

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, September 21, 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 9:04 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 Call To Order	
2.0 Pledge of Allegiance	
3.0 Approval of Agenda	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Motion by: Linssen, Donald Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
4.0 Recognition Laurie Ebbers – Circulation / Technical Services Coordinator was recognized for 35 years of service. Michael Schei – Deputy Sheriff was recognized for 10 years of service.	
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1	September 07, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft Attachments: September 07, 2021 Draft Minutes
5.2	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses Attachments: Expenses paid September 10, 2021
5.3	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants Attachments: Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.4	2021 Crime Victim Services Grant Renewal Attachments: Memorandum Grant Agreement
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
6.0 Public Hearing	
6.1	Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement Jordan and Briana Reker Parcel 09-0125-500 A. Open Hearing (Action) B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion C. Public Comment D. Close Hearing (Action) E. Decisions 1. Jordan and Briana Reker Parcel 09-0125-500 – Resolution 202147 (Action) Attachments: Application information Agreement Resolution 202147
VOTING A. A motion by Justin Ahlers and seconded by Bob Paplow, it was duly passed to open the	

Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing for Jordan and Briana Reker Parcel 09-0125-500
B. Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County Administrator, reviewed the Nobles Home Initiative Application.
C. No public comment was received.
D. On a motion by Robert S. Demuth and seconded by Bob Paplow, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.
E. On a motion by Robert S. Demuth and seconded by Donald Linssen, it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 202147 approving tax abatement to Jordan and Briana Reker Parcel 09-0125-500 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813..

7.0 Guest Presentation

7.1	<p>General Obligation Water Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A</p> <p>Attachments: Proposed Schedule Resolution 202149 Agreement</p>
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The Board authorized Northland Securities’ George Eilertson to start a refunding-bond process during the September 7, 2021 Board Meeting. Nobles County uses its general obligation (G.O.) authority to secure water revenue bonds for Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW). Current interest-rate conditions exist for LPRW to refund existing bonds; thus lowering the County’s overall bond liabilities and LPRW’s expenses. A sale date needs to be set by the board, which after Northland Securities will report the results of that sale to the board the following day.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202149.
Motion by: Linssen, Donald
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to approve the agreement with Northland Securities to serve as the municipal financial advisor for the issuance of the General Obligation Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021A.
Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

8.0 Special Presentation

8.1	County Engineer Appointment
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With the hiring of a new Public Works Director/County Engineer the board needs to officially appointment Aaron Holmbeck as the County Engineer according to MN Statute Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 163.07, subdivision 2. Discussion was had on the different time frames Mr. Holmbeck could be appointed for.

VOTING

It was duly passed to appoint Aaron Holmbeck as the Nobles County Engineer effective September 21, 2021 – May 31, 2022.
Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

