

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

February 4, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on February 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy presented to the Board for discussion a proposed amendment to the Housing Tax Abatement Policy to clarify which housing projects qualify for a housing tax abatement. The proposed amendments clarify what “replacement of dilapidated” means with “salvage value” as it relates with the policy purpose of adding housing to grow the Mower County tax base. An additional proposed amendment serves to provide equity between the allowable attached garage space to include in the abatement for both single-family homes and shouses. The Board discussed the proposed amendments and the proposed amendments further outlined during the discussion will be presented to the Board for possible approval on February 11.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum presented to the Board for discussion possible options pertaining to the replacement of the Chip Spreader shared with the City of Austin. The pros and cons of whether to purchase, rent or repair the chip spreader were discussed. Also presented for discussion were the options to contract out chip sealing or discontinuing the practice of chip sealing the roadways. A discussion followed. The County Engineer will present to the Board on February 11 a recommendation to purchase a new chip spreader with the cost of purchase split with the City of Austin.

The Board recognized Director of Land Records Taxpayer Services Joy Kanne for serving Mower County 26 years. Joy Kanne is resigning on February 7, 2025 and taking a position with the State of Iowa. The Board wished Joy well on her future endeavors.

The County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik reviewed the Organizational Chart with the Board due to the vacancy created with Ms. Kanne's position. The Administrator recommends not filling the position and the division will be absorbed under the direction of the Deputy Administrator Valerie Sheedy.

The County Administrator brought to the attention the Governor's Proposed Budget and the potential impacts on Mower County services and its local budget levy based on the proposed budget if adopted. The department that will feel the largest impact will be Health and Human Services. The Association of Minnesota Counties is working on collecting data on the expected impact to the counties based on the proposed budget in order to provide a

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

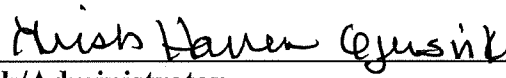
consolidated response to the legislators of the negative impact on the counties. The Commissioners are encouraged to attend the Association of Minnesota Counties' policy committee meetings for outlining legislative priorities.

The work session concluded at 2:37 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY:  Chairperson

Attest:

By: 
Clerk/Administrator