

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, October 04, 2022, at the Government Center, in the Commissioner’s Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners attended: Gene Metz, Robert S. Demuth, Justin Ahlers and Bob Paplow.

Chairperson Demuth called the meeting to order 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	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Motion by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Metz, Gene	
4.0 Recognition	
4.1 Visitors and Guests Welcome	
4.2 Years of Service Recognition Geralda Pedersen, Child Support Officer, was recognized for 35 years of service. Dan Bosman, Jail Administrator, was recognized for 20 years of service.	
4.3 Excellence in Performance Chris Dybeveck, Chief Deputy Sheriff, was recognized as the September Excellence in Performance recipient.	
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1 (A)	September 20, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> September 20, 2022 Draft Minutes
5.2	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid September 23, 2022
5.3	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants <u>Attachments:</u> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (A)	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants – Vendors paid over \$2,000 <u>Attachments:</u> Auditor’s Warrants
5.4	Nobles & Jackson County Judicial Ditch No. 9 – Bid Package #1 – Pay Application #5 <u>Attachments:</u> Contractor’s Application for Payment #5
5.5	Purchase of Services Agreement – Community Connectors <u>Attachments:</u> Purchase of Services Agreement
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
6.0	Special Presentations
6.1 (A)	“Fiber to Home” Broadband Effort Update Commissioner Metz recused himself from the discussion and vote. Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company representatives were present and discussed a previously proposed “Fiber to Home” broadband project. At an earlier meeting, the Commissioners committed \$2,000,000 toward the project, contingent on a U.S.D.A. grant being obtained. Unfortunately, Lismore Telephone did not receive the U.S.D.A. grant and are now hoping to apply for another round of the same grant. They explained that 90% of the applications received during the 1 st round of the grant were thrown out because they did not meet the qualifications. It is estimated the project

will cost around \$26,000,000. It is the intention of the cooperative to ask for a 50% match from the grant. Commissioners asked if a higher match could be requested – such as 75%. It was explained that a higher match would have more of a chance of being denied. They felt comfortable with the 50% match request. It is the intention of the board to provide the funding contingent on the grant being received.

VOTING

(Commissioner Metz recused himself from all votes)

It was duly passed designate \$1,000,000 of County surplus dollars to the “Fiber to Home” broadband project.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to recommit \$2,000,000 of wind energy money to the “Fiber to Home” broadband project contingent on the grant being received.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

A motion was made and duly passed to amend the prior motion to commit \$1,000,000 of County surplus dollars to the “Fiber to Home” broadband project adding the contingency that the grant is received.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to commit up to \$250,000 per year for 4 years of wind energy money contingent on the grant being received.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.0 Department Presentations

7.1 (A)	Joint Ditch Authority JCD 30
------------	-------------------------------------

Murray County has ordered the redetermination of Joint County Ditch 30. Through the redetermination process Nobles County Land Owners should be represented on the board. One member should be appointed from Nobles County to the Joint Board. Murray County will appoint four county commissioners to the Joint Board.

VOTING

It was duly passed to appoint Commissioner Ahlers to the JCD 30 board.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.2 (A)	Medical Examiner Contract Renewal <u>Attachments:</u> Medical Examiner Contract Agreement
---------	---

Renewal of medical examiner contract between Nobles County and River Valley Forensic Services is due. Sheriff Kruger presented the board with a contract for services with Dr. Kelly Mills in Ramsey County. Sheriff Kruger stated the process has always gone well and no local services are available.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the Medical Examiner contract between Nobles County and River Valley Forensic Services.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

7.2 (B)	Replacing K9 / USPCA Matching Grant <u>Attachments:</u> Grant Application
---------	---

The Nobles County Sheriff’s Office K9 Boris is a Belgian Malinois and is believed to be 7 years old. For a working dog 7-8 years old is about the maximum time they work because of health related issues they encounter in the later stages of their life. Deputy Mike Schei and Boris have provided excellent service to Nobles County over the past 7 years. As the K9 ages the Sheriff’s department will need to budget for and replace this valuable tool for the county. The United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) is offering a matching grant. If Nobles County commits to funding at least \$ 2500.00,

