

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 13, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Polly Glynn, Vice-Chair Dan Sparks, Jerry Reinartz, Mike Ankeny and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Administrator Matthew W. Verdick and County Attorney Kristen Nelsen.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda adding 1) ratify the County Administrator employment contract with Matthew Verdick and deleting 1) Human Resources Business. Motion carried.

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

1. Approve Minutes of April 22 and May 6, 2025
2. Acknowledge Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Approve Cannabis Joint Powers Agreement for City of Lyle, Nevada Township, and Udolpho Township
4. Approve the City of Dexter's request for temporary road closure: Close Main Street (CSAH #7) from Pleasant Street to Front Street on Saturday, June 14 for Sunflower Daze Celebration
5. Approve the GIS Canon ipf785 plotter and colortrac scanner as surplus property for recycling by the vendor
6. Resolution to approve MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit application of DAV Mayo Southeast Chapter 28

**Date: May 13, 2025**

**Res. #22-25**

**RESOLUTION**

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 13, 2025 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2025 the DAV Mayo Southeast Chapter 28 presented for approval a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for gambling to be conducted at Deercreek Speedway located at Frankford Twp, Mower County on August 9, 2025.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mower County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit Application for gambling at Deercreek Speedway located at Frankford Twp, Mower County on August 9, 2025.

Passed and adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

7. Approve write-off of 2024 benefits totaling \$1038.93 detailed transactions as follows:

| AccountNumber        | AccountDescription | CurrentBalance |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 01-000-000-0000-2052 | Medical Flex       | (2,643.97)     |
| 11-000-000-0000-2052 | Medical Flex       | 1,808.55       |
| 01-000-000-0000-2053 | Dependent Care     | 0.01           |

**COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

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|                      |                |                 |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 13-000-000-0000-2053 | Dependent Care | (0.01)          |
| 01-000-000-0000-2054 | Cobra/LOA 2023 | 325.29          |
| 11-000-000-0000-2054 | COBRA/LOA 2023 | 22.76           |
| 01-000-000-0000-2055 | Cobra/LOA      | 447.96          |
| 11-000-000-0000-2055 | Cobra/LOA      | (324.22)        |
| 01-000-000-0000-2056 | VEBA           | (0.09)          |
| 01-000-000-0000-2057 | HSA            | (176.76)        |
| 11-000-000-0000-2057 | HSA            | (169.10)        |
| 13-000-000-0000-2057 | HSA            | 129.17          |
|                      |                | <u>(580.41)</u> |

|                      |                      |                   |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 01-000-000-0000-2050 | Health Insurance     | (443.59)          |
| 01-000-000-0000-2050 | Health Ins Rounding  | (7.78)            |
| 11-000-000-0000-2050 | Health Ins Rounding  | (6.41)            |
| 13-000-000-0000-2050 | Health Ins Rounding  | (0.04)            |
| 17-000-000-0000-2050 | Health Ins Rounding  | (0.70)            |
|                      | Total 2024 Write off | <u>(1,038.93)</u> |

Motion carried.

Commissioner Glynn reported that an employment agreement had been reached with Matthew Verdick for the position of Mower County Administrator. The agreement was executed and effective May 7. The request is for the Board to ratify the agreement.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to ratify the County Administrator employment agreement with Matthew Verdick effective May 7, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the commissioner warrants for payment:

| <u>Vendor Name</u>                    | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Vendor Name</u>                      | <u>Amount</u>       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc | 38,615.36     | Klein McCarthy Architects               | 13,827.64           |
| Austin Daily Herald                   | 2,054.25      | Madden Galanter Hansen, PLLC            | 4,719.10            |
| Ayres Associates Inc                  | 126,700.00    | Mayo Clinic -Rochester                  | 33,749.15           |
| Baudoin Oil Company                   | 38,144.70     | MCHS SE Minnesota                       | 3,858.50            |
| Bauer Built Tire                      | 8,744.48      | Med City Painting & Decorating, Inc     | 2,850.00            |
| CDW Government                        | 5,314.82      | MEI Total Elevator Solutions            | 24,875.00           |
| Cedar Valley Services, Inc            | 64,003.61     | Metro Sales, Inc                        | 27,386.08           |
| CES Imaging                           | 9,245.00      | Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance       | 3,169.00            |
| Consolidated Correctional Foodservice | 20,640.22     | Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative | 6,724.35            |
| Dave Lucas Consulting                 | 3,337.50      | MN Department Of Corrections            | 20,400.00           |
| Dell Marketing L P                    | 12,057.35     | Motorola Solutions Inc                  | 10,200.00           |
| Department Of Transportation          | 13,705.58     | Office Of Mn It Services                | 2,008.71            |
| Driftless Pathways, LLC               | 20,068.00     | Recycling Association Of Minnesota      | 5,320.00            |
| Erickson Engineering Co., LLC         | 11,902.50     | Rohl Electric and Services LLC          | 17,799.66           |
| Fjetland/Tara                         | 2,848.31      | SunSource                               | 3,723.81            |
| Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.  | 11,213.24     | Syverson Truck Center/Dave              | 3,143.71            |
| Freshworks Inc                        | 10,002.04     | Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center     | 2,209.75            |
| Games People Play                     | 5,640.00      | Uhl Company Inc                         | 2,670.00            |
| Greenman HVAC, Inc.                   | 2,046.60      | Village Ranch Inc                       | 8,150.70            |
| Harty Mechanical Inc                  | 2,464.09      | Zarnoth Brush Works, Inc.               | 2,520.00            |
| Hiller Commercial Floors              | 2,088.00      | Ziegler, Inc                            | 421,414.62          |
| Hope Haven Inc                        | 2,405.18      | 86 Payments less than                   | 52,155.19           |
| Kamphoff/Cindra                       | 19,750.00     |                                         |                     |
|                                       |               | <b>Final Total:</b>                     | <b>1,105,865.80</b> |

