

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Government Center, in the Commissioner’s Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota.

The following Commissioners attended: Robert S. Demuth, Justin Ahlers, Bob Paplow, and Chris Dybevick.
Commissioner Gene Metz attended virtually.

Chairperson Ahlers called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

All votes were conducted via roll call

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 item 8.4 “Special Joint Meeting with Library Board” Motion by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris	
4.0 Recognition	
4.1 Visitors and Guests Welcome	
4.2 Years of Service Recognition	
Pam Verde, Social Worker, was recognized for 25 years of service and recognized on her retirement.	
5.0 Consent Agenda	
5.1 (A)	February 06, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Draft <u>Attachments:</u> February 06, 2024 Draft Minutes
5.2 (A)	Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses <u>Attachments:</u> Expenses paid February 09, 2024
5.3 (A)	Auditor’s & Commissioner’s Warrants <u>Attachments:</u> Accounts Payable Summary Auditor’s Warrants
5.3 (B)	Vendors Paid over \$2,000 <u>Attachments:</u> Paid Invoice Report by Vendor
5.4	PrimeWest Health Behavioral Health Participation Agreement Amendment <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
5.5	Cost-Sharing Agreement for the Transportation of Students in Foster Care Placement – Independent School District #2907 Round Lake-Brewster Public Schools <u>Attachments:</u> Agreement
5.6	Solid Waste and Recycle Hauling & Facility Permits for 2024
VOTING	
It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
6.0 Special Presentation	
6.1 (A)	David Drown Associates (DDA) Human Resource Presentation – Compensation Study <u>Attachments:</u> Presentation

Nobles County conducted a complete wage and job description study in 2014. It is recommended to conduct a wage study at various times to keep the salary schedule up to date. The Board has expressed support of completing a wage study. DDA was contacted to present to the board and provide a quote if hired to complete the wage study. Mark Goldberg of DDA was present to answer questions regarding the wage study. Mr. Goldberg explained they gather information from not only surrounding Counties but also Counties around the state of similar make up to determine wages. Estimates were reviewed and it was decided to do the wage study for all County jobs.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve a new compensation study to be done for all Nobles County jobs and completed by DDA Human Resources, Inc. not to exceed \$40,000.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris

7.0 Department Presentations

7.1 (A) IT Support Specialists & System Administrator

The IT department is needing to hire staff after previous staff retirements. Currently, there are an IT Support Specialist and a System Administrator opening in the department. Interviews were conducted for the IT Support Specialist and two candidates were found. It was requested of the board to hire two IT Support Specialists and not a Systems Administrator.

VOTING

It was duly passed to have the ability to hire two IT Support Specialists and or 1 IT Support Specialist and 1 Systems Administrator.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

7.2 (A) City of Wilmont Snow Removal Agreement

Attachments:

Resolution 202408

Wilmont Agreement

The City of Wilmont provides snow removal service on the main street through town. This speeds up plowing operations for the rural routes. The city also plows and hauls snow which the county does not do. This allow for the payment of some of the snow removal operations that were not being paid for in the past. It also provides continuity in operations since the county doesn't need to do part of the roadway while the city does another part. The city has been doing the snow removal over the past years and it has worked very well. The rate of pay is based on the cost of removing snow in the other communities that do not have agreements for snow removal. The current agreement expired so a new agreement is needed. It is for a 3 year period to keep the reimbursement in line with current costs.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202408 approving the service agreement with the City of Wilmont for snow removal for a 3-year period.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.2 (B) Leota Township Snow Removal Agreement

Attachments:

Resolution 202409

Leota Agreement

Leota Township provides snow removal services on a county road that the township goes over as part of their township road operations. It is easier and provides consistency in services to have them open the road as they go down the road doing their plowing. The township has been doing the snow removal over the past years and it has worked very well. The rate of pay is based on the cost of snow removal as determined for the agreements for the cities. The current agreement expired so a new agreement is needed. It is for a 3 year period to keep the reimbursement in line with current costs.

VOTING

It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202409 approving the service agreement with Leota Township for snow removal for a 3-year period.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.2 (C)	City of Brewster Snow Removal Agreement <u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202410 Brewster Agreement
<p>The City of Brewster provides snow removal service on the main street through town and on the road to the soy bean plant. This speeds up plowing operations for the rural routes. The city also plows and hauls snow which the county does not do. This allow for the payment of some of the snow removal operations that were not being paid for in the past. It also provides continuity in operations since the county doesn't need to do part of the roadway while the city does another part. The city has been doing the snow removal over the past years and it has worked very well. The rate of pay is based on the cost of removing snow in the other communities that do not have agreements for snow removal. The current agreement expired so a new agreement is needed. It is for a 3 year period to keep the reimbursement in line with current costs.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202410 approving the service agreement with the City of Brewster for snow removal for a 3-year period. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
7.2 (D)	City of Lismore Snow Removal Agreement <u>Attachments:</u> Resolution 202411 Brewster Agreement
<p>The City of Lismore provides snow removal service on the main street through town. This speeds up plowing operations for the rural routes. The city also plows and hauls snow which the county does not do. This allow for the payment of some of the snow removal operations that were not being paid for in the past. It also provides continuity in operations since the county doesn't need to do part of the roadway while the city does another part. The city has been doing the snow removal over the past years and it has worked very well. The rate of pay is based on the cost of removing snow in the other communities that do not have agreements for snow removal. The current agreement expired so a new agreement is needed. It is for a 3 year period to keep the reimbursement in line with current costs.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202411 approving the service agreement with the City of Lismore for snow removal for a 3-year period. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
7.2 (E)	Letter of Support & Resolution – MnDOT TH 59 RAISE Grant <u>Attachment:</u> Letter of Support Resolution 202412 2/6/24 E-Mail 2/12/24 E-Mail
<p>MnDOT is applying for a RAISE Grant in an effort to make improved pedestrian and bicycle access along Humiston Ave/TH 59 in Worthington. This would be in conjunction with the turnback project that is being finalized between MnDOT and the City of Worthington. If MnDOT is successful in obtaining the grant, it would enable them to free up additional funding to cover the cost to complete improvements on CSAH 35 (Oxford St) between Smith Ave and Humiston Ave. Since this is a County State Aid Highway in Worthington, typical the City and County would cost share in the project. The current estimated costs to make the required improvements along this section are \$1.3 million.</p>	
<p><u>VOTING</u> It was duly passed to adopt resolution 202412 approving a letter of support for the RAISE grant. Moved by: Ahlers, Justin Seconded by: Paplow, Bob</p>	
7.3 (A)	Out of State Travel Request
<p>Sheriff Ryan Kruger requested approval for out of state travel. He will be attending the National Sheriff's Institute – Leadership Development course in March at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.</p>	

