

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, October 24, 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.

1.0 Call To Order	
2.0 Pledge of Allegiance	
3.0 Approval of Agenda	
<u>VOTING</u>	
It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Motion by: Dybevic, Chris Seconded by: Paplow, Bob	
4.0 Recognition	
4.1 Visitors and Guests Welcome	
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1 (A)	September 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> September 27, 2023 Draft Minutes
5.1 (B)	October 03, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> October 03, 2023 Draft Minutes
5.2 (A)	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid October 06, 2023
5.2 (B)	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid October 20, 2023
5.3 (A)	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants <u>Attachments:</u> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (B)	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants – Vendors paid over \$2,000 <u>Attachments:</u> Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (C)	Breakdown of Wells Fargo Payments <u>Attachments:</u> Auditor’s Warrants
5.4	Natural Resources Block Grant <u>Attachments:</u> Grant Agreement
5.5	Professional Service Agreement – Nobles County Attorney’s Office and Miriam Johnson/Godspeed Transcription by Miriam <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
5.6	Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Health Educator Agreement with Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
<u>VOTING</u>	
It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.	

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Metz, Gene

6.0 Public Hearings

6.1 **Public Hearing – Proposed Property Tax Abatement KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-540**
A. Open Hearing (*Action*)
B. Proposed Abatement – Discussion
C. Public Comment
D. Close Hearing (*Action*)
E. Decisions : KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-540 – Resolution 202339 (*Action*)
Attachments:
Application information
Resolution 202339

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 KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-540.
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 Robert Demuth, it was duly passed to close the Proposed Property Tax Abatement Public Hearing.
E. On a motion by Justin Ahlers and seconded by Gene Metz, it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 202339 approving tax abatement to KJSM Investments, LLC Parcel 31-1240-540 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813.

7.0 Department Presentations

7.1 (A) **Medical Examiner Contract Agreement**
Attachments:
Agreement

Ryan Kruger, Sheriff, presented the board with a contract renewal agreement for medical examiner services between Nobles County and River Valley Forensic Services. The agreement has been in place for several years and no major changes were presented. The board asked about a local option for a medical examiner but it was explained there were not any.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the contract agreement with River Valley Forensic Services.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris

7.2 (A) **Nobles County Operation Green Light**
Attachment:
Operation Green Light Information
Resolution 202337

James Dunn, VSO, presented the board with Operation Green Light which is a project to show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 6 – 12. The Commissioners were in agreement the project was a great idea.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve resolution 202337 in support of Operation Green Light.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.2 (B) **Community Event**
Attachment:
Event Flier
Minnesota Warriors Hockey Powerpoint

James Dunn, VSO, presented the board with a community fundraising event on November 18, 2023 at the Worthington Ice Arena. This was informational.

7.3 (A) **2024 Non-Union Compensation Plan**
Attachments:
Salary Table

	Hourly Table
<p>Each year the County Board needs to approve the compensation plan for non-union employees. Our 7 union contracts are settled through 2024. The union employees will be receiving a 3.00% COLA for 2024. In an effort to keep our pay equity in compliance, it is requested that the board approve the compensation plan for non-union employees to be on the same plan as the union employees with a 2024- 3.00% COLA.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the 2024 non-union compensation plan to include a 3.00% cost of living adjustment Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.</p>	
7.3 (B)	2024 Temporary/Seasonal Worker Wages
<p>Each year the board needs to set the pay schedule for the 2024 temporary/seasonal employees. Currently the starting pay is \$17.00/hour with a .50 per hour increase for each year the same employee returns. The board discussed raising the starting pay to be in line with the COLA received by other employees.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the 2024 temporary/seasonal worker wage to be \$17.50/hour with a .50/hour increase for each year the same employee returns. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris</p>	
7.3 (C)	Out of State Workers' Compensation Coverage <u>Attachment:</u> Proposals
<p>County employees do not have workers' compensation coverage if they telecommute out of state on a regular basis. We have employees that live in Iowa and South Dakota. When the county developed our telecommuting policy, qualified employees can telecommute up to 16 hours every week. The policy does not allow employees who live out of state to telecommute on a regular basis. This is because we do not have workers' compensation coverage for them when they are working from home out of state. MCIT provides member counties with workers' compensation coverage but they are not legally authorized to provide workers' compensation coverage out of state. The employer is required to provide the workers' compensation insurance. We have a handful of employees that would like to telecommute on a regular basis like their coworkers that live in MN. MCIT heard from several counties that wanted to provide out of state workers' compensation coverage. MCIT agreed to look for an agent that member counties could work with directly to provide out of state workers' compensation coverage. This agent is A Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC in Mpls. The proposal is for both Iowa and South Dakota. The estimated proposal amount is \$1,607 annually. This coverage is audited annually and premiums adjusted.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve the out of state workers compensation coverage as presented. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
8.0 Administration Presentation	
8.1	Red Rock Rural Water System – Commissioner Appointment Recommendation <u>Attachments:</u> Applicant Information Resolution 202338
<p>The Red Rock Rural Water System Board of Commissioners acted unanimously by resolution on September 14, 2023 to offer recommendations that Commissioner's Jay Takle and Paul Johnson be respectively reappointed to 4 year terms on their Board. Each member county is now requested to offer their recommendation regarding the reappointment of these aforementioned Commissioners.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to approve resolution 202338 recommending re-appointment of Jay Takle and Paul Johnson to the Red Rock Rural Water System Board. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.</p>	
8.2	Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Nobles County Voting Delegates

