

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 25, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session November 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Polly Glynn (remotely arriving at 9:45 a.m.), 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 by the Vice-Chair Dan Sparks.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda adding a motion to approve/deny the Northland quote for LEC cameras. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of November 4 Work Session and November 12 Regular Session.
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Amend the 10/28/25 Board action reappointing Jon Erichson to the Turtle Creek Watershed District Board by correcting the term effective dates from 11/1/25 - 10/31/28 to 11/14/25 - 11/13/28

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board acknowledged Bob Bailey's retirement after 15 years of service as a Facilities Technician. Colleagues shared memories highlighting his dedication, helpfulness, and positive impact across departments. Comments included appreciation for his reliability, willingness to assist, and contributions to maintaining and improving facilities. Personal anecdotes reflected his camaraderie, sense of humor, and strong relationships within the team. The board expressed gratitude for his years of service and extended best wishes for his retirement.

Executive Director Alexander Catevenis shared progress on the opioid settlement funding initiative, emphasizing efforts to support first responders and improve health equity in rural communities. The project has deployed Lucas devices across the county, with cardiac monitors now being programmed for distribution and installation in medical response vehicles. Catevenis highlighted the importance of ongoing education, advocacy for EMS volunteers, and bridging gaps caused by clinic closures. He noted that the program has gained regional and national attention as a proactive model for community health, with other counties following Mower County's example. The board expressed appreciation for the leadership and impact of these efforts.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve replacing the position of Public Health Manager (D61) with a Deputy Director (D62) position and commence the recruitment process for filling the Deputy Director position. (*The position of Public Health Manager becomes vacant in January.*) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to amend Personnel Policy B240 Telecommuting Policy and Procedures to Personnel Policy B240 Remote Work Policy. The entire amended policy effective November 25, 2025 is on file in Human Resources. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the updated/amended contract for the Nationwide 457(b) Plan (*original effective date 8/1/1980 and reinstatement date of 1/1/2025*). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to rescind Personnel Policy A160 Human Resources Department Jurisdiction effective November 25, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum provided an overview of 2025 construction and maintenance projects. Planned work included approximately \$5 million in paving and recycling projects and \$750,000 in micro-surfacing projects, which extend pavement life by 5–8 years. Other projects include bridge replacements and box culvert installations, along with maintenance activities such as striping 176 miles of roadway, pavement patching, shouldering 48 miles, and seal coating 23 miles to preserve road integrity. Wenum also highlighted positive feedback on the Ramsey Dam parking lot project, shop innovations such as a camera sled for culvert inspections, and GIS dashboard development for tracking 4,700 culverts and road improvements. Upcoming 2026 projects include cold in-place recycling on sections of CSAH 3, 15, 16, CR 57, and additional bridge and culvert work. The board commended the department for its progress and proactive planning.

At this time, Commissioner Glynn remotely joined the meeting. (9:45 a.m.)

Date: November 25, 2025

Res. #64-25

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 November 25, 2025 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, projects CP 50-25-01, SAP 050-601-039, and SAP 050-602-034 have in all things been completed by Ulland Brothers, Inc has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premise.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby accept said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Mower and authorize final payment as specified herein:

Contract Amount: \$6,094,173.30
Final Amount: \$5,692,041.97 [93.4%]
Final Payment: \$56,920.42

Passed and approved this 25th day of November, 2025. The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Passed unanimously.

Date: November 25, 2025

Res. #65-25

RESOLUTION

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 November 25, 2025 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, MnDOT has made \$47 million available in Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding, with a maximum award of \$1.5 million per project; and

WHEREAS, LRIP funds may be used for roadway construction cost and that other costs, including but not limited to: engineering and inspection, utility construction, as well as construction costs above the LRIP selection will need to have alternate funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the CSAH 4 project, planned for construction in 2027, includes the rehabilitation of the roadway from TH 218 to CSAH 19 in Rose Creek; and

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation of CSAH 4 will replace deteriorating pavements and make safety improvements to the roadway and restore this important connection between TH 218 and Rose Creek; and

WHEREAS, this project will benefit the agriculture users, commuters, residents of Rose Creek and the surrounding area, and various other users of the roadway; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners do hereby support the rehabilitation of CSAH 4 planned for construction in 2027 and agree to maintain these improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners assure that all costs in excess of the LRIP grant selection amount will be paid by the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mower County Board of Commissioners do hereby support the submittal of the LRIP Grant Application.

Passed and approved this 25th day of November, 2025. The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$175,524.34. The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Association Of Minnesota Counties	2,500.00	Marco Technologies LLC	104,141.07
Austin Public Schools ISD #492	2,894.28	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Services	2,014.00
Avenu Insights & Analytics	7,896.20	Midwest Machinery Co	6,216.91
Baudoin Oil Company	17,112.90	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	2,990.00
Bauer Built Tire	7,506.46	MN Department Of Corrections	27,900.00
Bruening Rock Products Inc	81,389.39	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	17,238.48
CDW Government	8,929.12	Northland Farm Systems, Inc	5,000.00
CivicPlus, LLC	4,892.71	Petroblend Corp.	3,207.90
Commissioner of Transportation	20,766.70	Rochester Sand And Gravel, Inc	3,097.50
Diamond Drugs, Inc.	2,133.98	Rohl Electric and Services LLC	2,482.84
FRSecure LLC	12,231.25	Sheriff Houston County	8,579.17
Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	4,471.31	Uhl Company Inc	6,488.00
Heartland Girls Ranch	11,139.23	Ulland Brothers Inc.	61,903.31
Imperial Dade	24,244.95	Vehicle Service Group, LLC	10,037.06
K&L Construction	23,011.00	White Cap	4,237.50
Language Line Services	2,313.52	54 Payments less than 2000	28,947.76
		Final Total:	527,914.50

The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to adopt the Wellness Funding Policy:

Wellness Funding Policy

Program Summary

Mower County offers a wellness program for its employees to increase morale, decrease absenteeism and presenteeism, reduce turnover, and encourage employees to make healthier choices for themselves and, in turn, their families. Mower County will achieve the most value for its employees when it creates a culture of health within its organization. This is achieved by offering a comprehensive wellness program that pairs policy, systems, and environmental changes (PSE) with wellness initiatives.



