

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2026

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session January 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda adding 1) motion to approve Ag Society request to install additional showers and sinks at the Crane Pavilion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of December 30, 2025 and January 6, 2026 Annual Meeting
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Approve declaring the Highway department 2002 Sterling M7500 sign truck as surplus property for sale at Ritchie Bros. (VIN 2FZAAKAKX2AK19782)

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recognized Public Health Manager Pam Kellogg retiring from Mower County with 27 years of service.

The Board recessed at 9:12 a.m. for the purpose of the Health & Human Services Board.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Fiscal Services Supervisor Trisha Blaser presented Health & Human Services accounts payable for approval in the amount of \$216,467.36.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$216,467.36. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Social Services actions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement renewal agreement for employment services with Workforce Development, Inc./Wabasha County for SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) effective 10/1/25 – 9/30/26. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 9:27 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:27 a.m. for regular business items.

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

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name	Amount
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	29,186.83	Mayo Clinic -Rochester	33,965.82
CDW Government	4,388.72	MEI Total Elevator Solutions	2,171.97
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	57,209.68	Midwest Door Inc	26,990.00
City Of Austin	8,970.72	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	4,447.00
CivicPlus, LLC	7,544.88	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	190,860.28
Election Systems & Software, LLC.	8,710.00	Minnesota Sheriffs Association	11,019.19
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	2,038.50	MN Department Of Corrections	27,900.00
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,561.90	Office Of MNIT Services	2,605.49
Hanson Tire Of Austin Inc	3,312.00	Old 218	3,700.00
Harbaugh Septic LLC	16,660.00	Premier Electrical Corporation	103,930.00
Healthiest You	4,290.00	SEMNECB	11,085.50
Heartland Girls Ranch	11,139.23	SKB Environmental	2,423.10
Imperial Dade	2,589.05	Southern MN Tourism Association	2,001.45
Joseph Company, Inc/The	3,661.51	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	3,070.60
Klein McCarthy Architects	50,106.89	Tiny's Body Shop	3,900.06
Language Line Services	2,541.57	Valor Mechanical, Inc.	3,325.00
Marco Technologies LLC	6,198.50	38 payments less than 2000	17,915.07
		Final Total:	680,420.51

Motion carried unanimously.

Date: January 13, 2026

Res. #07-26

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 January 13, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

BE IT RESOLVED That effective January 21, 2026 Mower County Board of Commissioners (Mower County Community Health Board) hereafter referred to as the “Board”, by virtue of its authority under Minnesota Statute 145A and by this Resolution of the Board hereby appoints and authorizes Crystal Peterson, Health & Human Services Director of Mower County located at 201 1st Street NE, Austin, MN (crystalp@co.mower.mn.us), to act and bind the Mower County Community Health Board for the following purpose(s):

- a. To serve as the Community Health Services Administrator and the Board’s agent according to Minnesota Statute 145A.04, Subd. 2, in communicating with the Commissioner of Health between Board meetings, including receiving information

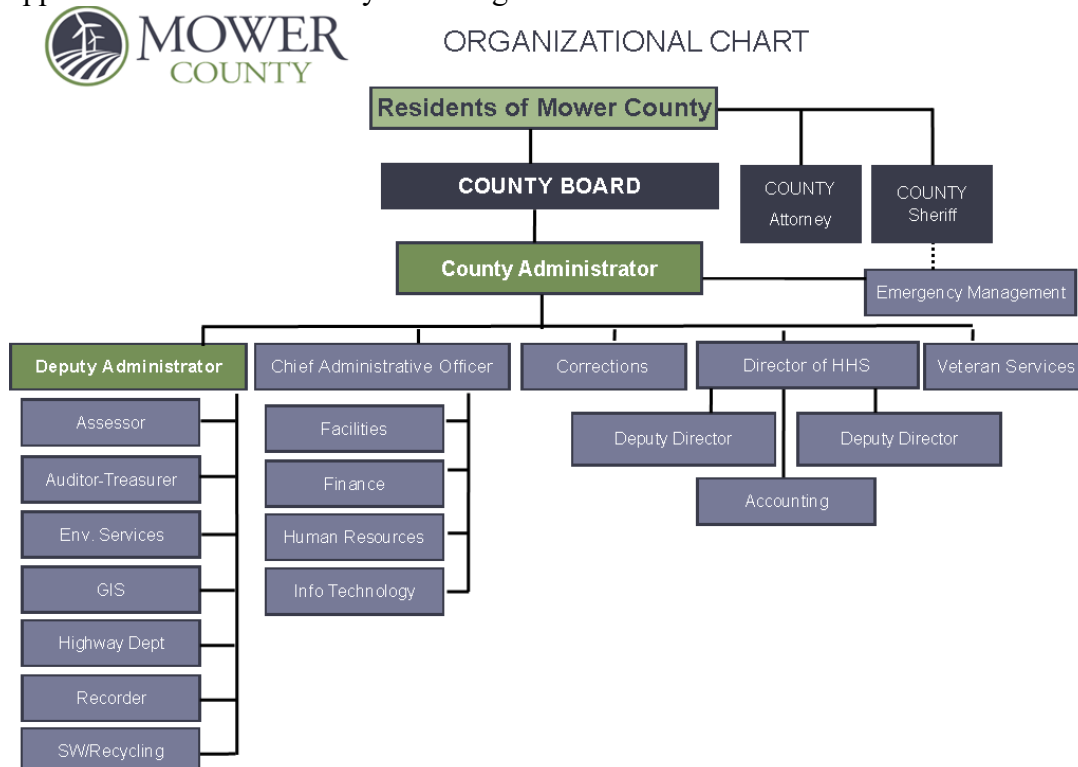
from the Commissioner and disseminating that information to the Board, as well as providing information to the Commissioner on the Board's behalf.

