OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The Board of Commissioners of Nobles County met in regular session on **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026** at the Government Center, in the Commissioner's Board Room, Worthington, Minnesota.

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

County Commissioner 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 w/ Addition of 8.3	
VOTING It was duly passed to approve the agenda as presented. Moved by: Paplow, Bob Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.	
4.0 Recognition	
4.1 Visitors and Guests Welcome	
4.2 Retirement Recognition – Steve Schultz 31 Years of Service	
5.1	**September 8th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting** Attachments: September 8th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
5.2	**Meetings and Conferences – Travel Expenses** Attachments: Expenses paid September 18th, 2026
5.3	**Auditor's & Commissioner's Warrants** Attachments: Auditor's Warrants Vendors paid totaling more than $2,000 Breakdown of Wells Fargo Payments
5.4	**Health Educator Agreement w/ Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services**
Voting It was duly passed to approve the consent agenda as presented. Moved by: Metz, Gene Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin	
6.0 Special Presentation	
6.1	**MnDOT Capital Highway Investment Plan**
PowerOn Midwest has proposed to route 765kV electric transmission infrastructure throughout S.W. Minnesota, including Nobles County. The project is proposed as part of a regional effort to modernize the electric grid and meet growing energy needs. It is stated (PowerOn Midwest website) that this project is part of Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO) long-range transmission planning.	
Voting It was duly passed to Act to adopt Resolution 202631 to address ongoing concerns. Moved by: Ahler, Justin Seconded by: Metz, Gene	

7.0 Department Presentations

7.1 (A) Legal Enhancement and Advocacy for Families-LEAF

Currently, attorney fees for parents involved in CHIPS proceedings are the responsibility of the County Board through the Administration office. As the County's IV-E eligible agency, Community Services will be eligible to claim some reimbursement for these costs based on our county's current IV-E ratio. Once approved and in place, this agreement will allow us to set up acceptable procedures for the sharing of information needed in order to claim Title IV-E reimbursement for some of the costs associated with providing legal representation to parents. There are approximately six other counties in MN currently participating and receiving reimbursements in the program and we can reach out to them with questions as we get our processes set up. This agreement is the first step in establishing our ability to claim reimbursement.

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve Title IV-E Administrative Agreement.
Moved by: Ahler, Justin
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

7.1 (B) Paramount Planning Group, LLC Purchase of Service Agreement

One of this year's deliverables is the development of a public health Administrative and Budget Preparedness Plan that can work in unison with the County's policies in the event of a declared emergency. This is recent objective for all public health agencies in Minnesota. Paramount Planning Group, LLC has expertise in emergency preparedness planning and was recommended to us by our former MN Department of Health Preparedness Liaison. We are interested in entering into the Agreement before you to assist us in further developing our plan and facilitating an Administration and Budget workshop for staff based on our finalized plan. Through this agreement they will also be assisting us with incorporating considerations for individuals with access and functional needs to help ensure that our emergency response planning is inclusive and effective as well as facilitating an exercise for us.

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve Purchase Service Agreement with Paramount Planning Group, LLC.
Moved by: Paplow, Bob
Seconded by: Metz, Gene

7.2 Certify 2027 Budget / Set Public Meeting Date

Administrator Bruce Heitkamp is required to offer a levy figure to the Nobles County Auditor- Treasurer Department on, or before, September 30, 2026. This Preliminary Levy figure represents a not-to-exceed figure and does not represent a final levy figure for taxes payable 2027. The Board does not have to present a final levy figure until the Public Meeting to introduce the 2027 Budget. The meeting must be after November 24 and no later than December 28 and held at 6:00 p.m. or later. The Public Meeting date must be decided prior to September 30, 2026.

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve Resolution 202630 Seeting the County Levi Not-To-Exceed 14%.
Moved by: Metz, Gene
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly passed to Set Public Meeting Date for December 3rd, 2026 at 6:00pm.
Moved by: Paplow, Bob
Seconded by: Metz, Gene

7.3 Prosecution Contract with the City of Brewster

The City of Brewster desires to hire the County Attorney's Office to provide legal services for prosecution of criminal offenses that occur within the jurisdiction of the City of Brewster and representation on related forfeiture proceedings. This is a new contract for an annual fee. Brewster's City Council has approved the contract.

