

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 22, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session October 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair John Mueller, Vice-Chair Polly Glynn (9:05), 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 Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agenda adding 1) Late claim for expense reimbursement for Employee #0204 (\$317.58) and Memorandum of Understanding for computer forensic services with Houston County serving as fiscal agent and manager. Motion carried.

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

1. Approve Minutes of October 8, 2024.
2. Approve late claim for payment for employee #0204 (\$317.58)

Motion carried.

Regional Director Lisa Dierks and 4-H Educators Adam Stevermer and Jessica Moreno provided the Board with a University of Minnesota Extension department update. Highlights of the report included an increase in membership with an increase in first generation new members and developing members into learners and leaders. Activities included regional camps, workshops and a soccer program. There was good participation in the County fair and there was even a grand champion winner at State.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota for providing Extension programs locally and employing extension staff effective 1/1/25 through 12/31/27. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$282,366.56. 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 9:30 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Bigelow & Lennon Construction for a single-family home located at Lot 2 EXC E90FT, Block 1 Oak Ridge Addition, Austin, MN (PIN 34.523.0025)

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

The Applicant Bigelow & Lennon Construction was not present. No one spoke for or against the Bigelow & Lennon Construction housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:32 a.m. regarding the Bigelow & Lennon Construction Housing Tax Abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:32 a.m.

Date: October 22, 2024

Res. #86-24

**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 October 22, 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, Bigelow & Lennon Construction is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 2 EXC E90FT, Block 1 Oak Ridge Addition, Austin, MN (PIN 34.523.0025)

WHEREAS, Bigelow & Lennon Construction 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 October 22, 2024 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Bigelow & Lennon Construction 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 22nd day of October, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, 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>
Austin Automotive LLC	6,026.50	Jim's Truck & Trailer	2,758.60
Baudoin Oil Company	36,958.22	Mayo Clinic -Rochester	33,052.26
Bureau Of Criminal Apprehension	3,240.00	Midstates Equipment & Supply	10,600.00
CDW Government	8,078.38	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	4,844.50
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	57,975.60	Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc	10,702.17
Dakota County Financial Services	4,015.00	Schmidt Goodman Office Products Inc.	34,469.63
Department Of Corrections	34,200.00	SE Minnesota EMS	3,723.00
Development Corp Of Austin	80,000.00	SeaChange Print Innovations	6,729.15
Diamond Drugs, Inc.	3,277.86	Syerson Truck Center/Dave	5,413.92
Dolan's Landscape Center, Inc	10,917.99	The Master's Touch, LLC	9,600.00
Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc	35,647.99	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	2,287.84
Evans Publishing & Printing Inc	2,453.68	TOWMASTER	2,038.16
Fjetland/Tara	3,850.40	True North Psychology & Consulting LLC	7,478.93
Gallagher Benefit Services Inc	4,000.00	Ulland Brothers Inc.	5,691.00
Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	4,801.24	Village Ranch Inc	8,425.80
Imaging Spectrum, Inc.	2,078.44	59 Payments less than 2000	30,922.48
		Final Total:	476,258.74

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County Attorneys in the Minnesota Third Judicial District indicating that Houston County will serve as the fiscal agent and manager for the Congressionally Directed Funding for computer forensic services effective 10/9/24 – 3/9/27 and authorize the county attorney to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the CliftonLarsonAllen statement of work for the 2024 audit. Motion carried.

Finance Manager Loni Swenson presented to the Board the third quarter financial statement and investment report and the Board of Commissioners acknowledged the receipt of the reports.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agreement with Center for Internet Security for Endpoint Security Services (CrowdStrike). Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports, Commissioner Ankeny reported that he had attend the Association of Minnesota Counties District IX meeting on 10/21 (also reported as attended by Commissioner Reinartz, Commissioner Mueller and Commissioner Glynn). Commissioner Glynn reported she attended the Southland daycare project meetings via zoom on 10/8 and on 10/15. On 10/10 via zoom she attended via zoom both the SE MN Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board meeting and the Soil and Water Conservation District meeting. On 10/14 via zoom she attended the SEMCAC meeting. Commissioner Glynn reported that several LeRoy businesses have applied for loan assistance. Commissioner Mueller reported that on 10/9 both he and Commissioner Ankeny attended the Administrator's senior leadership meeting. On 10/14 Commissioner Mueller attended the SE MN Emergency Communications Joint Powers Board meeting.

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik reported that the Austin School District has requested a joint meeting sometime in the spring of 2025. A date to be determined.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2024 Work Session at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

John B. Mueller

Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____

Trish Harren Gjersvik

Clerk/Administrator