

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 28, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session October 28, 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 Verdick and County Attorney Kristen Nelsen.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of October 14, 2025
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Reappoint Reuben Drees as a youth member of the Mower County Extension Committee for a 2nd 1 year term effective 10/1/25 – 9/30/26
4. Motion to approve Inter-Agency Juvenile Detention Center Services Contract with Houston County effective 1/1/26-12/31/26 to reserve one bed for Mower County juvenile detainees
5. Motion to reappoint Jon Erichson to the Turtle Creek Watershed District for a three-year term effective 11/1/25 – 10/31/28
6. Approve the following list as surplus property for auction, donation and/or disposal as applicable

Quantity	Item	Department
1	2015 Ford Police Interceptor VIN 1FM5K8AR4FGC41700	Sheriff
1	2014 Ford Police interceptor VIN 1FM5K8AR7EGC13906	Sheriff
1	2015 Ford Police Interceptor VIN 1FM5K8AR5FGC67688	Sheriff
1	2019 Ford Police Interceptor VIN 1FM5K8ARXGA78769 (scrap)	Sheriff
1	2008 Pamr JP trailer VIN 40LFB10158P144353	Corrections
1	2008 Felling Trailer VIN 5FTUN081181031690	Corrections
1	2007 Power Liner 8900XLT Paint Stripper SN: 0623600017	HWY
1	Bulk wood snow fence	Hwy
1	old air jack	Hwy
1	pile of old cutting edges	Hwy
1	old skid loader bucket	Hwy
1	garage door panels (8 panels 12" tall x 12' long	Recycling

7. Motion to approve revised cleaning contract with Quality Cleaning MN effective for one year with automatic one-year renewals for janitorial/custodial cleaning services at the Government Center and Justice Center. (Revision changes the scope of work to remove cleaning of Extension and Highway and applicable price reduction.) (\$15,802.71/mo)

8. Acknowledge and accept that the Chair signed a letter to Gov. Walz dated 10/22/25 requesting state disaster assistance for the 6/18/25 cyber-attack

Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Director Lisa Dierks and 4-H Extension Educator Adam Stevermer provided an Extension update reporting a slight decrease in 4-H enrollment, with continued focus on developing learners and leaders through community clubs, advisory roles, and ambassador programs. Key activities included a fall Haunted House, spring lock-in, and various community service projects. Available programming has been achieved with community partnerships with Sumner Elementary for "Let's Goal Soccer Club", with Master Gardeners for a Junior Master Gardener program, and with Riverland College and the Hormel Institute for an Ag & Food Science Exploration Day. There are currently 12 active clubs, serving youth ages 6 and up. Lisa Dierks also shared updates on SNAP-Ed transitions, Master Gardener contributions (including 3,500 lbs of produce donated and tree planting projects), and ongoing review of the 4-H building agreement with the County, including gravel bed usage. Extension is coordinating with the fair board regarding future gravel bed management.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Access Wireless Data Solutions, LLC	12,777.10	Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	7,979.04
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	13,183.36	J & S Repair Inc	8,729.00
At-Scene, LLC.	11,611.25	LSQ Funding Group, LLC	4,763.92
Baudoin Oil Company	22,740.69	MCHS SE Minnesota	4,158.30
Bauer Built Tire	3,301.45	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	3,012.71
Bureau Of Criminal Apprehension	3,240.00	New Line Mechanical, Inc.	3,290.00
Bustad Dozing & Excavating Inc	5,000.00	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	16,682.40
CDW Government	8,652.25	Oldcastle Infrastructure	2,331.00
CivicPlus, LLC	5,672.14	Olympic Fire Protection Corp	3,846.00
Commissioner of Transportation	11,460.99	Premier Electrical Corporation	17,089.10
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	21,406.79	Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc	10,511.85
Contegry Group, Inc.	5,905.83	The Master's Touch, LLC	10,500.00
Evans Publishing & Printing Inc	2,625.06	Valor Mechanical, Inc.	148,990.61
G & G Heating And Air Conditioning	3,300.00	51 Payments less than 2000	25,908.11
		Final Total:	398,668.95

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Loni Swenson provided the Board with the third quarter investment report and financial report.

Motion made by Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to acknowledged receipt of the third quarter 2025 investment report. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Consulting Agreement with USICG (formerly Hildi, Inc.) effective January 1,

2026 – December 31, 2027 for actuarial valuation services for other post-employment benefits for mandatory reporting and disclosure (\$14,980). Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:31 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:31 a.m. regarding the intent to change the position of Auditor-Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position. It was noted the desired change is to create stability in the role and to have a qualified person performing the duties.

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy reviewed the County's intention and the process available to the County as outlined in Mn. Stat. 375A.1205. The incumbent Auditor-Treasurer Scott Felten is in agreement and has entered into an Employment Agreement with the County for the appointment notwithstanding public petition.