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve the Prosecution Contract with the City of Brewster.
Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.
Seconded by: Ahlers, Justin

8.0 Administration Presentations

8.1 Child Daycare Support Efforts - Future Role in The Process

Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA) personnel have contractually served as Nobles County's child daycare-support staff. The S.W. Initiative Foundation (SWIF) supplied funding for the first CEDA contract. Nobles County funded the subsequent contract. Several local entities have played roles in supporting child daycare by offering facilities and/or attending meetings. Nobles County has been the lone local entity within Nobles County to offer financial support toward the CEDA contract. The Commissioners have previously visited about roles and stated that they were looking for other financial contributors toward the effort.

Voting

It was duly passed to Commit to the Fiscal year 2026.
Moved by: Metz, Gene
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

It was duly pass to table the Fiscal Year 2027
Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

8.2 Nobles County Opioid Settlement Funds

Application OPF-2026.04 Helping Hands Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization that specialize in family-stability outreach targeting prevention and harm reduction through family-based education for expecting parents and educational classroom sessions the school districts and MN West.
o The Committee is recommending a reimbursement award of $5000 to support educational time and support materials for opioid education in parenting classes and school.

Application OPF-2026.05 Sober Living House of Hope is a non-clinical sober living housing facility geared towards transitioning residents back into society with sustained sobriety. While House of Hope is located in Cottonwood County, they do house residents from Nobles County while transitioning from treatment or incarceration.
o The Committee is recommending a reimbursement award or $5000.00 in funding to cover unpaid and unmet needs that support recovery of Nobles County residents residing at the Sober House of Hope.

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve Application OFP-2026.04 Helping Hands educational funding for $5000.00.
Moved by: Demuth, Robert S.
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

Voting

It was duly passed to Approve Application OFP-2026.05 House of Hope recovery programing for $5,000.00.
Moved by: Metz, Gene
Seconded by: Demuth, Robert S.

8.3 Building Capital Improvement Government Center Sanitary Plumbing Repairs

The Nobles County Government Center is commonly recognized in two segments: 9th Street Side and 10th Street Side. The 10th Street Side sanitary plumbing has experienced multiple sanitary sewer failures within the past few years. Several different remedies have been attempted but public restrooms and other plumbing fixtures have been shut down on multiple occasions. A recent sanitary sewer failure occurred the week of September 14, 2026. Nobles County Maintenance had two firms investigate the issue. It was identified the sewer line routed through the Nobles County Garage (Gov. Center) has sagged, which stops the flow (fall).

Voting

It was duly passed to Authorize the need for quotes to repair the Government Center sanitary sewer lines and for the Administrator or Board Chair to approve the required quote.
Moved by: Metz, Gene
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

9.0	Closed Session

On a motion by Ahlers, Justin and seconded by Paplow, Bob, it was duly passed to close the meeting at 10:25a.m. per Minnesota Statutes §13D.03 Subd. 1(b) to discuss County Administrator Annual Review.

The Board is in closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute §13D.03 Subd. 1(b) to consider County Administrator Annual Review.

On a motion by Paplow, Bob, and seconded by Ahlers, Justin it was duly passed to open the meeting at 10:47a.m.

The Board had discussed County Administrator Annual Review and the closed meeting recording was sealed and will be safely stored.

10.0 Inter-Agency Reports

10.1	Committee & Board Reports

Commissioner, District 1, Justin Ahlers: No Report.
Commissioner, District 2, Gene Metz: District 8 Meeting Reminder.
Commissioner, District 3, Bob Paplow: No Report.
Commissioner, District 4, Robert S. Demuth: A.C.E Update.
Commissioner, District 5, Chris Dybevick: No Report.
Attorney, Braden Hoefert: No Report.
Administration, Bruce Heitkamp: Project Updates.

10.2	Correspondence
10.3	Calendar

11.0 Other / Future Business

Work Session – Tuesday, September 30th, 2026
8:30 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN
Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 6th, 2026
9:00 a.m. Government Center Board Room, Worthington, MN

12.0 Adjournment

It was duly passed to adjourn the meeting @ 11:003 a.m.
Moved by: Ahlers, Justin
Seconded by: Paplow, Bob

Nobles County Board Chair

Nobles County Administrator