AKC Adopt a K9 Cop will grant up to 75% of the requested amount to assist with the purchase of a new K9. (Example: maximum request of \$10,000 could result in a grant amount to you of \$7500.00)

VOTING

It was duly passed to commit \$2,500 for the Sheriff's office to apply for the United States Police Canine Association grant for a new K9.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.3 (A) | **Public Health Unit – Nursing Positions**

In August 2022 Community Services requested to change the classification for three open nursing positions from Public Health Nurses to Registered Nurses. After this was approved, the agency had an applicant that would qualify for a Public Health Nurse. It was asked today to provide the flexibility to hire for either a Public Health Nurse or a Registered Nurse based on the applicant.

VOTING

It was duly passed to allow Community Services the flexibility to hire for a Public Health Nurse or a Registered Nurse.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.4 (A) | **2022 Trailer Purchase for Parks**

The Parks department is in need of a new tilt trailer to haul mowers and trash dumpsters to assist in maintaining the County's park system. The trailer also provides the opportunity to assist in transporting future equipment (i.e. a skid steer and attachments). The purchase of the tilt trailer was approved for the 2022 budget cycle. Parks Superintendent Jake Smith and Highway Superintendent Cliff Altman obtained pricing for three trailer options. A H&W 16' Tilt Trailer with 6' stationary and 11,000lbs capacity was priced at \$8,995.00, a H&H H16 Tilt Trailer with 6' stationary and 10,770lbs capacity was priced at \$10,750.00, and a B&B 16' Tilt Trailer with 6' stationary and 11,660lbs load capacity was priced at \$14,450.00.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the purchase of a trailer for the Parks department not to exceed \$9,000.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

7.5 (A) | **2023 County Insurance Contribution**

Attachments:

Grant Application

The County Board sets the annual county employee cafeteria contribution and it was discussed at the work session on September 28th. In preparation for the 2023 benefit enrollment period the annual county insurance contribution needs to be set by the board. Sue Luing, Human Resource Director, presented the board with the spreadsheet below :

2023 Pay Period Health Insurance Contributions Summary

Current 2022

	Advantage Plan	Value Plan	HSA Plan
Single			
County Contribution	501.00	501.00	501.00
Employee Total	165.50	109.57	0.00

Single + Spouse			
County Contribution	800.00	800.00	800.00
Employee Total	641.50	507.24	242.36

Single + Children			
County Contribution	775.00	775.00	775.00
Employee Total	557.98	440.53	208.80

Family			
County Contribution	950.00	950.00	950.00
Employee Total	700.56	551.01	255.96

2023 6% Increase plus additional 6% on all other plans (presented at work session)

	Advantage Plan	Value Plan	HSA PLAN
Single			
County Contribution	532.00	532.00	532.00
Employee Total	176.07	116.78	0.00

Single + Spouse			
County Contribution	899.00	899.00	899.00
Employee Total	630.57	488.25	207.48

Single + Children			
County Contribution	871.00	871.00	871.00
Employee Total	540.07	415.58	169.94

Family			
County Contribution	1068.00	1068.00	1068.00
Employee Total	679.71	521.18	208.43

2023 6% Increase plus additional 4% on Single and 6% on all other plans

	Advantage Plan	Value Plan	HSA Plan
Single			
County Contribution	552.00	552.00	552.00
Employee Total	156.07	96.78	0.00

Single + Spouse			
County Contribution	899.00	899.00	899.00
Employee Total	630.57	488.25	207.48

Single + Children			
County Contribution	871.00	871.00	871.00
Employee Total	540.07	415.58	169.94

Family			
County Contribution	1068.00	1068.00	1068.00
Employee Total	679.71	521.18	208.43