No one spoke in favor and one person spoke against changing the County Auditor-Treasurer position from elected to appointed.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:38 a.m. regarding changing the County Auditor-Treasurer position from elected to appointed.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:38 a.m.

Date: October 28, 2025

Res. #56-25

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 October 28, 2025 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County desires to change the position from auditor-treasurer from elected to appointed; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375A.1205 Subd 1(3) allows for a county to move the office of auditor-treasurer from elected to appointed under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, On 9/23/2025, The Mower County Board of Commissioners approved an employment agreement contract with incumbent officer Scott Felten and set the date for public hearing to hear any concerns from citizens on the proposed change; and

WHEREAS, Notice of public hearing was published in the Austin Daily Herald on 9/27/25 and 10/4/2025, and in the Mower County Independent on 10/2/2025 and 10/9/2025; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on October 28, 2025 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners where all interested parties were provided an opportunity to speak; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES that the position of Mower County Auditor-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Mower County Board of Commissioners for a term that runs until resignation, retirement, or termination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution is effective 30 days following second publication, notwithstanding sufficient public petition to place the matter on a ballot; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED notwithstanding public petition, Scott Felten shall be appointed as Mower County Auditor-Treasurer under the terms of the employment agreement contract and the effective date of this resolution.

Passed and approved unanimously this 28th day of October, 2025 following a roll call vote.

Fiscal Services Supervisor Trisha Blaser presented Health & Human Services accounts payable for approval in the amount of \$189,418.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$189,418. Motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum requested approval for the purchase of two Plow Truck Body Purchase Agreement in order to get on the schedule for them to be built. The chassis are being built and with the body being approved for purchase and assembling there will be two new complete plow trucks totaling \$362,000 each on the road in mid-2027.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the purchase of two plow truck bodies out of the 2027 budget (the chassis were already approved for purchase out of the 2026 budget) from Towmaster on state contract for \$197,406 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Date: October 28, 2025

Res. #57-25

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO
SPONSOR THE CITY OF GRAND MEADOW IN PURSUIT OF
2025 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
1ST STREET E & 1ST AVE SE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

On motion of Commissioner Ankney, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held October 28, 2025 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the 1st Street E and 1st Ave SE Reconstruction project includes 1st Street E (between 1st Ave NE and 1st Ave SE) and 1st Ave SE (between 1st St SE and 2nd St SE/CSAH 8), and

WHEREAS, the 1st Street E and 1st Ave SE Reconstruction project will replace deteriorating pavements and restore this important connection to downtown Grand Meadow, and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and

WHEREAS, LRIP requires a city, such as Grand Meadow, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Meadow has requested sponsorship from Mower County for the 1st Street E and 1st Ave SE Reconstruction Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS; that

1. Mower County supports the City of Grand Meadow's pursuit of LRIP funds for the reconstruction of 1st Street E and 1st Ave SE, as described above, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Grand Meadow's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

Passed and approved this 28th day of October, 2025.

Facilities Director Peyton Reese requested the approval of a Ziegler quote for generator repair and rental during the time of repair.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve a repair to the generator for the Justice Center by approving the Ziegler Cat repair service agreement which includes transport of the unit to the repair center (\$80,298.82) as well as approving the Ziegler Cat rental agreement for a temporary unit to use while repairs are being made (base fee \$8,540/week OR \$18,520/month). Motion carried unanimously.

Human Resources Director Kris Kohn requested approval for a necessary amendment to Personnel Policy B190 Employee Conduct and Disciplinary Action necessary to remove reference to the Personnel Board of Appeals policy which the Board has previous eliminated.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to amend Personnel Policy B190 Employee Conduct and Disciplinary by modifying the language to remove reference to "Personnel Board of Appeals." The modification is to the last sentence in Policy subparagraph 5. Termination of Employment and is as follows:

..... An employee may elect to appeal his or her termination ~~to the Personnel Board of Appeals~~—pursuant to the process outlined in policy B200, Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Motion carried unanimously.

County Auditor-Treasurer Scott Felten presented for approval an agreement with Public Surplus for an on-line auction option for the sale of tax forfeited properties.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve agreement with Public Surplus to conduct County tax forfeiture online auction. Motion carried unanimously.

Under committee reports Commissioner Ankeny reported that on 10/27 he attended the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) District IX meeting. Commissioner Mueller reported that on 10/14, 10/15, 10/22 and 10/23 he attended finance committee (budget) meetings. Commissioner Glynn reported attending SEMCAC on 10/13, Finance on 10/22 and AMC District IX meeting on 10/27.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m. The next meeting is a work session scheduled for November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____


Chairperson

Attest: _____

By: _____

Clerk/Administrator