additional locations being added and he responded that with the Board's approval, additional lighting locations may be added to the project at the cost of the County, not the grant identified for State Highway intersections.</p> <p>Several locations were discussed such as intersection of CSAH 4 and 57, CR 18 toward Kinbrae and the campground and Mr. Schnieder advised he will be researching the benefits of LED lighting as an option. The Board held discussion regarding the west side of Highway 59 by the Prairie Justice Center which continues to be a safety concern. Mr. Schnieder advised the County could not do that with this project and that the City of Worthington would be responsible for the west side of Highway 59, along with the State of Minnesota. Mr. Schnieder advised the Board can include more lighting into the project at the County's cost as an alternative bid. If additional lighting locations are not advantageous to the bidding, the alternative could be dropped. Tom Johnson, County Administrator, suggested that based off the discussion, the Board could take some time at the next work session to review additional locations.</p> <p><b><u>Attachments:</u></b>  Rural Intersection Lighting Locations</p>

<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	
It was duly passed to accept the Local Partnership Program (LLP) funding in the amount of \$180,000 and authorize the 12 locations as presented. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Widboom, Matt	
<b>B.</b>	<b>Ellsworth Parade and Event Permit</b>
	Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director/County Engineer, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of a permit application for the City of Ellsworth's annual city celebration involving the closure of County State Aid Highways 11 and 30. Mr. Schnieder advised there have been no problems with closing the roadways during past celebrations.  <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Ellsworth Application and Insurance
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	
It was duly passed to grant the Parade and Special Event Permit to the City of Ellsworth for Saturday, June 23rd for Family Fun Days. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
<b>C.</b>	<b>Public Works Property Utility Permit Request</b>
	Stephen Schneider, Public Works Director/County Engineer, presented the Board with information and a recommendation in the area of a utility permit request. Minnesota Energy Resources has requested to install a replacement natural gas regulator and valve on the Public Works lot at the corner of Diagonal Road and Clary Street. The location would not interfere with operations or restrict the future use of the property.  <b><u>Attachments/Handouts:</u></b> Minnesota Energy request letter
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	
It was duly passed to allow Minnesota Energy Resources to replace the regulator and install the new underground valve on the Public Works lot at the corner of Diagonal Road and Clary Street. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Metz, Gene	
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Community Services - Stacie Golombiecki</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Southwest Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium Request for Funding Support</b>
	Stacie Golombiecki, Community Services Director, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of a request for funding for the 18 County Southwest Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium (SW18) to hire a consultant to work full time on identifying options for continuum of care including expanding local crisis bed capacity in our region and developing an inclusive plan that will assure a stronger continuum of care. In order to fund the consultant, the SW18 Board is asking for a financial commitment from each county based on the 2016 census. The amount requested of Nobles County is \$3,925.56 based on our 2016 population estimate of 21,770. Mrs. Golombiecki advised all but 2 of the counties, which included Nobles County, had already approved the funding with their Boards. Commissioner Metz asked with what the County is contemplating for a mental health facility space, are there other facilities in the area with the same ability. Mrs. Golombiecki advised the closest would be Willmar.

	<b><u>Attachments:</u></b> SW18 Funding Request
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	It was duly passed to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$3,925.56 contingent upon approval by all 18 counties in the consortium. Moved by: Widboom, Matt Seconded by: Linssen, Donald
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Human Resources - Sue Luing</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Life and Long Term Disability Insurance RFP</b>
	Sue Luing, HR Director/Deputy County Administrator, presented the Board with information in the area of the RFP process for Life and Long Term Disability insurance. Ms. Luing advised every 5 years these insurances should go through a formal RFP process. OCHS, as our agent of record, will conduct the process and make a recommendation to the County. The final recommendation will be reviewed with the current committee formed to review the health insurance RFP process and the final recommendation will be brought to the County Board for approval.
<b>8. Administration Presentation - Tom Johnson</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Application and Certification for Payment – Gag Sheet Metal, Inc.</b>
	Tom Johnson, County Administrator, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of a payment request in connection with the Public Works partial reroof project. The payment application was reviewed by the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership project managers and they recommend payment.  <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Application and Certification for Payment - Gag Sheet Metal
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	It was duly passed to approve Gag Sheet Metal Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of \$42,606.55 for work completed on the 2018 Public Works partial reroof project. Moved by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Surplus Equipment - Art Center</b>
	Tom Johnson, County Administrator, advised the Board the Nobles County Art Center has requested a donation of approximately 20 stackable chairs and a decommissioned PC. Upon review of the Government Center inventory, there are 60+ stackable chairs that have not been used. A decommissioned PC has also been identified.
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	It was duly passed to declare 1 decommissioned PC as surplus for donation to the Nobles County Art Center and 60 chairs to be declared surplus and donated to the non-profit entities housed within the War Memorial Building. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Official Date Change - Board of Commissioners' Work Session</b>
	Mr. Johnson advised notification of a drainage system training offered to the Commissioners would conflict with the June 27th Board Work Session and advised it would be appropriate to change the date to Tuesday, June 26th.

