

WORK SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 5, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Work Session August 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Attorney noted for the Board that she has advised Health & Human Services to present their warrants for Board approval in a different manner and that the Board will be receiving the information differently starting August 12, 2025 to reduce potential exposure of private data.

Doug Host and Liz Mickelson from Clifton Larson Allen presented to the Board a summary of the prepared 2024 Audit. The 2024 audit was a clean audit without material weaknesses or significant audit deficiencies for internal controls; a note regarding complying with MN § 471.38 electronic fund transfers was resolved during the audit and will be in compliance with the 2025 audit and the number of months of expenditures held in fund reserves meet recommended requirements.

A Klein McCarthy, Master Plan / Space Study Update was provided Danielle Reid from Klein McCarthy and Travis Fuechtmann from Integrity Group. Ms. Reid and Mr. Fuechtmann reviewed the work completed that commenced with the goals to evaluate current facility conditions of the Government Center, Justice Center and Public Works; to work with departments to determine their space needs; and ultimately create a County Master Plan that also provide preliminary costs estimates for future needs. (The Recycling Center was removed from the scope of this master plan due to its more complicated nature of the facility and a separate plan will be developed for recycling.) During the process immediate, intermediate and long-term goals were identified. Cost estimates included inflation values in the event maintenance is deferred. In the Government Center, the boiler and switch gear were identified as urgent need and the work has already commenced. The Justice Center, since it is a new building, has fewer identifiable areas to be addressed in the master plan. Public Works, due to the aging facility, has a longer list of facility needs to be addressed including major electrical and HVAC, windows, roof, tuck pointing and interior finishes. Possible space adjustments/rearrangements in the Government Center and the Justice Center were reviewed. There are opportunities to wrap some areas to be addressed into an annual maintenance budget. The Board will review the extensive report received.

Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) / Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update was provided by Brea Grace. Phase I of the project involving public engagement, data gathering and demographic review has been completed. Phase II, the writing phase, for the plan is currently underway in which the last chapter will include "implementation". Several chapters of the comprehensive plan have already been written. Phase III "Adoption" will not commence until the plan has been written. The writing phase includes the data gathered during engagement to compile goals and policies and then preparing the action items to be taken under implementation. The comprehensive plan is designed to provide guidance for twenty years.

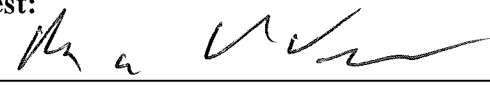
Under Miscellaneous / Other Discussion there was a discussion regarding the Fair Board's plans for security during the fair. In addition, County Administrator Matthew Verdict provided a brief update on the conversations with the City of Austin / LEC Advisory Committee regarding possible adjustments in the joint law enforcement center agreement.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY:  Chairperson

Attest:

By: 
Clerk/Administrator