2023 6% Increase plus additional 6% on all other plans

	Advantage Plan	Value Plan	HSA Plan
Single			
County Contribution	564.00	564.00	564.00
Employee Total	144.07	84.78	0.00

Single + Spouse			
County Contribution	899.00	899.00	899.00
Employee Total	630.57	488.25	207.48

Single + Children			
County Contribution	871.00	871.00	871.00
Employee Total	540.07	415.58	169.94

Family			
County Contribution	1068.00	1068.00	1068.00
Employee Total	679.71	521.18	208.43

The board had discussion on which option to choose. The rate of insurance increased from the previous year and the board wants to cover the cost instead of the employee. The top right option was chosen and voted on.

VOTING

It was duly passed to set the annual county insurance contribution with a 6% increase plus an additional 4% on the single plan and 6% on all other plans.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

8.0 Administration Presentation

8.1 Rural Water System – Commissioner Appointments – Red Rock Rural Water System

Attachments:

Applicant Information

Resolution 202253

Terms for two (2) Red Rock Rural Water System (RRRWS) Commissioners are expiring on December 31, 2022. Both of these Commissioners have requested to be reappointed with 4-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 and concluding on December 31, 2026. The RRRWS board unanimously adopted a motion, recommends Shelley Sweetman and Gary Schimbeno each be re-appointed to new four-year terms. The Nobles County Board of Commissioners are requested to adopt Resolution 202253 confirming the re-appointments.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202253 re-appointing Shelley Sweetman and Gary Schimbeno to the Red Rock Rural Water System board.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

8.2 Rural Water System – Commissioner Appointments – Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System

Attachments:

Applicant Information

Resolution 202254

Terms for three (3) Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System (LPRW) Commissioners are expiring on December 31, 2022. Each of these Commissioners have requested to be reappointed to 4-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023 and concluding on December 31, 2026. The LPRW board unanimously adopted a motion, which recommends Earl De Wilde, Randy Kraus, and Peter Petersen each be re-appointed to new four-year terms. The Nobles County Board of Commissioners are asked to adopt the attached Resolution 202254 confirming the re-appointments.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202254 re-appointing Earl De Wilde, Randy Kraus and Peter Petersen to the Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System board.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

8.3 New "Truth in Taxation" Notification Requirements

Attachments:

Draft 2023 Levy Information

The Minnesota State Legislature passed Statute 275.065, Subdivision 3b during the 2021 Legislative Session which directs County Auditor's to prepare separate statements to be delivered with the notice of proposed property taxes. Nobles County has been notified by various means of the new statutory taxation requirement to offer additional tax information to Nobles County parcel owners. Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer Joyce Jacobs presented the proposed separate statement to the Commissioners during the September 28, 2022 Work Session. The separate statement includes a web link which illustrates additional-tax information. It was discussed that obtaining County Commissioner acknowledgement of this separate statement and then directing that it be sent would be deemed appropriate action and would comply with Statute 275.065, Subdivision 3b.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the proposed "Truth in Taxation" notice as proposed by the Auditor-Treasurer.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

8.4 Decommission Bond – Zephyr Wind, LLC. Aka Community Wind South Wind Project

Attachments:

Decommission Packet

Decommissioning Plan

Zephyr Wind, LLC is proposing to repower an existing wind farm where fifteen (15) wind towers exist within Larkin and Summit Lake Townships, respectively. The repower proposal suggests that blades and turbines be replaced to increase the wind-farm capacity from 30.75 MW to 33 MW. Zephyr Wind, LLC's Decommissioning Plan is to describe the means and methods that can be used to remove project facilities, and reclaim, restore, and return the land altered during the construction and operation of the wind project to its predevelopment condition to the extent feasible. The current repowering project creates the need for decommission review. A site Permit Amendment Application and a Report for Decommissioning Plan was provided for review. Per the Decommission Plan, Zephyr Wind, LLC is to provide a letter of credit in favor of the Nobles County Board in the amount of \$69,060 at the end of 2022, and this amount would be increased each year for 10 years until the letter of credit is equal to the full expected cost of decommissioning.

