

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, December 09, 2021, at the Government Center, in the Commissioner’s Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners attended: Gene Metz, Donald Linssen, Bob Paplow and Justin Ahlers and Robert S. Demuth.
 Chairperson Metz called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.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 with the addition of the Governor’s proclamation. Motion by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
4.0 Recognition	
Addendum	The Governor of Minnesota proclaimed December 8, 2021 as County, City, Tribal and State Health and Human Services Day. The Board recognized all of the County employees that this applies to.
4.2	Excellence in Performance Andrew Blank – Community Service Work Supervisor was awarded the November Excellence in Performance award.
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1	November 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> November 23, 2021 Draft Minutes
5.2	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid December 03, 2021
5.3	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants <u>Attachments:</u> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.4	2022 TriMin Systems Professional Services Agreement Renewal Computer Management for Human Services <u>Attachments:</u> TriMin Agreement
5.5	Voting Equipment Grant Application <u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202165
VOTING	
It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
7.1	American Recovery Plan Act – Introduced Projects <u>Attachments:</u> Proposed Projects
Nobles County received \$2,100,590.00 in 2021 as a certified American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) Award. Another \$2,100,590.00 in ARPA awards are scheduled to be received during the summer of 2022 for a total ARPA award amount of \$4,201,180.00 to Nobles County. This funding can be utilized by County Commissioners to offset COVID-related expenses and economic damages. Other local units of government within Nobles County have their own ARPA funds and may elect to collaborate with the County on projects or act to independently award projects. Lismore Telephone Cooperative attended the meeting and gave an overview of their proposed project. Using \$2,000,000 they would apply for a Re-Connect 3 grant which would fund the \$21 million dollar project to provide all rural areas of Nobles County with fiber internet.	

VOTING

It was duly passed to support Lismore Telephone Cooperate broadband project up to \$2,000,000 contingent on the approval of the Reconnect-3 on a disbursement schedule to be determined at a later date.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

6.0 Department Presentations

6.1 (A) **Ratify TriMin Contract for Support**

Attachments:

TriMin Agreement

IFS is the financial accounting system used by the County. The software is managed by JIC through MCCC on behalf of all the county users. TriMin Government systems has been chosen to continue to provide software and coding support for the IFS system and has entered into a support contract with MCCC. As a member of the user group and an IFS user Nobles County needs to ratify the support contract in order to continue to receive support.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the agreement between MCCC and TriMin Systems, Inc.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Linssen, Donald

6.1 (B) **GASB-75 2021 Actuarial Service Agreement**

Attachments:

Nyhart Agreement

GASB 75 requires government employers to measure and report the liabilities associated with other postemployment benefits (OPEB) other than pensions on the balance sheet. Nobles County adopted GASB 75 in 2017. GASB 75 is required every 2 years with an interim year valuation required. This year is a full valuation year so the cost will be \$4,650, up slightly from \$4,500 2 years ago when the last full evaluation was completed.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the Nyhart service agreement.

Moved by: Linssen, Donald

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

6.3 (A) **MN Department of Human Services - County Grant Contract Adult Protection Response Enhancement**

Attachments:

APS Grant

Earlier this year, the Department of Human Services requested grant proposals from counties wishing to expand, improve, and enhance county-administered adult protection service programs utilizing funding available through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. At the same time, DHS was changing the process of how counties would receive service requests for immediate action adult protection issues.

Based on the availability of funding and need for enhanced service availability, a grant proposal was submitted in an effort to prepare for the upcoming change in the service request receipt process and to enhance the agency's ability to respond to adult protection reports. Primary goals for the use of the funding that were identified in the proposal include:

- Enhancing the agency's ability to respond to emergency protection situations after hours, on weekends, and holidays by having the necessary equipment for on-call staff to access and respond to emergency protective service reports.
- Enhance the agency's ability to intervene on behalf of vulnerable adults alleged to be experiencing maltreatment by arranging for support with decision making for health and safety, emergency housing, and financial protection.
- Strengthening the knowledge of the adult protection services staff through additional training.
- Enhancing the response to adult protection concerns with the Latinx populations in Nobles County through additional education provided in Spanish.

