

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

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at the Worthington Event Center, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners were in attendance in the Board Room: Justin Ahlers, Gene Metz, Donald Linssen, Robert S. Demuth and Matt Widboom.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ahlers at 9:02 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

<b>1.0 Call to Order</b>	
<b>2.0 Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
<b>3.0 Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Motion by: Widboom, Matt Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>4.0 Recognition</b>	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Years of Service Award</b>
Shirley Rempel, Social Worker, was recognized for 30 years of service.	
<b>5.0 Consent Agenda</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>August 04, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> August 04, 2020 Draft Regular Board Meeting Minutes
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Meetings &amp; Conferences – Travel Expenses</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Travel Expenses paid August 14, 2020
<b>5.3</b>	<b>PCard/Auditor's Warrants</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor's Warrants
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the Consent Agenda. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Public Hearing</b>
<b>6.1 (A)</b>	<b>Public Hearing – Local Option Sales Tax</b> <b>A. Open Hearing (<i>Action</i>)</b> <b>B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion</b> <b>C. Public Comment</b> <b>D. Continue Hearing (<i>Action</i>)</b> <b>E. Decisions</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Nobles County Highway Department Presentation

	<p>A public meeting is required for approving a local option sales tax. Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director, gave a presentation on potential projects that could be funded by the sales tax.</p>
	<p><b>A.</b> A motion by Gene Metz and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to open the Local Option Sales Tax public hearing.  <b>B.</b> Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director, reviewed the proposed projects that could be funded by the local option sales tax.  <b>C.</b> One public comment was received by Frank Wieneke, Lismore. His concern was that the roads have been neglected and did not want it to continue but also was concerned where the funding would come from to improve the roads.  <b>D.</b> On a motion by Matt Widboom and seconded by Gene Metz, it was duly passed to continue the hearing at 7:00 p.m. on August 18, 2020.</p>
<p>6.2</p>	<p><b>Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement  KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-510</b>  <b>A. Open Hearing (Action)</b>  <b>B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion</b>  <b>C. Public Comment</b>  <b>D. Close Hearing (Action)</b>  <b>E. Decisions</b>  <b>1. KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-510 – Resolution 202039 (Action)</b>  <u><b>Attachments:</b></u>  NHI Nobles County Guidelines  Application information  Resolution 202039</p>
	<p><b>A.</b> A motion by Gene Metz and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to open the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing for KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-510.  <b>B.</b> Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator, reviewed the Nobles Home Initiative Application.  <b>C.</b> No public comments were received.  <b>D.</b> On a motion by Robert S. Demuth and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.  <b>E.</b> On a motion by Matt Widboom and seconded by Donald Linssen, it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 202039 approving tax abatement to KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-510 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813..</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p><b>Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement  KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-515</b>  <b>A. Open Hearing (Action)</b>  <b>B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion</b>  <b>C. Public Comment</b>  <b>D. Close Hearing (Action)</b>  <b>E. Decisions</b>  <b>1. KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-515 – Resolution 202040 (Action)</b>  <u><b>Attachments:</b></u>  NHI Nobles County Guidelines  Application information  Resolution 202040</p>
	<p><b>A.</b> A motion by Donald Linssen and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to open the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing for KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-515.  <b>B.</b> Tom Johnson, Nobles County Administrator, reviewed the Nobles Home Initiative Application.  <b>C.</b> No public comments were received.  <b>D.</b> On a motion by Gene Metz and seconded by Matt Widboom, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.  <b>E.</b> On a motion by Robert S. Demuth and seconded by Justin Ahlers, it was duly passed to</p>