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the renewal application of Chateau Speedway 1956 LLC for a Full Liquor—On Sale Seasonal liquor license effective May 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the renewal application of Cedar River Country Club for a Full Liquor—On and Sunday liquor license effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the renewal application of Freeborn County Coop Oil Co for a tobacco license effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the renewal application of NuWay-K&H Cooperative d/b/a LeRoy Cenex for a tobacco license effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the renewal application of AMA Corp. d/b/a BEAR's for a tobacco license effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Lease Agreement with Ben Farrell to Hay on Tax Forfeited Property 34.839.0150 effective May 13, 2025 – December 1, 2025 (\$1.00) Motion carried.

Judy Oswald, Veteran Services Office Technician, was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 27 years of service.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum presented bid information received for bridge reconstruction projects SAP 050-599-179, SAP 050-599-186, SAP 050-599-188, and SAP 050-599-189.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the SAP 050-599-179 project to Alcon Excavating, Inc. with the low bid \$207,408.75 and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to award the SAP 050-599-186 project to Midwest Contracting, LLC with the low bid \$127,676.50 and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to award the SAP 050-599-188 project to Alcon Excavating, Inc. with the low bid \$143,773.75 and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to award the SAP 050-599-189 project to Alcon Excavating, Inc. with the low bid \$192,695.25 and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, in order to comply with MN Statute, to reappoint Mitch Wenum as the Mower County Engineer for 4-year term effective May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2029 pending successful completion of his probationary period. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 9:24 a.m. for the purpose of the Health & Human Services Board.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

Fiscal Services Supervisor Trisha Blaser presented Health & Human Services accounts payable for approval in the amount of \$217,051.08 noting expected reimbursement is \$110,003.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$217,051.08. Motion carried.

Health & Human Services Director Crystal Peterson, reported to the Board that the Fraud Prevention Investigation Grant with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families Focus from the MN Department of Human Services will be used to support a .5 FTE in the department as approved by the Board at the meeting held on April 22 which approved moving the service provider in-house and approving a position description.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the Fraud Prevention Investigation Grant in the amount of \$88,514.00 for SFY 2026-2027. Motion carried.

The Austin Rotary Club would like to make a donation to the Mower County Community Resource Navigator program to further support a successful discharge for individuals that are released from jail and do not qualify for the SOAR bags funded by opioid funds. This donation was in honor of Quarter 1 speakers at the Rotary club meetings.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Austin Rotary Club donation in the amount of \$325.00 for the Community Resource Navigator program to provide SOAR bags for individuals released from jail that do not qualify for the SOAR bags funded by opioid funds. Motion carried.

Under department updates, Lisa Ganser was introduced; Public Health Division Manager Pam Kellogg provided an update on the Community Health Assessment 2025-2029 (being completed in partnership with Mayo) noting that Allison Scott is presenting to community organizations and developing the work plan that will be presented to MN DHS for approval; Crystal Peterson indicated that the department is still waiting to see the full impact on services and mandated services due to state and federal budget adjustments.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 9:46 a.m. Motion carried.

**COUNTY BOARD**

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:47 a.m. for regular business items.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported that on 4/29 he attended the Personnel Committee first round of interviews for the position of County Administrator and on 5/12 he attended a building committee meeting. Commissioner Mueller reported that on 4/14 he attended the SE MN Mergency Communications Joint Powers Board, on 4/23 and 4/24 Finance Committee meetings, on 4/30 the Comprehensive Planning meeting in Grand Meadow, on 5/3 he provided a welcome address at the Marine Corp conference held in Austin; on 5/6 he attended both the Board meeting with interviews and the Fair Board meeting, on 5/7 he met with the Regional Director for UoM Extension, and on 5/12 the building committee meeting. Commissioner Glynn reported that on 4/23 & 4/24 she attended Finance Committee meetings; on 4/30 the Comprehensive Planning meeting at Grand Meadow; on 5/6 the board meeting with interviews; on 5/7 a Finance Committee meeting; on 5/8 Safety Committee meeting; and on 5/12 SEMCAC meeting. Commissioner Sparks reported that on 4/29 he attended the Personnel Committee first round of interviews for the position of County Administrator.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Matthew Simon to construct a single-family replacement home located at W1/2 E2/3 NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 12 Adams Twp (PIN 01.011.0130).