- b. To sign and submit to the Commissioner the required components of the Local Public Health Act including identification of local priorities, progress reports and budgets according to Minnesota Statute 145A.04, Subd. 1a.
- c. To submit grant applications, sign and execute contracts on behalf of the Board for funding opportunities administered by the Department of Health and other entities.
- d. To review, approve and submit invoices on behalf of the Board for activities for funding opportunities administered by the Minnesota Department of Health and other entities.

Passed and approved this 13th day of January, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the "Agreement between Mower County and the City of Austin, Minnesota On the Operation of the Law Enforcement Center" effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the amended county-wide Organizational Chart



Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible motion to approve/deny new Administrative Procurement Coordinator position

The Board held a discussion regarding the proposed Administrative Procurement Coordinator position. Administrator Verdick reviewed the purpose of the role, noting prior conversations with personnel and department heads. The position is intended to improve countywide communication, coordinate procurement processes, and support contract-related workflows. The discussion included a request for further clarification of duties including clarification of “procurement vs. contract negotiations” addressing the County Attorney’s concerns, software and agreement oversight and a refined scope of responsibilities.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller to table a decision on the proposed Administrative Procurement Coordinator position to a future meeting after further refinement of the position’s description and intended duties and responsibilities. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:04 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:04 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Geoffrey Burgos for a single-family home located at LOT 12 & W10FT LOT 11 Webers Subdivision, City of Dexter, MN (PIN 23.004.0070).

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicant was not present. No one spoke for or against the Burgos housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:06 a.m. regarding the Burgos Housing Tax Abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 10:06 a.m. regarding CUP #994 of Louise E. Kerrins Rev. Living Trust Landowner, and Mike Huizenga, Petitioner, for a 300 foot guyed, telecommunications tower. The tower will be structurally able to support up to 4 carriers. AT&T is the anchor tenant.

Angela Lipelt, Environmental Services Director, reviewed the permit and the Planning Commission’s recommendation for denial based on Criteria #1 of the finding of facts that approval would be injurious to a neighbor to fly his plane 100% of the time. Ms. Lipelt informed the Board that she did not support the Planning Commission’s recommendation stating that the neighbor with the plane did not obtain the necessary conditional use permit and register his property in order to operate the plane/landing strip and therefore did not have any rights to be injured by the applicant’s tower request and there wasn’t sufficient evidence of negative impact. A discussion followed with County Attorney input.

Mike Huizenga for the petitioner was present and spoke in favor of the application. No one else spoke for or against CUP #994.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:33 a.m. regarding CUP #994.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 10:33 a.m.

Date: January 13, 2026

Res. #08-26

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT
FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 469.1813**

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held January 13, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives authority to the County of Mower to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the statutory requirements, Mower County has adopted the Tax Abatement Policy for new construction of Single and Multi-family homes which includes criteria which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted; and

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Burgos is the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

LOT 12 & W10FT LOT 11 Webers Subdivision, City of Dexter, MN (PIN 23.004.0070)

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Burgos has made application to Mower County for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on January 13, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Burgos has met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statute 469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 2(i) as well as Mower County's criteria for tax abatement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA:

1. Mower County does, hereby grant an abatement of Mower County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel for the construction of the single-family home.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five years commencing, in the tax year the property realizes a value increase over original value due to construction of the housing project. Partially constructed housing may result in an abatement in the first abatement year that may be significantly less than the following years. This will still be considered one of the five years of eligible abatement. In the event

construction has not commenced within one year of approval, the abatement is eliminated and the property owner will need to reapply in accordance with this policy.

