

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

November 5, 2024

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on November 5, 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.

Turtle Creek Watershed District Treasurer Jon Erichson presented a Turtle Creek Watershed District (TCWD) Annual Update. Twenty percent (20%) of the watershed is in Mower County and the remaining in Freeborn County. In addition to drainage projects, the TCWD removes fallen trees from the waterway.

Midco Fixed Wireless Operations Manager Rick Kroll presented information to the Board regarding the Midco fixed asset internet service option for Mower County residents. With federal grant fund and Midco investment, the company has established 7 locations that could serve up to \$15,000 households that are currently unserved or underserved. The purpose of the presentation was to increase awareness of Midco as an alternative for locations where fiber broadband is unlikely to be built out.

Deputy Administrator Valerie Sheedy provided the Board information pertaining to the agreement between Mower County and SKB regarding host fees. The five-year agreement expires soon and needs to be re-negotiated. SKB collects industrial solid waste and construction and demolition debris.

The county has legislative authorization to collect fees from landfills through two methods. One is a direct negotiation of fees and secondly is to pass an ordinance that establishes fees. If by ordinance, all collected fees go into a Landfill Trust Account with limited use options. The current agreement is based on negotiated fees. Both the county and SKB would prefer to negotiate host fees. Trust Account rates are established as a fallback in the event the parties are unable to negotiate fees. The funds received from either method are dedicated to solid waste. Deputy Administrator Sheedy will bring a motion to the Board at the November 12th meeting to set Trust Account rates in Fee Schedule for Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) and Industrial Solid Waste (ISW) and authorize staff to negotiate a Host Fee Agreement with SKB.

Human Resources Director Kristina Kohn presented training materials to the Commissioners regarding setting elected official salaries. Ms. Kohn provided reference for the statutory duties of the elected officials of sheriff, attorney and auditor-treasurer.

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Annually the Board sets by resolution elected officials' salaries based on experience, qualifications and performance.

Under Miscellaneous / Other Discussion the Board briefly discussed the ribbon cutting event of the 1st & 3rd Apartments and the annual Ag Society meeting at which elections were held for the board positions. It was also noted that the appreciation event for Foster Care parents would be hosted by Health and Human Services staff later today. The event is noticed so that all commissioners may attend.

The work session concluded at 2:30 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: John D. Mueller Chairperson

Attest:

By: Deush Hanne Ghusik
Clerk/Administrator