

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 27, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session August 27, 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 under Human Resources business 1) Discuss approve the addition of a Facilities Lead Tech Position and 2) Discuss approve the elimination of the Facilities Supervisor Position. Motion carried.

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

1. Approve Minutes of August 13, 2024
2. Approve Fireworks Permit Application of Deer Creek Speedway for a display 8/31/24 (rain date 9/1/24)
3. Approve late claim for expense reimbursement for employee #5107 (\$25.46)
4. Set the date for the Employee Recognition Breakfast (for years of service) -September 24, 2024 @ 7:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Sheriff Steve Sandvik provided a department update to the board that was a brief synopsis of 2024 activities in the jail, patrol, dispatch, records and emergency management. A few highlights of the Sheriff's report are included here. In the last year 2 deputies have been hired and there have been 13,791 calls for service with the highest call volumes traffic stops (3508) and for motor vehicle reports (1056). The Sheriff's office provides contracted services for the Cities of Adams, LeRoy and Lyle. For the Jail the average population has been about 49 with an average stay per inmate of 14 days and there have been 1398 bookings in the past year. Through a grant, there has been enhanced radio coverage for the Cities of Lyle and Grand Meadow. Public Safety Answering Point (dispatch) has taken 62,488 calls in the last calendar year averaging 172 calls per day and 2 minutes each. Emergency Management has been busy due to the weather-related disasters (flooding and wind) early this summer.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Southeastern MN EMS Medical Direction Agreement (as reviewed and edited by the County Attorney) for sheriff office medical direction and CPR training. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 9:38 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:38 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of New Horizon Homes LLC for a single-family home located at Lot 1, Block 2 Nature Ridge Third, Austin, MN (PIN 34.468.0210)

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

The Applicant New Horizon Homes was not present. No one spoke for or against the New Horizon Homes housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:39 a.m. regarding the New Horizon Homes Housing Tax Abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:39 a.m.

Date: August 27, 2024

Res. #67-24

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

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held August 27, 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, NATURE RIDGE PROPERTIES OF AUSTIN CO (Seller) is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 1, Block 2 Nature Ridge Third, Austin, MN (PIN 34.468.0210)

WHEREAS, New Horizon Homes, LLC (Buyer) 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 August 27, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, NATURE RIDGE PROPERTIES OF AUSTIN CO (Seller) and New Horizon Homes, LLC (Buyer) 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 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 27th day of August, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$184,457.63. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, 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>
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc	8,412.58	Marston Consulting Group, LLC	5,000.00
Anoka County Corrections	12,260.75	Mayo Clinic	2,491.00
Austin Automotive LLC	3,128.68	MEI Total Elevator Solutions	4,772.02
Austin Automotive LLC	57,140.64	MEIGS Paving	57,845.32
Austin Automotive LLC	47,055.94	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	2,450.50
Austin Automotive LLC	50,270.27	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooper	2,281.93
Baudoin Oil Company	22,437.14	North Risk Partners LLC	50,000.00
CDW Government	27,891.06	Olmsted Co Public Health	2,000.00
CivicPlus, LLC	4,194.01	Rochester Ford	46,742.00
Department Of Corrections	35,340.00	Rochester Ford	46,742.00
Freeborn County	7,153.54	Rohl Electric and Services LLC	3,490.47
Gallagher Benefit Services Inc	4,000.00	TRUCKIN'AMERICA	4,675.00
General Parts, LLC	2,813.77	True North Psychology & Consulting	4,458.19
Hassan, PLC/Jeffrey A	6,294.80	Ulland Brothers Inc.	4,574.82
J & S Repair Inc	3,760.28	54 Payments less than 2000	30,297.83
Jim's Excavation LLC	11,500.00	Final Total:	571,474.54

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the overall low quote with trade-in values to purchase a new Veterans Service van from Rochester Ford (\$65,207.00) trading-in the 2017 Dodge Caravan and the 2012 GMC Van and using grant and ARPA funding for the balance. Motion carried.