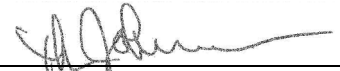
	<b><u>Attachments:</u></b> 2018 Calendar
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the date change for the regularly scheduled work session on Wednesday, June 27th to Tuesday, June 26th, 2018. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Metz, Gene	
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Urban Lawmaker Tour Plan</b>
	Mr. Johnson presented the tentative schedule for the urban lawmaker tour being planned July 13th and requested the Board to consider appropriating funds for transportation, lodging and meals. Commissioner Metz advised the agenda needs to identify the question "Why are we here?" Additional details were discussed such as key note speakers for the kick off and ideas for lunch during the tour. The media will be notified and are welcome to attend the tour.
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the Urban Lawmaker Tour plan and the approval of paying expenses up to \$4,000 to take care of the needs of our visitors. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Widboom, Matt	
<b>8.5</b>	<b>2018 Boards, Committees &amp; Commissions - Citizen Appointments for Library Board</b>
	Mr. Johnson advised the terms of 3 Library Board members will expire June 30, 2018 and all 3 members are eligible for reappointment. Letters and applications were sent to the 3 Board members notifying them of their terms expiring and public notices were advertised as required. The Library Board met on Monday, May 14th and reviewed the 2 applications received and recommend the reappointment of Charlene Wintz and Mary Larson.  <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> 2018 Board & Committee Appointments Library Board Applications
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to reappoint Charlene Wintz and Mary Larson to the Library Board for three year terms expiring June 30, 2021 as recommended by the Library Board. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
Commissioner Metz questioned if the Board of Commissioners appoints Southern Minnesota Opportunity Council (SMOC) Board Members.. Mr. Johnson advised it is not listed on the Commissioners Committee Appointment List but that he would contact SMOC to obtain the bylaws.	
<b>8.6</b>	<b>CERT's &amp; SolSmart</b>
	Mr. Johnson presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of a program to participate and receive free solar technical assistance. A member of the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) notified the County on Friday that the Solar Foundation is offering up to 100 hours of remote consulting time to reduce barriers of solar installations in Nobles County. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. A letter of commitment would need to be submitted by the end of May. The Board discussed how it could simplify Planning and Zoning ordinances and the approval process for solar installation when the County is ready. Mr. Johnson advised he believed there would be another opportunity in the future if the Board should decide not to participate due to the lack of time to prepare. County Attorney, Kathleen Kusz,

	<p>advised the website refers to an available checklist, which would be worthwhile to review as Nobles County may be further ahead in the process than expected. Commissioner Metz advised Mr. Johnson to contact Annette Fiedler, SRDC, for further information and recommendation of the program.</p> <p><b><u>Attachments/Handouts:</u></b>  Notification of Time Sensitive Opportunity for Free Solar Technical Assistance  SolSmart: Helping Communities Go Solar</p>
<p><b><u>VOTING</u></b>  It was duly passed to approve sending the Letter of Commitment for the SolSmart program contingent upon the Administrator's findings of further information.  Moved by: Widboom, Matt  Seconded by: Metz, Gene</p>	
<p><b>9. Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements</b></p>	
<p><b>9.1</b></p>	<p><b>Committee and Board Reports</b>  <b><u>Attachments:</u></b>  Heron Lake Watershed District March 20, 2018 Regular Mtg  HLWD March 28, 2018 Special mtg  HLWD Jackson CD3 Adjourned Hearing 2 March 29, 2018  Soil &amp; Water Conservation District April 18, 2018 Regular Mtg  Art Center May 1, 2018 Regular Mtg  Southwest Regional Development Commission Feb. 8, March 8 and April 19 meeting minutes</p>
	<p>District I - Commissioner Ahlers reported on Rock-Nobles Community Corrections Executive Board.</p> <p>District II - Commissioner Metz reported on a Rural Minnesota Energy Board P.A.C.E. meeting and a future Public Utility Commissioner meeting in Wilmont on June 20th.</p> <p>District III - Commissioner Widboom reported on a SMOC meeting and recommended the Nobles Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) meeting in June should be in conjunction with the June 19th special public meeting with cities in Reading.</p> <p>District IV - Commissioner Demuth had no report.</p> <p>District V - Commissioner Linszen reported on the Nobles Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) and advised we need to find some way to the townships engaged. Commissioner Widboom suggested the townships, which are also incorporated in NEON, should be invited to the June 19th meeting as the meeting held with the townships in 2017 only covered elections, but not the assessing changes.</p> <p>Management Team - Attorney Kathleen Kusz had no report.</p> <p>County Administration - Administrator Johnson reported the Commissioners have received calls in regard to the Nobles County Fairgrounds and the concerns were deferred to the Nobles County Fair Association as Nobles County does not own the Fairgrounds nor does the County own many other entities that include the "Nobles County" title. Mr. Johnson also reported on the 2018 farm bill session held by Senator Smith's staff and the "Sneaky Salt" Lunch and Learn event held by the E.W.R.</p>

9.2	<b>Correspondence</b> <u>Attachments:</u> Recruitment Memo HLWD District Administrator's Report April 2018 Handout from May 10, 2018 Farm Bill Discussion Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation Thank You
9.3	<b>Calendar</b> <u>Attachments:</u> Commissioners' June 2018 Calendar
<b>10. Other / Future Business</b> <b>Board of Commissioners Work Session</b> Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:30 a.m. Farmers Room, Government Ctr, 315 10th Street, Worthington MN	
<b>11. Adjournment</b>	
<u><b>VOTING</b></u> It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	



(Chairperson)



(County Administrator)