3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment of due real estate taxes annually. One single payment shall be made to the owner of record at the time of the payment, by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The real estate taxes to be abated shall be for up to the full amount of the real estate taxes collected due to the added tax base of the newly constructed housing/home annually. The current value of the property is not eligible for the abatement, will not be abated as part of this program and is further defined as the "original value." Any eligible abatement years are calculated on the tax increase due to a value increase over the original value.

Passed and approved this 13th day of January, 2026.

Date: January 13, 2026

Res. #09-26

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held January 13, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, The Mower County Planning Commission, having presented to the Mower County Board of Commissioners, CUP #994, by Louise E. Kerrins Rev. Living Trust Landowner, and Mike Huizenga, Petitioner, who have petitioned the Mower County Board of Commissioners to allow for the site to be used for:

a 300 foot guyed, telecommunication tower. The tower will be structurally able to support up to 4 carriers. AT&T is the anchor tenant.

Located in Mower County, Minnesota and legally described as:

Tax Legal: Section 26 Township 103 Range 015 E1/2 E1/2 NE1/4 EXC 1/2 AC
(Full legal description on file in the office of Environmental Services and will be recorded with the County Board decision)

And identified per Mower County tax records as parcel 07.026.0020; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on the matter on January 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mower County Government Center, Board Room before the Mower County Planning Commission, on said petition; and

WHEREAS, Notice having been duly given, a public hearing was held on January 13, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said petition; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has received the Findings of Fact; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board has reviewed the findings of fact of the Mower County Planning Commission in the five required areas, modifying

criterion 1 in that the County Board finds that the proposed use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity because there was not sufficient evidence provided by the opposition demonstrating that the use will impact their health, safety or welfare; and accepting the Planning Commission's Findings of Fact for criterion items 2 – 5; all of which is hereby adopted, as modified, by reference and kept on file in the Office of Environmental Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board of Commissioners approves the Conditional Use Permit with conditions as follows:

1. Applicants shall follow all local, state, and federal regulations regarding the proposed use; and
2. The conditional use permit shall become void if the use is established but then discontinued for a period of one (1) year. (Refer Section 14-36 Discontinuance).
3. A conditional use permit shall become void two (2) years from the date of approval by the County Board if no construction has begun or the use has not been established. For the purposes of this provision, construction shall include the installation of footings, slabs, foundation, posts, walls, or other portions of a building. Site preparation, land clearing, or the installation of utilities shall not constitute construction; and
4. A Zoning Permit shall be obtained prior to any construction of any structure on the property; and
5. At least an eight-foot chain link fence is erected and maintained around the tower and any equipment buildings.
6. The use of any portion of the tower for advertising signs (other than warning and equipment informational signs) is prohibited.
7. Petitioners must secure appropriate FCC and FAA permits, licensures, and approvals, as needed.
8. All abandoned or unused towers or associated above ground facilities shall be removed within 12 months of the cessation of operations of an antenna facility at the site unless a time extension is approved by the Mower County Board of Commissioners. In the event that a tower is not removed within 12 months of the cessation of operations at a site, the tower and associated facilities may be removed by the Mower County Board of Commissioners, and the costs of removal shall be assessed against the property.
9. Decommissioning: The Mower County Board of Commissioners requires a bond of \$20,000.00 to cover costs of decommissioning.
10. If for any reason this 40.113 ac parcel is subdivided; subdivision of the parcel into small tracts, parcels, or lots shall comply with Mower County's Subdivision Ordinance or any other applicable rules, regulations, and/or procedures in effect at that time.
11. 911 addressing is required to be obtained through the Mower County Highway Dept. before construction if the site is not already assigned an E911 location; and
12. Access to the site via 730th the Local Road Authority must approve Avenue.
13. Wetland Review required: Petitioner must contact the Mower County SWCD regarding the Wetland Conservation Act and provide the County with a copy of one of the following:
 - a. A "No Loss Determination" (no wetlands on site).
 - b. A "Wetland Exemption" (the act does not apply).
 - c. A "Wetland Replacement Plan" approval.
14. The Owner/Applicant shall keep the site in a neat, orderly, and aesthetically pleasing condition; and

15. The Owner/Applicant shall work cooperatively with Mower County to mitigate any issues brought to the attention of the County that are found to be legitimate and valid that may create a nuisance to adjoining landowners from the proposed use, and
16. The Owner/Applicant shall abide by all road and bridge weight restrictions or postings that apply to roads used as an ingress/egress to the property; and
17. The Owner/ Applicant shall provide adequate area onsite to park, back, turn-round or etc. so as to not create a nuisance or hazard to the traveling public. Vehicles cannot be parked or backed onto the premises from the road or its right-of-way; and
18. The Owner/Applicant shall be liable for any road damages as a result of this operation as stated under MN Statute 169.88; and
19. No burying of waste material is allowed and to do so would be in violation of MPCA Regulations and Mower County Solid Waste Ordinance; and
20. This permit is based upon representation given by the applicant during the hearing process and any misrepresentation presented in this process may be grounds for revoking the permit.