Date: August 27, 2024

Proclamation #02-24

Proclamation

On motion of Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Proclamation was unanimously passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held August 27, 2024 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS: Mower County's success depends on making sure that all residents feel welcome. New residents are a vital part of our community — bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we all value; and

WHEREAS: During the week of September 13 to September 22, we will celebrate the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together across Mower County. During Welcoming Week, all residents of Mower County are invited to join this movement of communities nationwide by renewing our commitment to our core American values and by taking action in the spirit of welcoming. By working together, we can achieve greater prosperity and make Mower County a place where people from around the world feel valued and want to put down roots; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of where we are born or what we look like, we are residents united in our efforts to build a stronger community. By recognizing the contributions that we all make to create a vibrant culture and a growing economy, we make our community more prosperous and more inclusive to all who call it home;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Mueller, Mower County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim September 13 through September 22, 2024 as

WELCOMING WEEK 2024

and call upon the people of Mower County to join together to build stronger communities across our county.

Proclaimed, passed and adopted this 27th day of August, 2024.

Human Resources Director Kris Kohn informed the Board that the Personnel Committee has reviewed the Facilities Department position descriptions and duties and is recommending restructuring the department by adding a position of Facilities Manager and Facilities Lead position and eliminating the position of Facilities Supervisor.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve a new classification of Facilities Manager rated at C52 and to approve the addition of one FTE in the Facilities department. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve a new classification of Facilities Lead Technician rated at B23. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve eliminating the classification of Facilities Supervisor. Motion carried.

Clay Cameron of NextEra provided the Board with an update on the Dodge Wind Project. The project is moving forward following the 7 – 8 years in planning development. Currently local permitting is being obtained. The project will consist of 77 turbines in Steele (12) and Dodge (65) counties. Only transmission lines will be located in Mower County. Construction is slated to commence in May/June of 2025.

Public Works Director Michal Hanson brought several items before the Board for approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the purchase of the Broce Model RCT-350 Broom from Road Machinery & Supplies Co. (\$80,190) with a trade-in of the 2002 Broce Broom Model RJ350 (\$12,000). Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the honored previous low quote from Austin Ford Chrysler for the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer 4WD (\$39,990). (Insurance proceeds (\$28,216) for totaled vehicle will be used to offset the new vehicle purchase. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to award the low bid of Sir Lines-A-Lot for striping project CP 50-24-07 (\$237,800) and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the quote of J&S Repair, Inc. for the purchase of a new FLX-1510 Flex Arm (\$30,000) and RDX-117 Snow Blower (\$29,900) and trade-in current mower unit #24 – 2011 John Deere model 5430 (\$53,900). Net purchase price \$6,000. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Glynn reported that she and Commissioner Ankeny attended Finance Committee meetings for the purpose of working on the 2025 proposed budget and levy 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15 and 8/16. Commissioner Glynn also attended the FAARM listening session held on 8/22 (also attended by Commissioner Ankeny and Commissioner Mueller). Commissioner Sparks reported attending a Building & Grounds committee meeting on 8/14 (also attended by Commissioner Glynn) and on 8/15 he attended a SE Trails Committee meeting and the canvassing board on 8/16. Commissioner

Reinartz reported he attended the Personnel Committee meeting on 8/13 (along with Commissioner Mueller) and the canvassing board on 8/16. Commissioner Ankeny affirmed his attendance at the Finance Committee meetings and the FAARM meeting as reported by Commissioner Glynn and attended a Joint City/County meeting on 8/21 along with Commissioner Mueller. Commissioner Mueller reported attending a Solid Waste Committee meeting on 8/22 and affirmed his attendance at Personnel 8/13, Joint City/County 8/21 and FAARM 8/22.

County Attorney Kristen Nelsen reported that the County Attorney's office attending the National Night Out event as a participant was successful. The department connected with many people and children in the community in a positive way.

The Board recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to enter closed session (Pursuant to MS §13.D05 subd 3(b)) at 10:55 a.m. for a discussion regarding Tom Buxton v. Mower County, et al. litigation with assigned council. Motion carried.

Closed session concluded at 11:43 a.m.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m. The next meeting is a work session scheduled for September 4, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: John D. Mueller Chairperson

Attest:

By: Gresh Ceyersik
Clerk/Administrator