adopt Resolution 202040 approving tax abatement to KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-515 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813..	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Special Presentations</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Nobles Wind Farm Upgrade Proposal – Xcel Energy</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Nobles Wind Farm Upgrade Proposal
Trisha Duncan, Community Relations Manager, presented the Board with information regarding a proposed upgrade to Nobles County wind farms over a 4-5 year period. The project would upgrade the current wind turbines while also creating jobs in the area. The project would be completed by 2024. Current contracts with land owners would need to be updated as the upgrades would extend the life of the turbines. The upgrades would make the turbines more efficient in lower wind. While upgrading portions of the wind farm would be shut down for a period of time.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Department Presentations</b>
<b>8.1 (A)</b>	<b>Prosecution Contract with the City of Rushmore</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Legal Services Agreement
Joe Sanow, County Attorney, presented the board with a legal service agreement for the County Attorney’s office and the City of Rushmore, MN. The Attorney’s office would provide prosecution services to Rushmore on an hourly fee basis.	
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the legal services agreement with the city of Rushmore. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>8.1 (B)</b> Addendum	<b>Contract With Mary Viessman</b>
Joe Sanow presented the board with a contract to hire Mary Viessman to provide legal secretary services for a period of up to 90 days. Mary would be paid a rate of \$24.00/hour.	
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the contract with Mary Viessman. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Widboom, Matt	
<b>8.2 (A)</b>	<b>Resolution 202038</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Resolution 202038
This resolution was previously approved at the 8/8/2020 meeting, however a copy of the resolution was not included. It is included now as information only. No vote is needed.	
<b>8.3 (A)</b>	<b>County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Grant Agreement Resolution 202037
Information was presented on the FY2021 County Veterans Office Operational Enhancement Grant, which is performed annually. No changes were made to the grant from FY2020. The compensation remained at \$10,000.	
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202037 authorizing Bill Brockberg, the County Veterans Service Officer be authorized to execute the County Veterans Service Office Operations Enhancement Grant for FY2021. Moved by: Widboom, Matt Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
<b>8.4 (A)</b>	<b>Change of Status – Circulation Assistant</b>

A Circulation Assistant in the Library is currently classified at 4/5ths time (32-39 hours/week). This position has been conducting the county daily mail runs and they no longer wish to do this. Her classification will need to be reduced to reflect the hours worked at the library only.

**VOTING**

It was duly approved to change the status of the Circulation Assistant from 4/5ths to 3/5ths time effective August 27, 2020.

Moved by: Widboom, Matt

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

**8.5 (A) Flight Imagery – Amendment**

A new opportunity arose to participate with MNGEO (State of Minnesota) for a cooperative LiDAR-image flight. Board action (8/4/20) authorized a contract with EagleView for oblique imagery, ortho-imagery, and LiDAR imagery; respectively. Heitkamp is proposing to alter that Board Action to now investigate a grant opportunity / MNGEO partnership for LiDAR flight imagery. Thus, proposing to now split oblique/ortho imagery as one project and LiDAR imagery as a separate project. The split could potentially save tens of thousands of dollars.

**VOTING**

It was duly approved to the Ortho and Olique imagery flight in 2021 to proceed with EagleView.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

It was duly approved to allow staff to investigate LiDAR flight imagery with MNGEO.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin

**9.0 Administration Presentations**

**9.1 Red Rock Rural Water System Appointment**

**Attachments:**

Paul Johnson Information

Resolution

Due to a resignation from the Red Rock Rural Water System (RRRWS) Board, a replacement has been identified to fill the term.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to approve Paul A. Johnson to the Red Rock Rural Water System Board to fill the unexpired term of Mike Curley as recommended by the RRRWS Board.

Moved by: Widboom, Matt

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

**9.2 W.E.L.L. Project**

The W.E.L.L. request is no longer in the House Bonding Bill legislation and not in the Senate version either. It is questionable whether state legislators will pass a bonding bill this year but there is some discussion that with very, very low interest rates, something could be considered beyond what is currently pending. In the final days of session, the W.E.L.L. project request for \$16MM was removed from the House bill and at some point earlier removed from the Senate bill. The City of Worthington continues to move forward with plans for the Indoor Recreation facility, the school district needs to begin planning how to move forward and we need to also determine next steps. There was discussion on where the County will go from here. Commissioner Widboom addressed David Bradford, Library Director, on what the Library Board's wishes were. Mr. Bradford stated the board was waiting for direction from the commissioners. Funding options were also discussed since no money was actually budgeted to the project. Commissioner Ahlers made a motion to cancel any further action with the W.E.L.L. project.

