

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

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at the Board of Commissioners Room, Government Center, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners were in attendance in the Board Room: Justin Ahlers, Gene Metz, Donald Linssen, Robert S. Demuth and Bob Paplow.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Metz at 9:00 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 Call to Order	
2.0 Pledge of Allegiance	
3.0 Approval of Agenda	
<u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the agenda without item 5.5. Motion by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
4.0 Recognition	
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1	December 31, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> December 31, 2020 Draft Special Board Meeting Minutes
5.2	January 05, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> January 05, 2021 Draft Regular Board Meeting Minutes
5.3	Meetings & Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid – Employees Expenses paid – Board
5.4	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants <u>Attachments:</u> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.6	Professional Service Agreement – Miriam Johnson / Godspeed Transcription by Miriam <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
5.7	Solid Waste and Recycle Hauling & Facility Permits for 2021
<u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the Consent Agenda. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
6.0	Special Presentation – Public Hearing <u>Attachments:</u> Press Release

	2020 MN Statues Policy 425
<p>It was duly passed to open the public hearing. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.</p> <p>Minnesota State Statute 626.473 Sub 2 requires the county to take public comment regarding the Draft policy 425 Portable Audio/Video Recording (Body Worn Cameras). Kent Wilkening presented information and draft policy 425, which was crafted after state policy and requirements. Commissioners had discussion and questions regarding how long the videos need to be kept and if our system could handle the extra data. Sheriff Wilkening assured our computer systems would be able to store the data. The Sheriff estimated it would cost about \$18,000 to equip staff with the cameras.</p> <p>It was duly passed to close the public hearing. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Linssen, Donald</p>	
VOTING	
<p>It was duly passed to adopt policy 425 as presented. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
7.0	Department Presentations
7.1	CD#1 & JD#16 Redetermination of Benefits
<p>Two professional firms have worked on two specific ditches in the county ditch system. Only one set of viewers is needed to do a Redetermination of Benefits. Based on a response from our water attorney, one of the firms should replace the other officially. The board should act on this replacement by unappointing one of the firms.</p>	
VOTING	
<p>It was duly passed to un-appoint Ron Ringquist from the responsibility for viewing ditches CD#1 and JD#16. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
7.2	Septic Loan Subordination Attachments: Program Information
<p>More lending institutions are requesting the County to subordinate our septic loans when property owners are refinancing. Over the past 6 months, more people have refinanced their home loan because of the lower interest rates. Banks have increasingly requested that the county subordinate our septic loan to the second lien holder position. Our understanding is that most banks will not do a home loan unless they are first. If the homeowner is refinancing, having the bank pay off the septic loan and roll it into the mortgage could be beneficial. The homeowner may be paying a higher rate on their septic loan so including that at a lower rate on their mortgage would be positive. The Ag BMP and lender of last resort septic loans were set up so a homeowner did not have to take out a mortgage to put in a septic. Our goal is to help get septic systems installed so they comply with environmental requirements. We want to get the funds back into the program as quickly as possible so they are available for the next homeowner in need.</p> <p>Ultimately it was decided to table the item until wording could be put into a policy and brought back at a later meeting.</p>	
VOTING	
<p>It was duly passed to table the item for a future meeting. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	

7.3	Local Road Improvement Program Grant Application <u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202101
The Minnesota Department of Transportation is accepting applications for funding LRIP projects. The deadline for the applications is March 3, 2021. Projects that increase safety and have a higher benefit have a better chance of being funded. County State Aid Highway 10 safety project on the west side of Worthington would be a good candidate for this funding. It would involve providing turn lanes, curb and gutter, storm sewer, pavement structure improvements and sidewalk and crossings for pedestrian safety along the school property.	
<u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve resolution 202101 in support of the project. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
7.4	DHS Human Service Performance Management Report – Adult Protection and Child Support <u>Attachments:</u> Fact Sheet Nobles County Performance Report
The Human Service Performance Management System was established in 2013 in response to counties’ desire to be proactive in improving service delivery and outcomes for human services program recipients. The focus of the system is performance improvement across all mandated essential human services in Minnesota. Community Services shared annual results from this report on the Adult Protection unit and Child Support Unit.	
7.5	Professional Service Agreement – Mary Viessman <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
The County Attorney’s office is requesting a renewal contract for Mary Viessman to assist with transcription services as an independent contractor.	
<u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the professional service agreement with Mary Viessman. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
8.0	Administration Presentation
8.1	Special NHI Request
A home that was originally approved for the Nobles Home Initiative has since been removed from the program due to non-payment of property taxes. Mr. Davis has contacted Auditor-Treasurer’s office & Administration trying to get the home back into the NHI program. He built the home and sold it on a ‘Contract for Deed’, that was defaulted and he now again is the listed owner. He did come in and pay property taxes when he learned of the issue. Discussion was had if the home were to be let back in to the program, even though the situation is unique, that it would open the door for other homes that have dropped out to re enter.	
<u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to deny the request to return the home to the NHI program. Moved by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
8.2	Jury Room Door Remodel
Bids were received from 3 contractors to upgrade the access doors between the jury box and jury deliberation rooms. There was a high variation in the 3 bids for various reasons, which prompted administration to ask for a rebid. At this time, the rebids were not received. The item was asked to be tabled to a later meeting.	