9.0 Department Presentations

9.1	<p>Indian Lake Township – Bridge 91598 Replacement</p> <p>Attachments: Supporting Documents Resolution 202148</p>
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A bridge located between Section 25 and Section 36 of Indian Lake Township (330th Street) is in need of replacement. The Indian Lake Township Board is requesting the assistance of Nobles County Public Works to perform services in accordance with the bridge replacement, which will also be eligible for State cost-share. The County Engineering Department has deemed bridge 91598 to be a high priority concern and in need of replacement. Indian Lake Township already committed, by resolution (enclosed), to \$10,000.00 of the \$360,000.00 bridge replacement project. Again, the remaining \$350,000.00 cost share will derive from State Bridge Funds.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202148 to proceed with the replacement of bridge 91598.
Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
9.2	Proclamation of Excess Property
An existing AGCO Challenger Tractor within the Parks Department requires repairs and has reached the end of useful life for the county's purposes. Public Works Staff are recommending the ACGO Challenger tractor be proclaimed excess property. Staff are suggesting the existing ACGO Challenger tractor be released for sale.	
VOTING	
It was duly passed to proclaim the Challenger tractor as excess property. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
9.3	911 Answering System
PSAP answering system that is shared between five counties is at the end of its life and needs to be updated. The sheriff's office needs to begin the process with Motorola solutions by signing a service order agreement. The agreement would be for 5 years for the Vesta 911 system. Motorola solutions will essentially own the equipment but also be responsible for any updates and equipment replacement costs. There is an upfront cost of around \$28,000 and then a monthly cost to the system. All monies will be used out of the 911 Fund.	
VOTING	
It was duly passed to approve the contract with Motorola Solutions for the VESTA 911 PSAP answering system. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
9.2	Cooperative Farmers Elevator Abatement
	Attachments: Supporting Documents
A commercial tax abatement for Cooperative Farmers Elevator (CFE) was granted June 4th, 2019 with conditions for construction to be completed by October 1st of 2019 with a minimum of \$500,000 of capital expenditure and expenses to be invested in the construction and the improvement of the Facility and Development Property. With construction to be completed in 2019, new construction value was added in 2020 by the Assessor's Office so the 2021 property taxes reflected the added value which should result in the first abatement payment in December of 2021. The Board will need to determine if the requirements of the agreement were met for the first abatement payment to be made in December of 2021.	
VOTING	
It was duly passed to table the item until CFE can be present at a meeting to state their opinion on the abatement. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
9.4	Establishment of a MN Merit System Personnel Administration
	Attachments: Resolution 202146
Per Mn Statute 256.12, the commissioner of human services shall administer the personnel standards for employees of the Community Services Agency through the Minnesota Merit System. Nobles County has a Human Resource department that does all of the recruitment for Nobles County employees with the exception of Community Services which is done by Minnesota Merit due to MN Statute 256.12. In December of 2020 the County Board signed a letter of intent to withdraw from the MN Merit System. During the first 8 months of 2021 the required policies were submitted along with a questionnaire. Policies were updated and the County has received the final approval from the Commissioner of Human Services informing us that effective January 1, 2022 our personnel system is in compliance with the MN Statutes and Federal Standards and can withdraw from MN Merit system.	
VOTING	
It was duly approved to adopt resolution 202146 to establish a MN Merit System Personnel Administration effective January 1, 2022. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
10.0 Administration Presentation	
10.1	2021 Boards, Committees & Commissions Appointments
	Attachments:

	Bousema Application Milbrandt Application
<p>Jay Milbrant & Steve Bousema’s appointment to the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Board of Managers Committee will expire October 31, 2021. Layton Gruis’s appointment to the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Board of Managers Committee will expire October 7, 2021. Both Jay and Steve have responded with a new application requesting to be re-appointed to the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Board of Managers Committee. Layton has verbally responded with interest to be re-appointed to the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Board of Managers Committee.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u></p> <p>It was duly passed to appoint Jay Milbrandt to a 3 year term on the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Board of Managers from November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2024. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin</p> <p>It was duly passed to appoint Steve Bousema to a 3 year term on the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Board of Managers from November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2024. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.</p> <p>It was duly passed to appoint Layton Gruis, contingent on receiving his application, to a 3 year term on the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Board of Managers from October 8, 2021 – October 7, 2024. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Linssen, Donald</p>	
10.2	<p>Public Transportation and the Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds</p> <p><u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202150</p>
<p>COVID has affected ridership of the public transportation system. The Joint Powers Transit Authority (JPTA) is requesting ARPA funds to offset transportation ridership-related shortfalls directly related to the COVID pandemic. Members of the Joint Powers Transit Authority met on several occasions in September to discuss MNDOT’s Public Transportation changes, COVID-19, and the status of public transportation in Worthington and Nobles County. The September 15, 2021 Meeting was used to derive funding ideas to meet current ongoing concerns to ensure travel in 2021. Members discussed the City and County allocations of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding, respectively. It was decided that ongoing concerns could be managed if a \$2,500.00 amount of ARPA funds could be contributed by both the City of Worthington and Nobles County. If ridership increases, this requested amount would decrease. Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council (SMOC) staff will assist by administering to/forwarding the requested ARPA amount to both the City and the County. The months proposed for this subsidy ARPA funding would be September, October, November, and December of 2021.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u></p> <p>It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202150. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Linssen, Donald</p>	
10.3	<p>American Recovery Plan Act</p>
<p>This item was a discussion only topic. Administrator Heitkamp asked for input for use of the ARPA funds.</p>	
10.4	<p>2022 County Budget and Correlating Preliminary Levy</p>
<p>The County Budget Committee continues to work through the varied components of the 2022 Budget. A Preliminary levy amount needs to be proclaimed prior to, or before, September 30, 2021. A Public Meeting date to present the 2022 Budget also needs to be proclaimed and shared with the Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer prior to September 30, 2021. -Discussion was had on new positions being requested for 2022. Each department head requesting a new position was asked to speak to the board. The board voted on each position as part of the preliminary budget discussion. Commissioner Demuth expressed his concerns with the Floater position but stated he was in favor as long as the position helped the License Center. Auditor-Treasurer Jacobs and Recorder Yager assured that was part of the job description.</p>	