Further discussion was had on the length of time and amount of resources already dedicated to the project. Commissioner Widboom reiterated that there is still a need for a new or updated Library.

**VOTING**

It was passed to cancel any further action with the W.E.L.L. project.

<p>Moved by: Ahlers, Justin          Seconded by: Metz, Gene          In favor: Ahlers, Justin; Metz, Gene; Demuth, Robert S.; Linssen, Donald          Opposed: Widboom, Matt</p>	
<b>9.3</b>	<b>CARES Act</b>
<p>An overview was given on where the county is in the CARES Act process. Currently Bruce Heitkamp, Tom Johnson and Commissioners are reaching out to townships and cities regarding certifying for funds and offering help if needed.</p>	
<b>9.4</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
<p>An overview was given regarding the 2021 budget process.</p>	
<b>10.0 Inter-Agency Reports/Announcements</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Committee and Board Reports</b>
	<p>District V - Commissioner Linssen – No Report</p> <p>District II - Commissioner Metz – Reported on the AMC virtual meeting. Took a tour of the Nobles Wind project. Trying to answer all questions regarding CARES Act.</p> <p>District I - Commissioner Ahlers – Reported on touring the Nobles Wind project and answering questions regarding the CARES Act.</p> <p>District IV – Commissioner Demuth – No Report</p> <p>District III - Commissioner Widboom – No Report</p> <p>County Attorney – Joe Sanow – No Report</p> <p>County Administration – Tom Johnson – No Report</p> <p>County Administration – Bruce Heitkamp – No Report</p>
<b>10.2</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  <u>Attachments:</u>          Recruitment Update          BRRRA Open House          Nobles County Art Center Board Meeting Agenda 8/7/2020          Public Hearing Notice – KLRW District          Nobles Soil &amp; Water budget sheet 01/2020-06/2020          Nobles Soil &amp; Water budget sheet 01/2020-07/2020          KLRW budget sheet 01/01/2020-08/04/2020          KLRW Agenda 8/13/2020          HLWD Meeting minutes 6/17/2020          HLWD Activity Report          KLRW Balance Sheet as of 7/31/2020          SWCD Agenda 8/19/2020          HLWD Agenda 8/19/2020          Nobles SWCD Program Summary          Nobles SWCD Bills Payable as of 7/31/2020          Nobles SWCD Meeting minutes 7/15/2020          KLRW Meeting minutes 7/9/2020</p>
<b>10.3</b>	<p><b>Calendar</b>  <u>Attachments:</u>          August 2020 Calendar</p>

	September 2020 Calendar
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>Other / Future Business</b>  <b>Board Meeting Continuation</b>  Tuesday, August 18th 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Buffalo Ridge Regional Railroad Authority and Ellis &amp; Eastern Co. Open House</b>  Thursday, August 20th - 201 Boradway Street, Magnolia, MN</p> <p><b>Work Session</b>  Wednesday, August 26th Time To Be Determined  Nobles County Government Center</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Public Hearing Continuation</b>
<b>6.1</b> (Continued)	<p><b>Local Option Sales Tax</b></p> <p>A motion was made to continue the meeting at 7:01 p.m.  Motion by: Linssen, Donald  Seconded by: Widboom, Matt  The public hearing was continued at 7:01 p.m. at the Worthington Event Center. Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director, gave a presentation on potential projects that could be funded by the sales tax.  No public comment was received.</p>
	<b>12.0 Adjournment</b>
	<p><b><u>VOTING</u></b>  It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M.  Moved by: Linssen, Donald  Seconded by: Widboom, Matt</p>



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson)



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(County Administrator)