

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 28, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session November 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller, Dan Sparks and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels and Solid Waste Officer Marcus Thompson.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda adding: 1) Approve CliftonLarsonAllen Statement of Work for 2023 Audit Services and removing 1) Consent Agenda; and 2) Items 4 & 5 under General Business (to be heard at a later date). Motion carried.

Solid Waste Officer Marcus Thompson provided the Board with a Recycling Department update. The facility was first opened in 1989. Over a million tons of recyclables have been processed in the facility since that time. The addition to process electronics in progressing. Unexpectedly a tunnel was found and had to be filled in that had been there from a brick factory that had formally been on the site. Staff is working on the fee schedule for the recycling of electronics. The community is making better use of the available special event recycling containers. Austin High School youth group called the "green group" is proactive in recycling and will promote recycling at parent conferences by handing out recycling bins. The recycling ads on Facebook have proved to be an effective tool for outreach reaching more than 30,000 and now with 103 new followers. Marcus was happy to report that contamination rate is down and the partnership with the Lions Club for the bag collection for recycling is successful with approximately 700 pounds of plastic bags collected to date. The department is working with GIS to develop a tracking method to determine curbside recycling participation. Hazardous materials like paint and batteries are disposed of or recycled with care and there is legislative work to put more of the burden on the manufacturers.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$229,806.76. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the following Commissioner warrants for payment:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
180 Degrees, Inc.	2,973.52	Kamphoff/Cindra	5,000.00
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	2,814.80	Language Line Services	2,009.63

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Ancom Communications	74,518.00	LSQ Funding Group, LLC	4,697.03
Baudoin Oil Company	25,789.49	Metro Sales, Inc	2,236.55
Bound Tree Medical LLC	2,520.00	Minnesota Chemical Company	37,646.57
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	19,634.08	Olympic Fire Protection Corp	3,244.00
Dakota County Financial Services	2,275.00	Petroblend Corp.	2,250.31
Department Of Corrections	24,180.00	Prairie Lakes Youth Programs Secure	13,571.63
Donnelly Law Firm, PLLC	6,522.10	Schilling Supply Company	2,327.37
Express Pressure Washers, Inc.	3,652.97	SGTS Inc	9,067.50
Freeborn County	7,772.63	Streicher's	5,110.39
Harbaugh Septic LLC	16,160.00	Swanston Equipment Companies	45,448.00
ISD #500 - Southland	5,949.25	The Master's Touch, LLC	5,763.64
Jones Law Firm	2,550.00	56 Payments less than 2000	32,942.88
			Final Total: 368,627.34

Motion carried.

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik summarized for the Board that earlier this year the mail service provider Paragon discontinued services without other mail service providers available. Staff worked out a method of handling and processing our outgoing mail but it isn't an ideal solution. Cedar Valley Services was approached to see if this service could be provided by the company and the result is the Professional Services Agreement for Mail Service being presented and recommended for approval today.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the proposal of Cedar Valley Services for mail service effective December 4, 2023. Motion carried.

Date: November 28, 2023

Res. #91-23

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CHARTER GRANT APPLICATION
TO MINNESOTA OFFICE OF BROADBAND BORDER TO BORDER**

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held November 28, 2023 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County is a rural county in Southeast Minnesota that continues to have a majority of its geography either unserved or underserved by broadband; and

WHEREAS, broadband has become a basic need for all residents for education, medical, business and other quality of life requirements; and

WHEREAS, broadband access in rural areas is linked to increased job and population growth, higher rates of new business formation, increased home values and lower unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS, Charter Communications is submitting a Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Grant Application to build out fiber service south of the City of Austin, MN in an unserved and/or underserved location; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board of Commissioners understands the importance of Broadband for the constituents it serves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mower County supports the Application of Charter Communications for a Minnesota Broadband Border to Border matching grant for the following project:

South and Southwest of Austin, Mn Mower County 148 passings at a cost of \$1,029,397.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mower County is willing to partner in this build out and has committed matching funds in the amount of \$100,000.

Passed and approved this 28th day of November, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Delegated Feedlot Work Plan for 2024 & 2025. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the following list of surplus property for donation to other entity, disposal, and/or auction:

Quantity	Item	Department
1	11' x 4.5' conference table	County-wide
1	8' x 3.5' conference table	County-wide
7	High back executive conference chairs	County-wide

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen Statement of Work for 2023 Audit services. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to delete Policy B235 Cell Phone Policy effective 11/28/23 by deleting the entire policy. The provisions of B235 were incorporated into Personnel Policy B225 Telephone Policy as amended on September 26, 2023. Motion carried.

Human Resource Director Kris Kohn presented for discussion and approval amendments to Personnel Policy D183 On Call Pay. During discussion it occurred that other salaried positions may be impacted by this possible amendment and could be considered for inclusion into the proposed policy amendment.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to table the revisions on D183 On Call Pay for further review to incorporate other possible positions. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Glynn reported that she along with the County Administrator have been attending township and school district meetings to encourage letters of support for the Arvig (*and Charter*) border to border grant applications. Commissioner Glynn attended the Frankford Township meeting on 11/14, the Racine Township meeting on 11/15, Clayton Township meeting on 11/20, and the Grand Meadow

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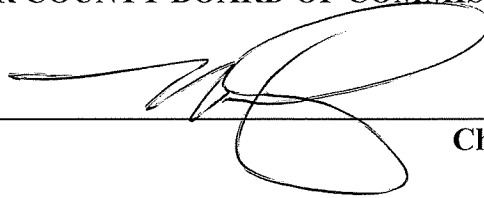
School Board meeting on 11/21. On 11/21 Commissioner Glynn attended the One Watershed One Plan. On 11/21 Commissioners Ankeny, Glynn, Reinartz and Mueller attended the Joint City-County meeting for the discussion of the law enforcement space needs assessment. Commissioner Reinartz attended a Senior Center meeting on 11/17. Commissioner Mueller attended the Udolpho Township meeting on 11/14 and there were some discussions on the FAARM project.

For 2024 planning the Board briefly discussed committee assignments and the board meeting schedule in terms of continuing work sessions only the first Tuesday.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

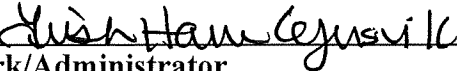
THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____



Chairperson

Attest:

By: 
Clerk/Administrator