BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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"In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities by fostering a healthy economy and environment."

"Looking forward with purpose"

COUNTY BOARD - PROPOSED ADDENDUM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2026

7.0 Administration Presentations - Bruce Heitkamp

7.2 Government Center Sanitary Plumbing Repairs (Action)

FIRST DISTRICT
Justin Ahlers

SECOND DISTRICT
Gene Metz

THIRD DISTRICT
Bob Paplow

FOURTH DISTRICT
Robert S. Demuth Jr.

FIFTH DISTRICT
Chris Dybevick

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COMMISSIONER BRIEFING

OCTOBER 6, 2026 (ADDENDUM)
BUILDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
GOVERNMENT CENTER SANITARY PLUMBING REPAIRS
BRUCE HEITKAMP, ADMINISTRATOR
Resolution 202633

Topic:
The Nobles County Government Center has experienced multiple issues with sanitary sewer plumbing failures. A very recent failure has County Administration searching for a long-term remedy.

Discussion:
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).

Administration has sought quotes and strategies for the repair. After consulting with multiple firms for the best possible solution, it has been found repairs to approximately 200 feet of sewer line is required. In the interest of public safety and services, the Administrator is asking the board to adopt by resolution declaring the sewer line failure a utility failure emergency. Allowing the county to move forward with Midwest Mechanical to remediate the failure and restore sewer functionality.

Options:
- Adopt by resolution a utility emergency for the Government Center
- Do not declare a utility emergency

Recommendation:
The Government Center restrooms and other plumbing facilities are currently inoperable. They have been inoperable at a different occasion for multiple weeks. Administration is asking for an emergency declaration as delay would cause severe detriment to public interest and services

RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY UTILITY FAILURE AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT FOR SEWER REPAIR

NOBLES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION-202633

WHEREAS, Nobles County owns and operates the public facility located 315 10th Street Nobles County, which serves vital public functions and houses county staff and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, on September 14th 2026, a critical utility failure occurred involving the primary sewer infrastructure serving the facility, resulting in unusable restrooms and a failure of the building's sanitary sewage drainage system; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the sewer line creates an immediate threat to public health, sanitation, and safety, effectively halting the necessary functioning of government services within the facility; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 383B.145, Subdivision 2, provides an explicit emergency exception to standard uniform municipal contracting and competitive bidding laws (Minn. Stat. § 471.345) in cases of an emergency arising from "breakage, damage or decay or when the public interest would suffer by delay"; and

WHEREAS, the delay required to advertise, solicit, and award a formal competitive bid would cause severe detriment to the public interest, prolong a hazardous public health condition, and extend the closure or impairment of a critical public county building;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nobles County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Declaration of Emergency: The Board hereby officially declares that the sewer line failure at Nobles County Government Center constitutes an emergency arising from breakage, damage, or decay under Minn. Stat. § 383B.145, Subd. 2, and that the public interest would suffer imminent harm by any delay in repairing the system.

2. Waiver of Bidding: The Board waives standard competitive bidding requirements under Minn. Stat. § 471.345 pursuant to the statutory emergency exception.

3. Authorization to Contract: The County Administrator is authorized to immediately negotiate, execute, and move forward with emergency contracts on the open market with Midwest Mechanical to remediate the failure and restore sewer functionality.

4. Ratification & Recording: The Board hereby ratifies the emergency actions taken by the County Administrator to date and directs that this matter be fully recorded in the official proceedings of this meeting.

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Chirs Dybevick
Nobles County Board Chairman

Attest:

I Bruce Heitkamp, Nobles County Administrator, hereby attest that the foregoing resolution was fully adopted by the Nobles Conty Board of Commissioners on this the 6th day of October, 2026

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_____ _____
Bruce Heitkamp Date
County Administrator