VOTING

It was duly passed to accept the terms of the Zephyr Wind LLC. Decommission plan as presented.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

8.5 Building Fund – Major Improvements – Nobles Public Works (Worthington) Windows Replacement

Attachments:

Clair Van Grouw Estimate

Woodbury Estimate

The windows at the Worthington Public Works building need to be replaced. Quotes were obtained and presented to the board.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the quote from Clair Van Grouw Construction for \$7,764.41 for window replacement at the Worthington Public Works facility.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

8.6	Building Fund – Prairie Justice Center – Front Walkway and Curb Improvements <u>Attachments:</u> Arial View Beltline Concrete Estimate
<p>A heated walkway was poured in 2020 at the Prairie Justice Center. The heated walkway worked well but adjoining original walkways heaved from frost. The original heaved concrete portions posed safety issues during the cold weather months. This original frost-heaved concrete was discovered during the 2021-2022 cold weather months. Administration and Maintenance are proposing to remedy this issue prior to the 2022-2023 cold weather months. The same contractor, Beltline concrete, who installed the heated walkway was consulted so both walkways are under the same contractor. Beltline’s recommendation was to extract the existing concrete, clay, and other substandard soils from under the original heaved sidewalk and curb portions. The design will remove water from the curb line which will assist with surface management. The attached project quote is \$21,220.00.</p>	
<p>VOTING It was duly passed to approve quote from Beltline Concrete for \$21,220 for Prairie Justice Center curb and walkway improvements. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
8.7	Building Expense – Tennant Carpet Cleaner <u>Attachments:</u> Southeastern Equipment & Supply Quote Dalco Quote
<p>Nobles County’s carpet cleaning has historically been performed annually as a part of our janitorial contract. The janitorial contract was recently reviewed with daily, monthly, and annual services being scrutinized. Maintenance staff believe the carpets should be cleaned with more regularity to increase carpet life and enhance appearance. Annual carpet cleaning was removed from the upcoming janitorial contract with the goal of identifying a better remedy. Maintenance personnel has experience using Tennant Carpet Cleaners. The Tennant unit allows for carpets to be cleaned and then walked upon within 30 minutes. The amount of carpeted areas within the county’s various office buildings could justify the Tennant unit’s capabilities and cost. The Maintenance Staff would operate the unit and could provide scheduling flexibility for departments. Two quotes were attached: Dalco \$16,480.79 Southeastern Equipment & Supply \$17,504.00</p>	
<p>VOTING It was duly passed to approve the Dalco quote for Tennant carpet cleaner for \$16,480.79. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.</p>	
<p>9.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements</p>	
9.1	Committee and Board Reports
<p>Attorney – Joe Sanow – No Report.</p> <p>District I – Commissioner Ahlers – The Des Moines River One Watershed One Plan is almost complete.</p> <p>District III – Commissioner Paplow – No Report.</p> <p>District II – Commissioner Metz – No Report.</p> <p>District V – Commissioner Linssen – No Report.</p> <p>District IV – Commissioner Demuth – No Report.</p> <p>Administration – Reported that budget work continues along with work on the Short Term Crisis Center.</p>	
9.2	Correspondence <u>Attachments:</u> Recruitment Memo

	City, County, College, School meeting agenda 9/30/22
9.3	Calendar Attachments: October 2022
10.0	Other / Future Business
	Board Meeting – Tuesday October 18, 2022 9:00 a.m. Government Center, Worthington, MN Work Session – Wednesday October 26, 2022 8:30 a.m. Government Center, Worthington, MN AMC District 8 Fall Meeting – Thursday October 27, 2022 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wabasso Community Center, 1429 Front Street Wabasso, MN
	11.0 Adjournment It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob



Nobles County Board Chair



Nobles County Administrator