

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 12, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session March 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair John Mueller, Vice-Chair Polly Glynn, and Jerry Reinartz. Members excused: Mike Ankeny and Dan Sparks. Also in attendance was County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda with additions under the consent agenda 1) two trucks to the surplus property list and 2) accept gift card donation for the Coffee Connection. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

1. Approve Minutes of February 27 and March 5, 2024;
2. Approve changes to Grow Austin Program:
 - a. Eliminate \$250 level/125% of poverty for family of four;
 - b. Lower 180% award to \$2,000
 - c. Create new 220% award of \$3,000
 - d. Nonmandated benefits do not count toward wage levels
 - e. Jobs must be in place for one-year (use DEED Definition)
 - f. All partners will require 75% of jobs to be 140% of poverty for family of four
 - g. Eliminate job training grant up to \$25,000 – too complicated
3. Declare Surplus Property for disposal, donation to other unit of government, and/or auction:

Quantity	Item	Depart.
1	Checkgate metal detector Model PC9000 Serial# 90210202 (<i>recycle/scrap</i>)	Jail
1	Identix fingerprint scanner Model TPE-3800XCH-HD-MN Serial# ACT098001023 (<i>recycle/scrap</i>)	Jail
3	Spalding basketball hoops, wall mounted, fan-type backboard, cast aluminum, institutional grade (<i>donate</i>)	Jail
1	2007 Ford F150 4x4 Crew Cab (<i>Hamilton Auction</i>)	Public Works
1	2004 Ford F-350 2WD truck (<i>Hamilton Auction</i>)	Public Works

4. Approve late claim for expense reimbursement for employee #1623 (\$40.00)
5. Accept donation of 40 \$50 gift cards from Games People Play for Coffee Connection program. Motion carried.

Jail Administrator James Brown provided the Board with a department update which included the current staffing levels with a note that the average tenure is 6.7 years. The department is focusing on more training and education surpassing the minimum requirement

of 16 hours annually with an average of 49 hours annually. Mr. Brown provided inmate statistics including the average stay per inmate days and the average daily population is 47. The department has started doing the task of civilian fingerprinting matters creating a slight revenue stream. New equipment within the department have included four Zoom/Remote Court Access units and body scanners for body cavity inspections during intake. Both provide staff efficiencies and increased staff safety.

The Board recessed at 9:34 a.m. for the purpose of the Health & Human Services Board.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$167,638.43. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to accept the Women Infant Children (WIC) Grant Allocation through American Rescue Plan Act funding for \$2000 to purchase four HemoCue Hb 301 Analyzers. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson introduced new staff: Jenna Ferris, Case Aide; Laura Guttormson, Case Aide; Nyayow Dong, Community Health Worker and Alyssa Randall, Eligibility Worker.

Community Resource Navigator Alysha Carlisle provided an annual update to the board regarding the program to work with willing inmates in an effort to reduce recidivism. In 2023, Ms. Carlisle assisted 137 individuals involved in the justice system. To date 79% of the Mower County residents that received services have not reoffended. Services remain available to those in the program even when no longer incarcerated in attempts to keep them out of jail. Some of the type of services available include resumes, cover letters, connection to employment services, connection to treatment programs and identification documents. A SOAR initiative has been established which provides a backpack to persons actively engaged in the Community Resource Navigator (CRN) services and support and who have disclosed opiate use which provides essential resources to support the individuals upon their release from jail.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the social service actions. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the following Purchase of Service Agreements:

<u>Guardianship (effective 3/1/24 – 12/31/24)</u>	<u>Housing Support (effective 7/1/24 – 12/31/24)</u>
Southeran MN Guardianship Services	Independent Management Services (1 st & 3 rd Apts.)
Unique Abilities, LLC	

<u>Interpreter (renewal effective 1/1/24-12/31/24)</u>
Parenting Resource Center (Welcome Center)

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 9:58 a.m. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:59 a.m. for regular business items.

The Board recessed at 9:59 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Heather Hughes for new construction of a single-family home located Lot 29, Block 1 River's Edge Addition, LeRoy, MN (PIN 26.070.0290).

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant Heather Hughes was present and spoke on her own behalf. No one else spoke for or against the Heather Hughes housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:02 a.m. regarding the Heather Hughes Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:02 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Dominic Marx for a shouse / replacement dwelling located in Section 7 Township 101 Range 014 S405FT E285.38FT SE 1/4 SE 1/4 LeRoy Township, MN (PIN 09.007.0030).

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant Dominic Marx was not present. No one spoke for or against the Dominic Marx housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:03 a.m. regarding the Dominic Marx Housing Tax Abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:03 a.m.

Date: March 12, 2024

Res. #27-24

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

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 March 12, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Heather Hughes is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 29 Block 1 Rivers Edge Addition, LeRoy, MN (PIN 26.070.0290)

WHEREAS, Heather Hughes has made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on March 12, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Heather Hughes has met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the single-family home.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.
3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the "original value." Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

Passed and approved this 12th day of March, 2024.

Date: March 12, 2024

Res. #28-24

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

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 March 12, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Dominic Marx is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Section 07 Township 101 Range 014 S405FT E285.38FT SE¼ SE¼ LeRoy Twp, MN
(PIN 09.007.0030)

WHEREAS, Dominic Marx has made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on March 12, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Dominic Marx has met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the shouse.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.
3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.

4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the "original value." Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

Passed and approved this 12th day of March, 2024.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Association Of Minnesota Counties	2,407.00	Healthiest You	3,300.00
Austin Community Charitable Fund	60,000.00	Insight Direct USA, Inc	11,885.86
Baudoin Oil Company	25,394.32	J & S Repair Inc	2,057.51
Bright Life House	3,666.94	Midstates Equipment & Supply	5,258.19
CDW Government	13,898.99	Nexus Family Healing	33,542.05
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	57,799.54	Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, P.A.	3,083.68
Corner House	10,500.00	RTVision, Inc.	3,806.25
Dave Lucas Consulting	3,290.00	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	2,901.62
David C Patterson Plumbing LLC	2,426.00	West Central Indexing	19,746.00
Department Of Transportation	13,199.74	60 Payments less than 2000	34,435.34
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	9,544.15	Final Total:	322,143.18

Motion carried.

Date: March 12, 2024

Res. #29-24

RESOLUTION

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 March 12, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police or sheriff departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated there in and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Mower hereby declares that the position of Part-time Deputy, currently held by Kenneth Douglas, meets all of the following Police and Fire Plan membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;

3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest; and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this governing body hereby requests that the named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire Plan salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Passed and approved this 12th day of March, 2024.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Reinartz reported that he had attended the Canvassing Board on 3/8/24 along with Commissioner Sparks. Commissioner Glynn reported that she attended the SCHSAC meeting via Zoom on 3/8/24, the SEMCAC meeting via Zoom on 3/11/24 at which grant funding the new kitchen was discussed and general discussion for the new building. She was unable to attend the SWCD meeting. Commissioner Mueller reported that Fair Board meeting on 3/12/24 there is a new "junior fair board" program.

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik was happy to report that two Border to Border Broadband (B2B) grants were awarded to Mower County. One traditional B2B grant with Charter and one low density B2B grant with Arvig. Combined projects will add over 400 fiber connections including fiber to businesses and residences within the townships of Austin, Frankford, Bennington, Clayton, Racine, Rose Creek, Elkton and Adams as well as Southland School District.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: John T. Mueller Chairperson

Attest:

By: Trish Harren Gjersvik
Clerk/Administrator