

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

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, September 07, 2021, at the Government Center, in the Commissioner’s Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Gene Metz, Donald Linssen, Bob Paplow and Justin Ahlers and Robert S. Demuth.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Metz at 9:00 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>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to approve the agenda with the addition of item 9.2. Motion by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>4.0 Recognition</b>	
<b>5.0 Consent Agenda</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>August 24, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft</b> <b>Attachments:</b> August 24, 2021 Draft Regular Board Meeting Minutes
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Expenses paid August 27, 2021
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Auditor’s &amp; Commissioner’s Warrants</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Cost-Sharing Agreement for the Transportation of Students in Foster Care Placement – Adrian Independent School District #511</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Agreement
<b>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Bid Opening</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Opening of Sealed Bids</b>
The board of Commissioners directed Administration to advertise for sealed proposals to sell the 108 Kentucky Avenue bare lot. Bids were accepted until September 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 3:00p.m. No bids were received by Administration by the due date. Discussion was had on the next steps to move forward. It was proposed to place a “for sale” sign in the front yard with Administrations phone number for interested parties.	
<b>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to place a “for sale” sign in the yard of 108 Kentucky Avenue, Adrian, MN with Administrations phone number for parties interested in making an offer on the property. Moved by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Special Presentation – Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water</b>
<b>7.1 (B)</b>	<b>Annual Report</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Annual Report
Jason Overby, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, provided an overview of their 2020 Annual Report.	
<b>7.1 (A)</b>	<b>Taxable G.O. Water Revenue Bonds</b>
Northland Securities George Eilertson presented the Board an opportunity to finance/refinance projects with lower interest rates. An opportunity exists to refinance existing bonds with \$8,500,000 of Taxable G.O. Revenue Refunding Bonds. Current interest market rates are 1.89% which could generate a net savings of \$500,000. The LPRW Board approved a motion to recommend the refunding of Series 2010 bonds.	
<b>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to support moving forward with the refinancing of the Series 2010 bonds. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Department Presentations</b>
<b>8.1 (A)</b>	<b>Ocheda Dairy</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Planning and Zoning 8/25/21 Draft Minutes
Ocheda Dairy, Inc., Worthington, MN, requesting a conditional use permit for an underground manure pipeline. Public hearing is required under Section 603.4 Conditional Uses - #7 Dams, power plants, switching yards, transmission lines of over 35KV, flowage areas and pipelines of the Nobles County Land Use Ordinance. This parcel of land is located on a tract 1,108' x 865' in the SE Corner of the NE ¼ of Section 15, and also in portions of Section 10, & Section 3, TWP 101, Range 40, (Bigelow Township). Discussion was had on the safety of the process and Environmental Services verified all permits have been received by the DNR. Ocheda Dairy has been permitted a similar project in 2013 and that project has had no issues. The pipeline is estimated to be used about 1 week out of the year.	
<b>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to approve CUP 09-2021 with conditions as presented. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
<b>8.1 (B)</b>	<b>Northern States Power Co. \ DBA Xcel Energy – Minneapolis, MN – CUP #10-2021</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Planning and Zoning 8/25/21 Draft Minutes
Northern States Power Company, DBA Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, MN, requesting a conditional use permit for a laydown yard to utilize as a temporary storage area for turbine components and a project administrative area during a repower project for an existing wind farm. Public hearing is required under Section 603.4 Conditional Uses - #7 Dams, power plants, switching yards, transmission lines of over 35KV, flowage areas and pipelines of the Nobles County Land Use Ordinance. This parcel of land is located in the NE ¼ of Section 23, TWP 103, Range 41, (Summit Lake Township).	
<b>VOTING</b> It was duly passed to approve CUP 10-2021 with conditions as presented. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
<b>8.2 (A)</b>	<b>2022 Budget Discussion</b>
The Budget Committee has met with Department Heads regarding their budgets. Any departments requesting additional staff came back to the budget committee at their last meeting to discuss the need for the new positions. In addition to staffing, appropriations requests and health insurance options have been the main focal points. This was an information discussion only.	
<b>8.3 (B)</b>	<b>Library Capital Needs Options</b> <b>Attachments:</b> Draft Nobles County Library Strategic Plan 2022-2024