Based upon the proposal submitted, the agency was awarded a grant of \$8,391.00 for the time-period of November 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the accepting of the Adult Protection Response Enhancement grant in the amount of \$8,391.00.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

6.3 (B)	Nobles County Developmental Achievement Center Purchase of Service Renewal Agreement 2021-2023. <u>Attachments:</u> DAC Agreement
Community Services maintains an ongoing Agreement with the Nobles County DAC for work activity services for disabled individuals. These services are most often funded through the Medicaid Waivers. There are also several individuals who are funded for work using county budgeted dollars. The Medicaid rate for this service is set by the waiver rates management system for covered individuals. We have not had a request for an increase in the rate for county funded individuals since the last adjustment in 2016. Due to the increased cost of providing this service, this year the Nobles County DAC is requesting a rate adjustment for both full day and partial day services. With approval of this agreement, the full day rate will go from \$64.20 to \$70.62 per day and the partial day rate will increase to \$53.93 up from \$49.03. There are currently five individuals receiving this service through county funding and the increase can be absorbed within the currently budgeted amount for this service. This renewal Agreement is for the time period of October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023.	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the Nobles County Developmental Achievement Center purchase of service agreement Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
6.3 (C)	MN Department of Health – Grant Project Agreement Workforce Development Grant <u>Attachments:</u> Workforce Development Grant
Earlier this year, the MN Department of Health (MDH) received additional federal funding intended to establish, train, and sustain the state, tribal and local public health workforce to support COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. Nobles County submitted a proposal to obtain funding aimed at assisting us with the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and increase mental and behavioral health supports for staff regarding the impacts of the disaster response on responders and increase peer support networks. • Host at least one training in 2022 and 2023 focused on emergency planning for approximately 50 emergency response personnel in our region. • Hire a consulting firm specific to public health to engage the agency in a complete strategic planning process for the unit. • Purchase a SMART board to be utilized by the agency for training and communication purposes during planning or emergency response scenarios. • Provide diversity, equity, and inclusion training annually to 100% of agency staff. Based upon the proposal submitted, the agency has been awarded a grant of \$134,750.00 for the time period of November 15, 2021 to June 30, 2023. 	
VOTING It was duly passed to accept the workforce development grant in the amount of \$134,750.00. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
6.3 (D)	MN Department of Health – Grant Project Agreement Amendment #1 COVID-19 Response and Vaccine Implementation <u>Attachments:</u> COVID-19 Grant Amendment
On November 15, 2021, the agency received an amendment to our grant agreement for COVID-19 Response and Vaccine Implementation and Response. The purpose of the Amendment is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the grant from the current end date of December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023 • Increase funding (from two federal sources) by \$301,068.00 bringing the total award for Nobles County up to \$631,709.00 • Modify the duties to include allowances for COVID response, disease monitoring, staff and community recovery, and incentives. 	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the MN Department of Health Grant Project Agreement Amendment #1.	

Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
6.2 (A)	Purchase of Pavement Crack Sealing Equipment and Materials Attachments: Crafco Quote (3) Brockwhite Quote Materials Quote Marathon Quote Cimline Quote
As part of a continued effort to maintain and improve the level of service on the county highway system, a relatively low cost pavement preservation technique that has been identified and discussed is the importance of pavement crack treatment (crack sealing). The highway department desires to advance this work and has looked into options to fulfill this goal. Due to the amount of crack treatment work that is currently needed on the county highway system, county forces alone will not be able to fully meet this need based on current staffing levels. However, in a long term pursuit of this goal, we believe county forces can and should perform this valuable work for the public good. Therefore a combination of contracted work and work with county forces is needed to meet this goal now and into the future. Several quotes were presented for equipment as well as materials. Director Holmbeck asked that the board approve the purchase of the Brock White Crafco machine and approve the purchase of materials as prices would surely go up in the future if no action was taken.	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the purchase of Brock White’s Crafco crack sealing machine, accessories and materials at the state bid prices for 2021. Moved by: Demuth, Robert S. Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
6.2 (B)	Public Works Department Update
Public Works Director Aaron Holmbeck provided the board with a department update. This was an information only item.	
6.4 (A)	2022 Temporary/Seasonal Worker Wages
During the budget process there was discussion in regards to setting the wages for the temporary/summer workers. Currently the starting pay is \$14.00/hour. In order to continue to attract temporary workers the discussion was to increase the starting pay for these positions to either \$16.00/hour with a .50 per hour increase each year the same person returns.	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the 2022 temporary/seasonal hourly pay rate at \$16.00/hour plus .50/hour increase for each year the same person returns Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Linssen, Donald	
7.0	Administration Presentation
7.2	Nobles County Historical Society – Armory Building Upgrade State Capital Project Grant-in-aid Agreement Attachments: State Historic Preservation Office Letter Application Agreement
The Nobles County Historical Society is seeking a State Capital Grant Agreement to perform some improvements to the Armory Building. They are seeking the Board of Commissioner’s assistance due to the current lease agreement with the County. The Nobles County Historical Society is obtaining a \$35,998.00 matching grant to “tuck point” bricks in the garage areas of the Armory Building. As stated, the current building agreement between the Nobles County Historical Society and Nobles County requires the Board of Commissioner’s intervention to obtain the grant award. It is proposed that a “Letter of Agreement” be acted upon, approved, and signed in order for the matching grant to be obtained and the improvements to be performed.	