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) holds several meetings where county delegates vote on key items. The AMC committee leadership for the following year and legislative agenda items for the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session are examples of the voted-upon items. Nobles County is being asked to list their eight (8) voting delegates for the following year. Nobles County is allowed to have three (3) more voting delegates than those serving on the Board of Commissioners. The following are the current Nobles County's Voting Delegates:

Chris Dybevic, Commissioner, Robert Demuth Jr., Commissioner, Bob Paplow, Commissioner, Justin Ahlers, Commissioner, Gene Metz, Commissioner, Joseph Sanow, County Attorney, Bruce Heitkamp, Administrator, Tawn Hall, EM & Deputy Administrator.

With the passing of Attorney Joe Sanow his position will need to be replaced. County Engineer, Aaron Holmbeck, expressed interest in being appointed. County Attorney Braden Hoefert was comfortable not being appointed.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve Chris Dybevic, Robert Demuth Jr., Bob Paplow, Justin Ahlers, Gene Metz, Bruce Heitkamp, Tawn Hall and Aaron Holmbeck as Association of Minnesota Counties voting delegates.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Metz, Gene

8.3 County Surveyor – Approval of Surety Bond

Attachments:

Surety Bond

Minnesota Statute 389.011 determines a County Surveyor's "Qualifications; Formalities; Performance of Duties". Surveyor Ben Madsen has filed his requirements with the County Recorder. Part of these statutory requirements is the acknowledgement of the State Bond by the County Board. A county surveyor appointed or elected after July 1, 1961, before entering on duties shall give bond to the state, approved by the county board, in the sum of \$2,000 conditioned on the faithful discharge of the duties. The bond, together with the surveyor's oath, and certified evidence of a license as a land surveyor or the certificate of election must be recorded with the County Recorder.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the \$2,000 Surety bond from Ben Madsen, appointed County Surveyor.

Moved by: Dybevic, Chris

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

8.4 Citizen Appointments – Planning Advisory Commission

Attachments:

Alan Ahlers Application

David Nerem Application

Current Board Appointments

It is customary to appoint citizens to the various County boards, committees, or commissions when an opening occurs or when current terms expire. There are two current vacancies on the Planning Advisory Commission. The two recent vacancies occurred within this Commission in 2023. Two parties have applied to fulfill the existing terms of these two aforementioned open positions. Alan Ahlers has offered an application to fulfill the Planning Advisory Commission's currently vacant position for District II. David K. Nerem has offered an application to fulfill the Planning Advisory Commission's currently vacant position for District IV.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve Alan Ahlers to a vacant term on the Planning Advisory Commission expiring 12/31/2024.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to approve David Nerem to a vacant term on the Planning Advisory Commission expiring 12/31/2024.

Moved by: Dybevic, Chris

Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin

9.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements

9.1 Committee and Board Reports

Commissioner, District 2; Gene Metz: Reminded Commissioners of the District 8 meeting in Windom on 10/26/23.

Commissioner, District 5; Chris Dybevic: No Report.

Administration; Bruce Heitkamp: Reported on the progress of the PJC impound lot and the PJC parking lot. Also recapped the SWPIC internship program. The CEO program that is currently fundraising and the Government Center bathrooms are up and working.

Commissioner, District 4; Robert S. Demuth: Reported there is still an opening on the Soils and Water board.

Commissioner, District 3; Bob Paplow: Reported on the PJC impound lot.

Commissioner, District 1; Justin Ahlers: No Report.

Attorney, Braden Hoefert: No Report.

9.2	Correspondence Attachments: Nobles County Art Center Meeting Minutes 10/16/23 KLR Meeting Minutes 8/17/23 Nobles SWCD Meeting Minutes 9/20/23 KLR Agenda 10/19/23 (includes budget sheets) Nobles SWCD Agenda 10/18/23 (includes budget sheets)
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9.3	Calendar Attachments: October 2023 November 2023
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10.0	Other / Future Business
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District 8 Meeting – Thursday October 26, 2023
8:00 a.m. Windom, MN
Work Session – Tuesday October 31, 2023
8:30 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN 56187
Board Meeting – Tuesday November 07, 2023
9:00 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN 56187

11.0 Adjournment
It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m.
Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob



Nobles County Board Chair



Nobles County Administrator