REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 28, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the agenda adding 1) Re-appoint Rod Streich as Mower County Veterans Service Officer. Motion carried.

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

1. Approve Minutes of May 14, 2024
2. Motion to approve low quote of Austin Ford Chrysler for the purchase of two 2025 Explorer Active 4WD ($39,900 each) as pool vehicles and declare four pool vehicles as surplus for trade-in and/or sale
   2016 Ford Fusion SE 3FA6P0H72GR368087 (Mileage 81404)
   2016 Ford Fusion SE 3FA6P0H70GR368086 (Mileage 77344)
   2017 Ford Fusion SE 3FA6P0H71HR382564 (Mileage 69600)
   2017 Grand Caravan 2C4RDGBG8HR862107 (Mileage 20400)
3. Resolution to approve Lawful Gambling application of LeRoy Rod & Gun Club
   Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #46-24**

   RESOLUTION

   On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 28, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

   WHEREAS, on May 28, 2024 the LeRoy Rod & Gun Club presented for approval a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Exempt Permit Application for gambling to be conducted at LeRoy Rod & Gun Club located at 10293 State Hwy 56, LeRoy Township, MN on August 3, 2024.

   BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mower County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the LG220 Minnesota Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit Application for gambling at LeRoy Rod & Gun Club located at 10293 State Hwy 56, LeRoy Township, MN on August 3, 2024.

   Passed and adopted this 28th day of May, 2024.
4. Approve Tobacco License Application for Midwest Investments LLC, d/b/a Mini Mart #15 for the period July 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2025.

5. Approve Liquor License Application for Cedar River Country Club, LLC for the period July 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2025.
6. Approve Liquor License Application - Temporary for The Church of St. John of Adams, Minnesota for July 14, 2024.

Motion carried.

Emergency Manager / Operations Manager Amy Bramwell provided a department update. Ms. Bramwell has been involved in training sessions such as Hostile Event Responses, School Reunification and Child Abduction Responses. Applications for grant funding have been successful. The CodeRed alert system has been expanded and have been also involved with the Integrated Public Alert Warning system (IPAWS). The 911 Telecommunicators have been enrolled in Incident Command Structure on-line training classes.

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

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name			Amount
Austin Public Schools ISD #492	7,321.00	Huffman Flooring Design Center			2,765.70
Baudoin Oil Company	22,616.52	Kamphoff/Cindra			5,000.00
Boyer Ford Trucks Inc	2,754.89	Language Line Services			2,264.36
Brightly Software, Inc.	2,509.90	Metro Sales, Inc			2,260.75
CDW Government	18,415.00	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative			246,960.00
Douglas C Bathke Const. LLC	5,255.00	Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc			24,844.41
Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc	20,296.68	Propel Nonprofits			7,500.00
Fox Electric Company	5,240.79	Ronco Engineering Sales, Inc			2,591.30
Gallagher Benefit Services Inc	4,000.00	SGTS Inc			40,880.10
Harty Mechanical Inc	2,949.84	Sign Solutions USA			3,127.35
HemoCue America	2,322.00	60	Payments less than	2000	26,868.67
				Final Total:	**458,744.26**

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the appointment of Shannon Elkin to the Austin/Mower County Homeownership Fund Board to fill a vacancy for term effective to 12/31/26. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the revised Mower County Election Equipment Plan effective May 1, 2024. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:31 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Austin HRA for a single-family home located at Block 1, Lot 2 North Pointe Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.509.0020).

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

The Applicant was not present. No one spoke for or against the Austin HRA housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:32 a.m. regarding the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Austin Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:32 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Andrew Schmitz for a single-family home located at SCHMITZ'S GOLF VIEW ACRES 3RD Lot 002 Block 002, Adams Twp, MN (PIN 01.041.0120).

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

The Applicant Andrew Schmitz was present and spoke on his own behalf in favor of his application. No one else spoke for or against the Andrew Schmitz housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:34 a.m. regarding the Andrew Schmitz Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:34 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Brian Neuvirth for a single-family home located at S½ NW¼ Exc S40FT N700FT W900FT & EXC E350FT W1250FT S220FT N880FT Section 5 Clayton Twp, MN (PIN 04.005.0020).

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

The Applicant Brian Neuvirth was not present. No one spoke for or against the Neuvirth housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:35 a.m. regarding the Brian Neuvirth Housing Tax Abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:35 a.m.

Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #47-24**

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

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 28, 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, Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Austin is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Block 1, Lot 2 North Pointe Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.509.0020)

WHEREAS, Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Austin 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 May 28, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Austin 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 28th day of May, 2024.

Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #48-24**

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 May 28, 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, Andrew Schmitz is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Schmitz's Golf View Acres 3rd Lot 2, Block 2, Adams, Twp (PIN 01.041.0120)

WHEREAS, Andrew Schmitz 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 May 28, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Andrew Schmitz 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 28th day of May, 2024.

Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #49-24**

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

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 28, 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, Brian Neuvirth and Mardjore Neuvirth are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

S½ NW¼ Exc S40FT N700FT W900FT & EXC E350FT W1250FT S220FT N880FT Section 5 Clayton Twp, MN (PIN 04.005.0020)

WHEREAS, Brian Neuvirth and Mardjore Neuvirth have 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 May 28, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Brian Neuvirth and Mardjore Neuvirth have 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 modular 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 28th day of May, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling $212,995.40. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to accept the 2025 Safe Roads Zone Grant effective 6/15/24 – 6/30/25 ($28,800). Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the DataWorks Plus annual software maintenance/service agreement for Livescan equipment effective 6/1/24 – 5/31/25 ($2,411.61). Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to reappoint Rod Streich as the Mower County Veteran Service Officer for a four-year term effective June 15, 2024 through June 14, 2028. Motion carried.

Human Resources Director Kris Kohn presented for the Board's consideration a request for approval of Senior Human Resources Coordinator classification which had been reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the creation of the classification of Senior Human Resources Coordinator which classification has been reviewed by David Drown & Associates and rated C43 on the DMB scale. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the 1 FTE reallocation of a Human Resources Office Technician to the newly created Senior HR Coordinator in Human Resources. Motion carried.

Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #50-24**

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 May 28, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Mower County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1053715 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

> To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use and maintenance of County State Aid Highway No. 11 and County Road No. 53, and County State Aid Highway No. 12 during the construction as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 56 from 478' west of County Road 56 to 1353' East of County Road 12 under State Project No. 5005-68 (T.H. 56=081).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mower County Board Chair and the Mower County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Passed and approved this 28th day of May, 2024.

Date: May 28, 2024 **Res. #51-24**

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 28, 2024, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County has reviewed the pertinent data on bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal; and has determined that Bridge 50513 and Bridge 50514 are obsolete, deficient, and require attention, and

WHEREAS, local roads play an essential role in the overall State transportation network and local bridges are the critical component of the local roadway system, and

WHEREAS, State support for the replacement of local bridges continues to be crucial to maintaining the integrity of the local roadway system and is necessary for Mower County to proceed with the replacement of the following bridges, and

Old Bridge Number	Road Number and Name	Crossing	LPI	Total Project Cost	Federal Funds Requested	Local or State Aid Funds	Proposed Construction Year
50513	CSAH 7 (660th Avenue)	North Branch Root River	63	$1,400,000	$1,050,000	$350,000	2025-26
50514	CSAH 7 (280th Street)	Stream	49	$1,400,000	$1,050,000	$350,000	2025-26

BE IT RESOLVED that Bridge 50513 and Bridge 50514 are high priority and Mower County intends to replace these bridges as soon as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mower County does hereby request authorization to replace, these bridges, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mower County does hereby request financial assistance with eligible bridge and approach costs for these bridges, as provided by law.

Passed and approved this 28th day of May, 2024.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny noted that he and Commissioner Mueller attended a Solid Waste Committee meeting on 5/10 and the Joint City/County meeting on 5/15. Commissioner Ankeny noted he attended the Austin Mower County Homeownership Fund Board on 5/21 and the special Charles Bump veteran memorial service on 5/22 and on 5/23 along with Commissioner Glynn attended a meeting with Integrity Group regarding building space needs master plan. Commissioner Reinartz reported that he as well as Commissioner Mueller attended a Personnel Committee meeting on 5/14. Commissioner Reinartz also had attended the Senior Center Board meeting on 5/17. Commissioner Sparks reported that he attended the legislative wrap-up meeting on 5/22. Commissioner Mueller reaffirmed his attendance at the meetings mentioned by the other commissioners. He also had attended several of the Memorial Day services. Commissioner Glynn reported that she attended the SMART meeting on 5/16 and affirmed her attendance at the meeting with the Integrity Group on 5/23.

There was a brief discussion concerning tree removal at the fairgrounds.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: John D. Mueller **Chairperson**

Attest:

By: Trish Harren-Lewison
Clerk/Administrator