VOTING

It was passed to approve the letter of agreement for the State Capital Projects Grant.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

7.3	National Opioid Settlement Funds
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Attachments:

FAQ

Resolution 202166

The State of Minnesota and other local units of government will receive funds from opioid settlements from several opioid companies. The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) have been negotiating county amounts during meetings with the State Attorney General’s Office, the State of Minnesota, and representatives from Minnesota cities. It is necessary for the Nobles County Board of Commissioners to act in order to receive settlement funds. More information on necessary steps and what the money is eligible to be spent on will come in the future.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve resolution 202166.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

8.1	Closed Session – Union Negotiation Strategy
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On a motion by Ahlers, Justin and seconded by Paplow, Bob, it was duly passed to close the meeting at 3:59 p.m. per Minnesota Statutes §13D.03 Subd. 1(b) to discuss Union Negotiation Strategy.

On a motion by Ahlers, Justin and seconded by Linssen, Donald, it was duly passed to open the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

9.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements

9.1	Committee and Board Reports
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Attorney – Joe Sanow – Reported that the attorneys case volume is up 10% from 2020.

District I – Commissioner Ahlers – Reported on the Rock Nobles Community Corrections meeting.

District III – Commissioner Paplow – No Report.

District II – Commissioner Metz – Reported on the AMC annual meeting.

District V – Commissioner Linssen – Reported on the transit meeting and the local taxi retiring at the end of the year. Bids were put out for a new taxi service. One bid was received but that party pulled out. Bids will be sought after again. Until a new service is in place SMOC is providing a bus for 90 days.

District IV – Commissioner Demuth – Reported on the AMC annual meeting.

Administration – No Report.

Emergency Management / Deputy Administration – Reported on

9.2	Correspondence
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Attachments:

Recruitment Update

9.3	Calendar
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Attachments:

December 2021

10.0 Other / Future Business

Truth in Taxation Meeting – Thursday December 09, 2021

6:00 p.m. Nobles County Board Room

County Holiday Social – Thursday December 09, 2021

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. & 2:00p.m-4:00 p.m. Nobles County Farmers Room

Coffee with Commissioners – Friday December 10, 2021

9:30 a.m. Center for Active Living, Worthington, MN

County Ditches 2, 4, 5, 6, 30 and Bigelow Branch Channel 1

Date: Wednesday, Dec 15th (or Dec. 17th in case of a weather event)

Time: Starting at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Government Center, Farmers Room

Nobles County/Judicial Ditches: CJD 1, CD 1, CD 9, CD 12, CD 14, CD 25, JD 2,

JD 3, JD 5, JD 6, JD 8, JD 10, JD 11B, JD 12B, & JD 16

Date: Monday, Dec. 20th, 2021 (Dec 22nd in case of a weather event)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN

Nobles-Jackson County/Judicial Ditches: CD 10, JD 1, JD 4 & JD 76

Date: Monday, Dec. 20th, 2021 (Dec 22nd in case of a weather event)

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN

Board Meeting – Tuesday December 21, 2021

9:00 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

Work Session – Wednesday December 29, 2021

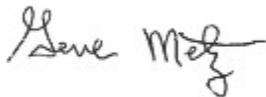
8:30 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

11.0 Adjournment

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin



(Chairperson)



(County Administrator)