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the out of state travel for Sheriff Kruger.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris

8.0 Administration Presentation

8.1 2024 Boards, Committees & Commissions – Citizen Appointments

Attachments:

Justin Wolf Application

Shawn Langseth Application

Citizen appointments to the various Boards, Committees, or Commissions are integral to Nobles County’s Mission. There are current citizen public body openings. Two applications were received for consideration.

VOTING

It was duly passed to appoint Justin Wolf to the Nobles County Park Board for a three-year term.

Moved by: Metz, Gene

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

It was duly passed to appoint Shawn Langseth to the Rock-Nobles Community Corrections Executive Board for a three-year term.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Dybevick, Chris

8.2 Pope Design Group – Furniture Package Proposal

Attachments:

Proposal

Last fall funding was approved through the Southwest 18 Adult Mental Health Consortium grant to purchase furniture and other items for the common areas of the short-term crisis stabilization center. These funds had been made available through increased revenues from Federal Financial Participation higher reimbursements during COVID. The funds must be expended by March 30, 2024 or they will become unavailable. A proposal was received from the Pope Design Group to coordinate the furniture procurement services for the facility. They will work with local furniture dealerships that specialize in behavioral healthcare facilities and work with New Life, as well as Community Services on the selection of items. These furnishings will be utilized in all of the common areas of the new facility as outlined on the agreement. The total cost included in this proposal is \$7,500.00 and Community Services has funding within their budget for the crisis stabilization project to cover this.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve the furniture package proposal from Pope Design Group as presented.

Moved by: Paplow, Bob

Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

8.3 Ice Arena Discussion on Rehabilitating the Existing Building

An inquiry is offered as to whether Nobles County would financially participate in rehabilitating the existing Worthington Ice Arena building as a cooperative effort for future Nobles County Fair events. The City of Worthington and Worthington School District continue discussions regarding a new ice arena somewhere within Worthington. One argument or concern is what would happen with the existing Ice Arena building if the School and Hockey Association were to focus on a different location. The Fair Board was represented during the last Ice Arena Meeting to illustrate concerns about losing the existing building for events. Administration was asked to pose the question of whether Nobles County would take a vested interest in a rehabilitation effort of the existing Worthington Ice Arena. Todd Weitzema from the City of Worthington was present and engaged in discussion with the Board. Todd stated the City agreed that no matter if the County participated in rehabbing the building, it would not be abandoned. Commissioner Metz asked if there was a dollar amount for rehabbing the building, which Mr. Weitzema did not know off hand. The board agreed to continue conversations regarding the topic.

VOTING

There was no action taken, this was informational only.

8.4 Special Joint Meeting with the Library Board

Addendum

A special joint meeting with the Library Board was requested to discuss the remodel of the Worthington building. The meeting was set for Monday February 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioner board room.

VOTING

It was duly passed to approve a joint meeting with the library board on Monday February 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioner board room.

Moved by: Ahlers, Justin

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

9.0 Inter-Agency Reports / Announcements

9.1 Committee and Board Reports

Commissioner, District 2; Gene Metz: Reported on the BRRRA meeting.

Commissioner, District 5; Chris Dybevic: Reported on the hazmat discussion during the EMPAC meeting.

Administration; Bruce Heitkamp: Reported on the LEC meeting

Commissioner, District 4; Robert S. Demuth: No Report.

Commissioner, District 3; Bob Paplow: Reported on the library board meeting.

Commissioner, District 1; Justin Ahlers: No Report.

Attorney, Braden Hoefert: No Report.

9.2 Correspondence

Attachments:

Recruitment Memo

Nobles County Art Center Board Meeting Minutes 2/12/24

9.3 Calendar

Attachments:

February 2024

March 2024

10.0 Other / Future Business

Association of Minnesota Counties Legislative Conference – Wednesday February 21-22, 2024 Intercontinental St. Paul, MN 55101

Administration/Commissioner Holiday Party – Monday February 26, 2024 6:00 p.m. 1015 Steak Co. Sibley, IA

Work Session – Wednesday February 28, 2024 8:30 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN

Board Meeting – Tuesday February 20, 2024 9:00 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN

11.0 Adjournment

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.

Seconded by: Paplow, Bob



Nobles County Board Chair



Nobles County Administrator