-The board then had discussion on the possibility of changing the county portion of employee health insurance along with other options to help with the cost of family insurance. Insurance will be acted upon at the October 5, 2021 board meeting.

-Another item of discussion was appropriations.

-Lastly the levy itself was discussed and acted on.

VOTING

Proposed Positions (The below votes regarding the 2022 budget proposed positions were made as part of the preliminary budget discussion. All positions will still need to be formally approved as part of the final 2022 budget approval.)

It was duly passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the Deputy Assessor position at 50%.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the IT Technician position.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

In Favor: Paplow, Bob; Linssen, Donald; Demuth, Robert S.; Metz, Gene

Opposed: Ahlers, Justin

It was passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the Floater position at 50%.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

In Favor: Demuth, Robert S.; Metz, Gene; Paplow, Bob

Opposed: Linssen, Donald; Ahlers, Justin

It was duly passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the Case Aide position.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

It was duly passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the Assistant Community Services Director/Social Service Manager position.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to approve the Correctional Officer position.

Moved by: Linssen, Donald

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

In Favor: Linssen, Donald; Paplow, Bob; Demuth, Robert S.; Metz, Gene

Opposed: Ahlers, Justin

It was duly passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to deny the 1/5 time Library position.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

Appropriations

It was duly passed as part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to leave the WREDC appropriation at \$20,000.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

It was duly passed part of the preliminary 2022 budget process to include an appropriation for the ambulance departments that serve Nobles County for \$45,568.80.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

Levy

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202151 and set the Nobles County not to exceed proposed tax levy for 2022 at 10.0%

Moved by: Linssen, Donald

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to set the Proposed County Budget and Tax Levy public board meeting for Thursday December 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Nobles County Board Room.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin

11.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements

11.1 | Committee and Board Reports

Attorney – Joe Sanow – No Report.

District I – Commissioner Ahlers – Reported on the Taxi contract and the hiring process for a new HLWD Director.

District III – Commissioner Paplow – No Report.

District II – Commissioner Metz – Reported on the AMC conference.

District V – Commissioner Linssen – Reported on the Chief Elected Officials meeting, Unemployment rate and the PJC land acquisition.

District IV – Commissioner Demuth – Reported on the SW Mental Health meeting and their hiring issues, the City, County, School, College meeting and the need for more daycare in the area.

Administration – Reported on the Short Term Crisis Center and the consultants coming for a tour. Also reported on the bonding tour coming to MN West.

11.2 | Correspondence

Attachments:

Recruitment Update

SWCD Agenda 9/15/21

SWCD Profit/Loss

KLR Agenda 9/16/21

KLR Bills Payable

KLR Balance Sheet

SWCD Bills Payable

KLR Meeting Minutes 8/18/21

SWCD Meeting Minutes 8/18/21

Nobles County Art Center Meeting Minutes 9/7/21

11.3 | Calendar

Attachments:

September 2021

October 2021

12.0 Other / Future Business

Work Session – Wednesday September 29, 2021

8:30 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

Board Meeting – Tuesday October 05, 2021

9:00 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

13.0 Adjournment

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

Gene Metz

(Chairperson)

James H. Hinton

(County Administrator)