

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

July 2, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on July 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, 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.

Dr. Reichard & Monica Kendall from the Southern MN Regional Medical Examiner's Office provided the Board with the annual Medical Examiners report for 2023. The report included information pertaining to 358 deaths in the County of which 324 were reported to the Medical Examiner (91%) and included statistics as to the cause of death, manner of death, related to an injury, etc. A full report is available in the office of County Administration.

Under Miscellaneous / Other Discussion Commissioner Glynn reported on the decommissioned wind turbine blades that have been stored on the Warmka property in Grand Meadow in violation of Grand Meadow ordinance. The original company hired to take the blades went bankrupt. Grand Meadow is moving forward with the abatement process. Commissioner Glynn has contacted Governor Walz's offices concerning the downside of the wind clean energy initiatives if plans for the disposal of the large components of wind turbines are not incorporated into the agreements for the construction of the wind farms.

County Administrator Trish Gjersvik reported that Administration and Human Resources has been meeting with a company to explore health care options that may better manage the rising costs for health care for both the county and the employee. The option being explored will be to self-manage our care rather than participating in a pool with other counties, cities and schools as we have been. Self-managing and education may help to reduce the overall health care costs that are driven up by the few employees but that affects all. Finance Committee will review options.

The work session concluded at 2:08 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: John T. Mueller Chairperson

Attest:

By: Trish Harren Gjersvik
Clerk/Administrator