Wellness funding from Mower County is designed to improve well-being and control health care costs for employees and the employer by encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and utilizing the provided well-being tools. The wellness funding is intended to help the Mower County Wellness Committee create a culture of health and well-being at their organization.

Mower County Wellness Committee will engage and encourage Mower County Employees to utilize the current health plan resources to save all involved. We know a lot of these ideas can benefit our workplace culture/employee morale, and can be a great part of a comprehensive wellness program. The activities listed below are guides to how the funding will be spent for these employees.

Funding Parameters

The Mower County Wellness Committee will receive two funding amounts: a set amount from the County's annual operating budget and the proceeds from the fitness room fees, which is funded by employees who choose to use the on-site facilities.

Activities/Programs/Examples

Physical Activity in the Workplace

Physical fitness greatly contributes to sustained energy, stress reduction, weight management, and a strong, healthy body that is less prone to injury and illness. Mower County promotes the following options to our employees to promote and engage in physical activity throughout the week:

- Active or standing meetings
- Flexible workdays, which accommodate physical activity before, during or after regular work hours
- Availability of standing work stations
- Weight management through access to on-site workout spaces and equipment
- Maintenance and upkeep of fitness equipment
- Access to healthy drinking water and supplies
- Walking (or other movement) Challenges with incentives to participate

Healthy Food Environment

Mower County encourages healthy food choices for employees by providing:

- Options such as vegetables, fruit, whole grain foods, high protein foods, and water or other healthy beverages at meetings, events or gatherings where food is offered or provided by Mower County
- Food storage and preparation areas (e.g. sinks, refrigerators, microwave ovens) to encourage employees to bring healthy lunches, snacks, and beverages to work

Employee Wellbeing

It is the policy of Mower County to promote health and wellness for all employees through leadership support, peer involvement, resources, education, awareness, environment, and activities. Because employee wellbeing affects job satisfaction, productivity, healthcare costs, morale, and overall performance of work, we support a culture of personal, physical and mental wellness and encourage employees to make healthy lifestyle choices.

- Options/events such as financial resources, spa/massage services, counseling through EAP or Healthiest You app, Leadership Book Club, spiritual resources, academic resources, and self-care breaks/social connections
- Leadership Education opportunities, including speakers/coaching opportunities
- Mental well-being management through access to on-site workout spaces and equipment

Breastfeeding Support

In recognition of the health advantages of breastfeeding for infants and mothers, Mower County provides a supportive environment to enable breastfeeding employees to express their milk during work hours.

- Options such as onsite Mothers Room

The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Following a discussion the Mower County Board of Commissioners set by consensus the Commissioner's annual employee holiday party for December 16, 2025 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at a Government Center conference room.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve contract with Next Chapter Technology, Inc. (NCT) for the Mower Client Portal and Cloud-Based Service Contract as a replacement service provider/interface for Health &

Human Services case-works that provides a unified client portal that will enhance operational efficiency, service delivery and customer experience. (Two year agreement hosting, support, licensing agreement eff 1/1/26 – 12/31/27). The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Northland & Companies quote for law enforcement center (LEC) security cameras \$31,036.75. The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve extending the Agreement to Provide Interim Assessor Duties for Winona County (12/5/25 – 3/5/26). The commissioners voted as follows: Commissioner Ankeny aye, Commissioner Reinartz aye, Commissioner Sparks aye, Commissioner Mueller aye, Commissioner Glynn aye. Motion carried unanimously

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy shared the progress report from Arvig on its Border to Border broadband project. The project is nearing completion.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported his attendance at the Joint City of Austin / County meeting on 11/19, the comp plan open house on 11/19, the 4th Street bridge ribbon cutting on 11/21 and a building committee as well as a personnel committee meeting on 11/24. Commissioner Mueller reported he attended the Maribell transmission line open house on 11/17, finance committee/bond advisor meeting on 11/19, comp plan open house on 11/19, budget meetings on 11/20, an emergency mitigation plan virtual meeting on 11/21 and a building committee meeting on 11/24. Commissioner Glynn reported that she attended SEMCAC on 11/10, SWCD meeting on 11/13, finance committee/bond advisor meeting on 11/19, the Joint City Austin / County meeting on 11/19 as well as the Comp Plan open house on 11/19, the Wellness Committee meeting virtually on 11/20, Finance Committee on 11/20, the Joint Airport Zoning Board on 11/21, and a One Watershed One Plan meeting virtually on 11/24. Commissioner Sparks reported he attended an energy summit for renewable energy on 11/13, a Personnel Committee meeting on 11/24 as well as a Rural MN Energy Board meeting.

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m. The next meeting is a Work Session scheduled for December 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

Dolly Glynn

Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____

Clerk/Administrator