

WORK SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 4, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Work Session November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Glynn called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Klein McCarthy / Contegrity – Space Study Update

Representatives from **Klein McCarthy Architects** and **Contegrity Group, Inc.** presented an update on the ongoing **Mower County Space Study**.

- Discussion focused on office space utilization, public service accessibility, and long-term facility planning.
- Board members reviewed concept layouts and potential phasing options for future construction and remodeling.
- Commissioners emphasized prioritizing accessibility, security, and future growth flexibility.
- A follow-up presentation will be scheduled once cost estimates are finalized.

3. Department of Labor and Industry – State Building Code Discussion

Scott Wheeler from the **Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)** provided an informational session regarding **State Building Code enforcement and updates**.

- Topics included inspection requirements, permit procedures, and recent legislative changes.
- Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding local implementation and enforcement authority.

4. Department Update – Environmental Services

Environmental Services Supervisor Angela Lipelt delivered her monthly department update.

- Reported ongoing solid waste program initiatives and recent landfill compliance inspections.
 - Discussed progress on the County's septic management plan revisions.
 - The Board expressed appreciation for the department's proactive community engagement.
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5. County Engineer's Report – Mitch Wenum

County Engineer Mitch Wenum presented the monthly update for the Highway Department.

- Noted completion of several fall maintenance projects and bridge inspections.
- Provided an overview of upcoming 2026 construction planning and funding outlook.
- Discussed coordination with MnDOT and local contractors on ongoing road rehabilitation projects.

6. Discussion – Mower County Highway Addition Design Fees

The Board reviewed preliminary design fee estimates for the proposed **Mower County Highway Addition**.

- Staff provided comparative data from previous projects to guide expectations.
- Commissioners discussed funding strategies and design scope options.

7. Discussion – Sherburne County Request re: MN Nuclear Power Moratorium

The Board discussed **Sherburne County's** request to join their effort with the **Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)** and the **MN Nuclear Energy Alliance** advocating for repeal of Minnesota's **moratorium on new nuclear power generation facilities**.

- Commissioners expressed interest in learning more before committing support.
- The Deputy County Administrator will gather additional background materials and potential implications for Mower County.
- Topic to return for formal consideration at a future meeting.

8. Miscellaneous / Other Discussion / Adjourn

Brief discussion was held on general county updates and upcoming calendar items.

With no further business, **the meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.**

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY:  Chairperson

Attest: 
By: _____
Clerk/Administrator