8.3	2021 Appropriation Update
An incorrect amount was placed on the 2021 budget plan for A.C.E. Originally the amount of \$41,153 was requested, which then was changed to \$42,222 but the new amount was not updated on the budget requests.	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve increase of \$1,069 to A.C.E. for a total amount of \$42,222 and using reserves for the increased amount. Moved by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
8.4	Resolution in Support of Little Rock, IA EMS <u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202102
Little Rock, IA EMS is applying for a grant for a new ambulance. Because Little Rock EMS serves a portion of SW Nobles County it is appropriate to support the grant request through a resolution, no funding requests are included.	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202102. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
8.5	2021 Boards, Committees & Commissions – Citizen Appointments <u>Attachments:</u> Citizen Applications
Annually the board needs to approve citizens to Nobles County boards and committees. A 2020 list was presented indicating terms that were expiring and also applications from citizens who wished to be appointed or re appointed to these boards.	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve Scott Hain to the Personnel Board of Appeals to a 1 year term, filling a vacant term. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin</p> <p>It was duly passed to approve Katie Meyer to the Personnel Board of Appeals. Moved by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p> <p>It was duly passed to approve Amy Woitalewicz to the Nobles County DAC Board. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Linssen, Donald</p> <p>It was duly passed to approve Kile Behrends to the Extension Committee. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
8.6	COVID Relief Program <u>Attachments:</u> Draft Application Guidelines Proposal Agreement
Nobles County received \$433,708.15 in COVID Relief Funds from the State of Minnesota to administer and distribute to eligible organizations as economic relief due to the COVID event. This COVID event has negatively affected the bottom line of organizations within Nobles County. Some organizations were forced to close, on multiple occasions, due to the	

Governor's Executive Orders. The Commissioners have an opportunity to direct staff and/or a potential contractor to identify these organizations and solicit eligible applications for eventual economic-relief awards. There are 3 times that need to be discussed – 1st being the draft application for the program, 2nd being the target sector the program is intended for, and 3rd being the professional service agreement with Jorge Lopez.

Discussion was had on the application first, with a few small changes suggested.

Discussion was also had on the guidelines of the program and who the targeted businesses should be. Hospitality businesses were the consensus on being targeted.

Lastly, discussion was had on the professional service agreement with Jorge Lopez.

Commissioners just advised that the payment should remain under \$7,500.00.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the application for the COVID relief program with the suggested changes and allow Chairperson Metz to review the final application before it is published.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to approve the professional service agreement with Jorge Lopez, not to exceed \$7,500.00.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

9.0 Closed Session

Closed session under the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b), to discuss pending litigation in case 53-CV-19-1117, Lori Pettibone v. Nobles County Community Services Agency.

10.0 Inter-Agency Reports/Announcements

10.1 Committee and Board Reports

District I - Commissioner Ahlers – RNCC meeting, work crew leader has been working out well. EMPAC, discussed COVID and Mutual Aid study.

District V - Commissioner Linssen – Attended EMPAC meeting and heard concerns from area townships regarding the Mutual Aid study.

District IV – Commissioner Demuth – Reported on the Ocheda drawdown, which continues to be successful.

District II - Commissioner Metz – Attended the AMC District meeting.

District III - Commissioner Paplow – Attended the SMOC meeting.

10.2 Correspondence

Attachments:

Recruitment Update

HLWD Activity Report

10.3

Calendar

Attachments:

January 2021

11.0

Other / Future Business

Work Session – Wednesday January 27, 2021

8:30 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

Board Meeting – Tuesday February 02, 2021

9:00 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

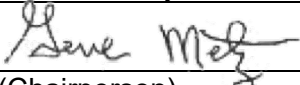
12.0 Adjournment

VOTING

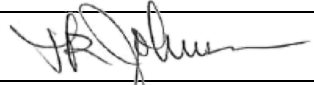
It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin



(Chairperson)



(County Administrator)