

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

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, September 05, 2023, at the Government Center, in the Commissioner’s Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners attended: Robert S. Demuth, Justin Ahlers, Gene Metz, Bob Paplow and Chris Dybevic.

Chairman Demuth called the meeting to order 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><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Motion by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
<b>4.0 Recognition</b>	
<b>4.1 Visitors and Guests Welcome</b>	
<b>5.0 Consent Agenda</b>	
5.1 (A)	<b>August 22, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> August 22, 2023 Draft Minutes
5.2 (A)	<b>Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Expenses paid September 08, 2023
5.3 (A)	<b>Auditor’s &amp; Commissioner’s Warrants</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (B)	<b>Auditor’s &amp; Commissioner’s Warrants – Vendors paid over \$2,000</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (C)	<b>Breakdown of Wells Fargo Payments</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Auditor’s Warrants
5.4	<b>Driver &amp; Vehicle Services Exam Station Lease Extension</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Lease Extension Letter State of Minnesota Lease
<b><u>VOTING</u></b> It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Metz, Gene	
<b>6.0 Public Hearings</b>	
6.1	<b>Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement Vickie Loosbrock Parcel 21-0628-010 and 21-0628-005</b> <b>A. Open Hearing (<i>Action</i>)</b> <b>B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion</b> <b>C. Public Comment</b> <b>D. Close Hearing (<i>Action</i>)</b> <b>E. Decisions : Vickie Loosbrock Parcel 21-0628-010 and 21-0628-005– Resolution 202330 (<i>Action</i>)</b> <b><u>Attachments:</u></b> Application information Resolution 202330
<b><u>VOTING</u></b>	

- 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 Vickie Loosbrock Parcel 21-0628-010 and 21-0628-005.
- B. Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County Administrator, reviewed the Nobles Home Initiative Application.
- C. No Discussion or public comment was received.
- D. On a motion by Bob Paplow and seconded by Gene Metz, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.
- E. On a motion by Gene Metz and seconded by Justin Ahlers, it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 202330 approving tax abatement to Vickie Loosbrock Parcel 21-0628-010 and 21-0628-005 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813.

**7.0 Special Presentations**

7.1 (A)	<p><b>Southwestern Mental Health Center</b>  <u>Attachments:</u>          Southwestern Mental Health Letter          Southwestern Mental Health Agreement</p>
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It was previously requested by the Board to have staff from Southwestern Mental Health Center present at a board meeting to discuss different items. The first being a county option to increase interest rates or accelerated payments for the Worthington mental health building repayment agreement (options in 2023 and 2033). The second discussion topic being the continual need for county subsidy funds for SWMHC operational purposes. Luke Comeau and Dennis Gyberg were present to answer any questions of the board. Nobles County joined with other members counties in 2012 to plan and finance the construction of a new SWMHC building in Worthington. At the time, Nobles County pledged \$500,000.00 at a 1% interest rate. The SWMHC’s Board of Directors is requesting that counties in the agreement raise their interest rate by 1%, thus increasing Nobles County’s interest rate receivable to 2% starting on October 1, 2023. The member counties involved have varied interest rate repayments and had varied initial investment levels. Another topic discussed is a continued request for county operational funds on an annual basis. Nobles County normally signs an agreement for services with the mental health center. A request for additional funds were requested initially for 2023. Another request for subsidy funds plus 3% is being requested for 2024. This additional funding is now part of the Community Services department’s 2024 Budget.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to raise the interest rate receivable to 2% starting October 1, 2023 for a 10-year period for the Worthington Southwestern Mental Health building.  
 Moved by: Paplow, Bob  
 Seconded by: Metz, Gene

It was duly passed to acknowledged the funding within the Community Services 2024 budget for the Southwestern Mental Health Center.  
 Moved by: Ahlers, Justin  
 Seconded by: Demuth, Robert

**8.0 Department Presentations**

8.1	<p><b>Nobles County Child Care Grants Approval Requests</b>  <u>Attachment:</u>          Applicant Seventeen          Applicant Eighteen</p>
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In December 2022, The Nobles County Board of Commissioners approved up to \$400,000 in funding to be utilized for three childcare grant programs in the county. These funds are intended to accompany funding from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Grant. In the past quarter, contracted and county staff developed a framework for two of the grants and opened the programs for applications in April 2023. In April 2023, a review committee was formed to review the applications from childcare providers and make recommendations to the Board for the approval of those applications. The review committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 to evaluate four applications for funding that had been received. Of the four applications received, two were recommended for funding approval, and two were returned to the applicants for further information.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to approve applicant seventeen the expansion and capacity grant in the amount of \$13,126.75.  
 Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

