

WORK SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 7, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Work Session October 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.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 Verdick and County Attorney Kristen Nelsen.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum provided updates on the Dodge County Wind Project and Pleasant Valley Wind construction. The Dodge County Wind Project, led by NextEra, is progressing through permitting stages, including utility applications and tree removal. Transmission lines will run from County Road 20 to County Road 1, with some poles placed in the right-of-way and others requiring private easements. Construction is expected to begin in 2026. Pleasant Valley Wind is nearing completion, with 75% of crane work done and turbine deliveries wrapping up by October 20. Restoration is underway, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of November. A road life payment of over \$362,000 has been invoiced, and concerns from Waltham Township are being addressed.

Mr. Wenum also shared updates on county construction projects and culvert maintenance. Four township box culverts are underway, with one completed and others in various stages. Bridge plans are finalized and will be requesting bids soon for projects to possibly start January 2026. Additional culverts are planned in Lyle and Pleasant Valley Townships. A new culvert inspection method using mounted cameras helps identify structural issues before roadwork begins. Most culverts can be lined rather than replaced minimizing road closure impacts. Preparations for the snow season are ongoing for the available 10 plow and two motor grader drivers. The county is coordinating with townships on plow routes.

Solid Waste Program Administrator Marcus Thompson presented a solar grant application reviewed with the building committee, which could fund up to 70% of a project—capped at \$112,000—through a state program, with potential federal tax credits also available. The recycling center was identified as a strong candidate due to its high return on investment, with estimated annual savings of \$7,000 in power costs. Two vendor quotes have been received with an additional one in review, and the application process is underway. If awarded, further review of federal funding options will follow. Construction must begin in 2025 and be completed within 18 months, with a short extension possible. A proposed action to apply for and accept the grant, if awarded, will be on next week's agenda.

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy shared with the Board that the County has received a letter from MHA Alchemy Corp and AMA Corp. (The letter was also sent to the City of LeRoy.) The letter was a petition/a request regarding cannabis permit application

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for a location in Mower County adjacent to their existing building. The county has set a limit of four retail cannabis licenses in its jurisdiction, and the process is first-come, first-served. The county cannot accommodate their request based on existing cannabis statutes and zoning laws.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

Darryl Depina
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____

Clerk/Administrator