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval noting that the applicant is working with Environmental Services for appropriate permits.

The Applicant Matthew Simon was not present. No one spoke for or against the Simon housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:01 a.m. regarding the Simon Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:01 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Matthew Slowinski to construct a single-family replacement home located at 19.77AC Bldg Site S1/2 NE1/4 Section 21 Sargeant Twp (Doc#680365) (PIN 17.021.0010)

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval noting that the applicant is working with Environmental Services for appropriate permits.

The Applicant Matthew Slowinski was present and spoke on his on behalf in favor of his application. No one else spoke for or against the Slowinski housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m. regarding the Matthew Slowinski Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:04 a.m. regarding a proposal to Repeal Mower County Ordinance adopted 1/27/1976 for "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota."

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy reviewed the proposed ordinance and recommended approval.

No one spoke for or against the proposed ordinance to repeal the Ordinance adopted 1/27/1976 for "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota."

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:09 a.m. regarding repealing the Code of the County Ordinance.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:09 a.m.

**Date: May 13, 2025**

**Res. #23-25**

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

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 13, 2025 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, Matthew Simon is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

W1/2 E2/3 NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 12 Adams Twp (PIN 01.011.0130)

WHEREAS, Matthew Simon 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 May 13, 2025 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Matthew Simon 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 replacement 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

**Date: May 13, 2025**

**Res. #24-25**

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

On motion of Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 13, 2025 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, Matthew Slowinski is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

19.77AC Bldg Site S1/2 NE1/4 Section 21 Sargeant Twp (Doc#680365) (PIN 17.021.0010)

WHEREAS, Matthew Slowinski 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 May 13, 2025 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Matthew Slowinski 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 replacement 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

**Date: May 13, 2025**

**Ord. #03-25**

**ORDINANCE**

**Repeal "The Code of the County", adopted 1/24/1976**

On motion of Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Ordinance was unanimously passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 13, 2025 at the Mower County Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, By Resolution 11-76 adopted 1/27/76 the County revised, codified, adopted and had printed in book form entitled "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota" on file with the County Auditor, special laws, ordinances, resolutions, and rules in force in the county as of November 26, 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, Provisions of "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota" are antiquated; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinances have been regularly adopted and amended since 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, adopted Ordinances have been posted to the Mower County website; and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Intention to hold a public hearing to repeal "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota" was published in Mower County's official newspaper, the *Austin Daily Herald*, on May 3, 2025 and in the Mower County Independent on May 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on May 13, 2025, before the Mower County Board of Commissioners at which any concerned citizen was given an opportunity to speak on the matter; and

**WHEREAS**, No one spoke in favor or opposed to the proposed change;

**BE IT ORDAINED** "The Code of the County of Mower, Minnesota" is hereby repealed; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that Mower County affirms the following existing ordinances which are in effect today and published on the Mower County website shall be construed as in continued active operation:

- Airport Zoning Ordinance
- Buffer Ordinance
- Cannabis Ordinance
- Cannabis Use in Public Places
- Cleanup of Clandestine Drug Lab Sites Ordinance
- Mini Truck Ordinance
- Regulate the Sale of Controlled Dangerous Substances Ordinance
- Regulated Animal Ordinance
- Right of Way Ordinance
- Septic Ordinance
- Social Host Ordinance
- Solid Waste Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Tobacco Ordinance

- Zoning Ordinance
  - Adult Use Ordinance
  - Agricultural Soil Erosion
  - Board of Adjustment
  - Floodplain Management Ordinance
  - Outdoor Advertising
  - Planning Commission & Zoning Administrator
  - Utility and Essential Services
  - Shoreland Provisions
  - Special Requirements for Wind & Solar
  - Zoning Map

; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that references to chapters of the repealed Code of the County that may appear in existing and hereby affirmed active ordinances may be administratively corrected during future ordinance amendments; and

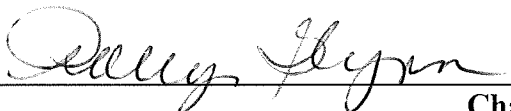
**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that Ordinance #03-25 shall be effective upon adoption and publication as required by law. (*Austin Daily Herald May 17, 2025*)

Copies of Mower County Ordinances are on file in the offices of Mower County Administration or Mower County Public Works and available online on the Mower County website at [www.co.mower.mn.us](http://www.co.mower.mn.us)

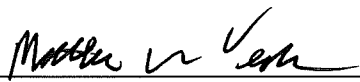
Passed and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

BY:  Chairperson

Attest:

By:   
Clerk/Administrator