The Library, working with Library Strategies Consulting group, since early in 2021 has been undergoing a community assessment and creation of a strategic plan. The plan was presented at the August 31 work session. Carrying out much of the plan can be led and implemented by library staff. But “GOAL 1: Improve Current Facilities and Expand Access for All” will involve capital expenditures. The library would like to get some direction on what avenues to pursue. Much of the library’s plans for carrying out most elements of the strategic plan will depend upon the library’s current and future physical layout and available space. Community surveys and interviews showed a strong preference for remaining at the current library location. In addition, space needs studies were done in 2015 and 2020 as part of exploring library options. The Historical Society is supposed to be moving out in the very near future. Each floor of the current building is about 8400 square feet. On June 5, 2017 the building was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. Discussion was had on options regarding a remodel and the possibility of a parking space. Discussion was also had regarding possible partners on the project such as the City of Worthington. Ultimately it was decided a plan should be made before reaching out to potential partners.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to have the Library Director proceed with the process to construct a 20 year plan for a library remodel contingent on including the City of Worthington and Friends of the Library in the project right away.

Motion by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

**8.3 (A) Consideration of Hiring Library Strategies for Library Implementation Plan**

**Attachments:**

MOA Library Strategies Consulting Group

Library Strategies was hired at the start of 2021 to conduct a community survey and work with the library and its board to develop a strategic plan. The final plan will hopefully be approved by the board in September. To begin developing a plan to carry out the strategic goals they suggested providing services to assist creating an implementation plan. The strategic plan is more general; an implementation plan would help the library set up an action plan and necessary steps to begin reaching its strategic goals.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to hire Library Strategies not to exceed \$3,000.

Motion by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

**9.0 Administration Presentation**

**9.1 Disaster Relief Employment (DRE) Placement Wage Subsidy Agreement**

**Attachments:**

Resolution 202145

SW MN Private Industry Council has a program through the Disaster Relief Employment (DRE) Placement for wage reimbursement to employers that hire laid off employees. We have hired an employee that qualifies for this program in which Nobles County can be reimbursed for \$8,000 of this employee’s salary.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202145.

Motion by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

**9.2 (Addendum) Yellow Ribbon Community**

Jim Dunn, Veterans Service Officer, presented the board that the City of Worthington is being recognized as a Yellow Ribbon Community. The ceremony will take place on Turkey Day (September 18<sup>th</sup>) from 11:30 – 12:15.

**10.0 Closed Session**

**Close Meeting**

On a motion by Bob Paplow and seconded by Robert S. Demuth, it was duly passed to close the meeting at 10:12 a.m. pursuant to Minnesota Statute §13D.05 Subd. 3(c)(3) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property related to land near the PJC and also per Minnesota Statute §13D.03 Subd. 1(b) to discuss Union Negotiation Strategy.

**Open Meeting**

On a motion by Bob Paplow and seconded by Justin Ahlers, it was duly passed to open the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Bruce Heitkamp, County Administrator, recapped on topics that were discussed during the closed session. Justin Ahlers proposed that discussions end regarding the potential land purchase near the PJC. The recording of the closed session will be kept in Administration.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to discontinue talks with the landowner regarding the purchase of land near the PJC.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

**11.0 Inter-Agency Reports/Announcements**

**11.1 Committee and Board Reports**

District I - Commissioner Ahlers – No Report.

District V - Commissioner Linssen – Reported on the continued discussion of the city taxi contract ending.

District IV – Commissioner Demuth – Reported on another draw down of lake Ocheda.

District II - Commissioner Metz – No Report.

District III - Commissioner Paplow – No Report.

Attorney – Joe Sanow – No Report.

Administration – Bruce Heitkamp – Reported that County COVID numbers are rising – which the County is monitoring.

Emergency Management / Deputy County Administrator – Tawn Hall – Reported on hazard mitigation grant money that will become available.

Sheriff – Ryan Kruger – No Report.

**11.2 Correspondence**

**Attachments:**

Recruitment Update

**11.3 Calendar**

**Attachments:**

September 2021

**12.0 Other / Future Business**

**Board Meeting** – Tuesday September 21, 2021

9:00 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

**Work Session** – Wednesday September 29, 2021

8:30 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

**13.0 Adjournment**

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

*Gene Metz*

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(Chairperson)

*James H. ...*

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(County Administrator)