It was duly passed to approve applicant eighteen the childcare fund grant in the amount of \$2,297.61.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Dybevic, Chris

8.2 **2024 Budget – Appropriations and Economic Development**

**Attachment:**

Applicant Seventeen

Applicant Eighteen

Nobles County Staff and Budget Committee have started the 2024 budget planning. An initial review of the County's 2024 Appropriations and Economic Development investments were offered to Commissioners during the June 28, 2023 Work Session. The County's Budget Committee recently met to review new requests and pending items. Appropriations were discussed and input offered. An increase to the Historical Society and area ambulances were talked over. The item was informational only.

**9.0 Administration Presentation**

9.1 **Rock Nobles Community Corrections Site Improvements**

**Attachments:**

Koch Hazard Letter

Rock/Nobles Community Corrections received a new and significant funding allocation as a result of the 2023 Legislative Session. Staffing enhancements and infrastructure upgrades are all allowable expenses for the new funding.

- Rock - Total Appropriation: \$299,182.00 - \$132,279.00 (2022) = \$166,903.00 (New)
- Nobles - Total Appropriation: \$1,060,652.00 - \$360,656.00 (2022) = \$699,996.00 (New)

Future funding allocations are dependent upon the counties ability to utilize the 2023 funding. Therefore, the Rock Nobles Community Corrections Board directed staff to investigate a productive means of allocating this funding. Executive Director Jon Ramlo and Administrator Bruce Heitkamp are cooperatively investigating ways to meet funding requirements; including the aforementioned infrastructure. At the direction of the Rock Nobles Community Corrections Board, Ramlo and Heitkamp consulted with the Koch Hazard Architect Firm to identify needs and opportunities. Koch Hazard offered a proposal of \$45,000.00 to offer services related to providing the required infrastructure.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to accept the Koch Hazard proposal of \$45,000 for infrastructure design for Rock Nobles Community Corrections.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Dybevic, Chris

9.2 **Reading Sanitary Sewer Project – Stantec Change Order #4**

**Attachments:**

Change Order #4

One shared goal amongst the State of Minnesota and Nobles County is establishing a community sanitary sewer system for the residents of Reading, MN. Stantec Engineering (formerly Wenck) has assisted the now-formed Reading Sanitary District since Summit Lake Township received a "Notice of Violation" from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2012. Stantec's service requests have changed as project needs changed. Stantec is offering Change Order #4 for Commissioner to acknowledge new service requests. The establishment of a Reading Sanitary Sewer Project is taking shape. Progress is being made to identify land for ponds. Stantec is tracing the infrastructure route from Reading to a potential pond site. New Stantec services have been identified and listed below:

1. Project Management, Coordination & Quality Control
2. Reading, MN Antidegradation Analysis & Assessment Report
3. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application
4. Wetland Delineation of Project Area
5. County Ditch No. 5 Discharge Analysis
6. Preliminary Soil Borings at the Wastewater Treatment Pond Site
7. Property Acquisition Assistance

The funding to pay for the overall cost of \$221,988.00 is reimbursable to the County through grant funding and/or assessments when the project commences.

**VOTING**

It was duly passed to approve Stantec's change order #4.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin

### 10.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements

#### 10.1 Committee and Board Reports

Attorney Hoefert – Reported on a high case load and a conditional offer being extended to a new attorney.

District I – Commissioner Ahlers – Reported on the Historical Society meeting.

District III – Commissioner Paplow – Reported on the continued Library discussions.

District II – Commissioner Metz – Reported on the road tour, cyber security and learning more about tax forfeited properties with AMC.

District V – Commissioner Dybevic – Reported on the road tour being very informative.

District IV – Commissioner Demuth – No Report.

Administration – Reported on building projects, 2024 budget work, and the Library project.

#### 10.2 Correspondence

##### Attachments:

Recruitment Memo

Nobles County Art Center Meeting Minutes 8/21/23

#### 10.3 Calendar

##### Attachments:

September 2023

#### 11.0 Other / Future Business

**Nobles County Town Hall** – Wednesday October 11, 2023

6:00 a.m. Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Drive Worthington, MN 56187

**Board Meeting** – Tuesday September 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN 56187

**Work Session** – Wednesday September 27, 2023

8:30 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN 56187

#### 12.0 Adjournment

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob



Nobles County Board Chair



Nobles County Administrator