

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

April 1, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on April 1, 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 (*excused until arrival at 1:37*) and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen and County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Southern Minnesota Law Enforcement Liaison Scott McConkey appeared before the Mower County Board to present DWI enforcement recognition awards to Mower County Deputy Sheriffs who have demonstrated exemplary performance. Mr. McConkey on behalf of the Office of Traffic Safety recognized the leadership of Mower County for impaired driving enforcement for both alcohol and drug impairment. Deputy Sheriff Jamie Meyer has become an expert and has been sharing his knowledge training other Mower County deputies and deputies in other counties as well. Their impactful work makes them secret heroes as they remove impaired drivers from the road with a totally unknown statistic of how many lives they saved in doing this work. Traffic Safety Officer Deputy Michael Lacore was presented with the Hat Trick award for making three impaired driving arrests in one shift. Patrol Sergeant Brady Rueb and Deputy Jamie Meyer (*unable to attend*) were presented with the DWI All Star award. The Board thanked the officers for their outstanding work to provide safety on the Mower County roadways.

GIS Administrator Eric Miller and GIS Technician Keith Bollinger presented to the Board the newly created Housing Tax Abatement Dashboard and Online Application. The new process creates a unique overview of the program from its inception in 2016 through 2023 with the 2024 data still being added. The online application process will increase staff efficiency and accuracy in processing the applications and the abatements.

The Board discussed the SE MN Emergency Communications Joint Powers Board Sustainability Plan. Commissioner Mueller noted that Olmsted County has been serving as the administrator and fiscal agent for the joint powers board since it was created without any compensation for the staff time involved. The Olmsted County staff member is planning on retirement and it is an opportune time to review the process. Olmsted County is willing to continue to serve as the administrator/fiscal agent of the joint powers board. The other twelve counties participating in the joint powers board have expressed their potential willingness to financially contribute towards the staff time provided by Olmsted County with an increase in annual dues to \$4,334 (from the current \$1000). Each county is presenting the proposal to their respective Boards for review and approval. If our board approves, there will be an additional payment in 2025 of \$3,334 to the SE MN Emergency Communications

Joint Power Board. This item will be brought to the next Board meeting for review and approval.

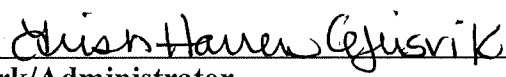
Under Miscellaneous / Other Discussion it was noted that the public meetings surrounding the 2045 Comp Plan have been going well and there has been a significant increase in the number of completed surveys since the postcard reminder was mailed. Federal budget cuts continue to be a concern especially for Health & Human Services. Currently the outcomes are indeterminate until more information is received. The Board expressed "thank you" and "you'll be missed" to County Administrator Trish Gjersvik in response to her notice of resignation effective April 26. Deputy County Administrator Val Sheedy reported that the Dodge Wind project is on hold due to one of its permits expiring on April 1st before they were able to begin the project. Lastly, Commissioner Glynn indicated that the strategic planning update meetings went well. They reviewed the county mission, vision, values and strategic imperatives, as well as set one county-wide goal for each of the five strategic imperatives. Riverland Community College Customized Educator Peggy Young facilitated the strategic plan update and will provide an updated strategic plan document.

The work session concluded at 1:53 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY:  Chairperson

Attest:

By: 
Clerk/Administrator