This permit is issued in accordance with Section 14-51 item (e) commercial radio and television towers and transmitters & (u) Other uses of the same general character as those listed above, provided they are deemed fitting or compatible with the District by the Planning Commission of the Mower County Zoning Ordinance (effective date 01/01/2003).

Passed and approved this 13th day of January, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Ag Society request to install additional showers and sinks at the Crane Pavilion. Motion carried unanimously.

Date: January 13, 2026

Res. #10-26

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held January 13, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the property located in Section 11 of Lansing Township in the Pleasant View Addition Subdivision Lot 22, Mower County MN is in violation of the Mower County Solid Waste Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, a letter was sent to Mr. Darin Finley on 10/31/2024 notifying him of the Final Notice of Violation and all solid waste items must be abated in 14 days; and

WHEREAS, a final drive by inspection occurred on 11/15/2024; and

WHEREAS, a certified letter was sent to Mr. Darin Finley on 11/22/2024 allowing 14 more days to clean up the solid waste items or the County would order abatement. The letter was signed for and received by Mr. Darin Finley on 11/25/2024 at 12:23p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the owner had not cleaned up the property as requested and solid waste violations still existed as shown in pictures taken at the property on 12/13/2024; and

WHEREAS, the County ordered abatement of the property on 01/28/2025; and

WHEREAS, a letter with the Order to Abate was sent to Mr. Darin Finley on 03/10/2025

WHEREAS, a letter was sent to Mr. Darin Finley on 06/27/2025 notifying him that the deadline for appeal has passed and allowing 10 more days to abate the property and advising if not abated within 10 days the County would clean up the property at the landowner's expense.

WHEREAS, the County received no response from Mr. Finley

WHEREAS, Mr. Darin Finley's property was abated on 07/24/2025 by Hansen Hauling and Excavating ; and

WHEREAS, the County expended \$5,654.48 to complete the work to abate the solid waste violations on Mr. Darin Finley's property.

WHEREAS, An invoice for the abatement cost was sent to Mr. Finley on 08/12/2025 along with a letter stating the abatement work had been completed, receipts for the work that was done and advised Mr. Finley that if the County had not been paid by February 1, 2026 the County Board would adopt a motion for a special assessment to be placed on the real estate taxes beginning in Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the invoice has not been paid as of 01/05/2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County does hereby assess against the property any remaining balance as of February 1, 2026 from the \$5,654.48 cost of cleanup incurred on the Finley Property located in Section 11 of Lansing Township in the Pleasant View Addition Subdivision Lot 22, MN Mower County and owned by Darin Ray Finley for a term of 2 years at 5% interest.

Passed and approved this 13th day of January, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to authorize signature on the 2026-2027 Grant Agreement with the State of MN Board of Water & Soil Resources Natural Resources Block Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Ziegler, Inc. quote for the purchase of a Caterpillar 308 Mini Hydraulic Excavator (with bucket and thumb) (\$144,222.92) and declare Unit 26 the 2019 CAT 420F Backhoe as surplus property to trade-in on the excavator purchase (trade-in value \$65,000 plus bonus \$7,500). Net purchase price for new excavator (\$71,722.92). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Ziegler, Inc. quote for the purchase of a Trail King TK110HDG Advantage Plus Hydraulic Detachable Gooseneck trailer (\$130,234.67). *(This trailer will replace Unit 62, a 2008 Towmaster T100DTG Gooseneck Trailer which will be declared surplus property at a future date.)* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the Ziegler, Inc. quote for the purchase of the reclaimer / retriever attachment with extended hydraulic line and scraper system for a motorgrader (\$23,990). Motion carried unanimously.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported he attended Personnel Committee on 1/6, the Shotgun Listening Session on 1/12, will attend the Olmsted County recycling tour on 1/14 and the Staff training session on 1/15. Commissioner Reinartz did not have anything to report. Commissioner Mueller reported he attend Fair Board on 1/6, Planning Commission on 1/6, SE Emergency Services on 1/8 and the Shotgun Listening Session on 1/12. Commissioner Glynn reported she attended Personnel Committee on 1/6, was unable to connect to the SWCD meeting on 1/8 and the Shotgun Listening Session on 1/12. The Board requested that the shotgun topic be added to their next work session for further discussion.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

DAN SPARKS
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____

Clerk/Administrator