

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 14, 2026

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session April 14, 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 Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the agenda by adding under Environmental Services 1) approve the cannabis retail registration application of Michael Attleson d/b/a Hidden Gardens Micro and 2) approve the County Feedlot Officer 2025 report and moving 1) the Health & Human Services accounts payable from the consent agenda to the Health & Human Services Board consent agenda and 2) the highway building project from Highway to Facilities. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of March 26 and April 7 Work session
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Approve Commissioner Warrants

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Access Wireless Data Solutions, LLC	5040.01	Klein McCarthy Architects	51008.42
ACE Trailer Sales	10510.00	KRIS Engineering Inc	34416.30
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	29186.83	Liberty Tire Services of Ohio, LLC	3314.20
American Security Cabinets	2793.00	Marco Technologies LLC	2559.55
Andersen, Inc./Earl F.	3507.90	Mayo Clinic -Rochester	34662.70
Austin Automotive LLC	2350.46	Metro Sales, Inc	2896.53
Austin Daily Herald	2610.92	Midwest Medical Physics LLC	4160.00
Baudoin Oil Company	12545.46	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	48414.65
CDW Government	19672.85	Minnesota Dept Of Agriculture	3688.00
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	59022.30	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	18272.64
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	3753.75	North Risk Partners LLC	4166.67
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	21423.72	Olmsted County Community Services	4000.00
Dave Lucas Consulting	3187.50	Premier Electrical Corporation	20425.00
Debtbook	11500.00	ProPhoenix Corporation	104632.00
Department Of Corrections	22365.00	Ratwik,Roszak & Maloney, P.A.	8990.00
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	5584.00	Regents Of The University Of Minnesota	58237.50
Fox Electric Company	10564.02	Rohl Electric and Services LLC	3659.04
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	9544.15	Schmidt Goodman Office Products Inc.	13058.59
Gerth/Charlotte	2000.00	Swanston Equipment Companies	8607.37
Grainger	3068.10	Syverson Truck Center/Dave	8644.57
Greenman HVAC, Inc.	24727.50	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	3125.76
Harty Mechanical Inc	2763.77	Valor Mechanical, Inc.	33572.10
Healthiest You	3978.00	Village Ranch Inc	11419.51
Institute for Environmental Assessment	2751.96	West Central Indexing	21503.00
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	34054.10	Ziegler, Inc	97011.44
Joseph Company, Inc/The	8166.00	83 Payments less than 2000	46838.36
		Final Total:	967955.20

4. Authorize Finance to make a 2025 fund transfer effective 12/31/2025, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 375.18, by transferring \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the General Fund (Fund 1) to the Health and Human Services Fund (Fund 11), and to establish these funds as assigned for Health and Human Services for tracking purposes.
5. Approve appointment to Mower County Extension Committee to appoint Sarah Lonergan to the Mower County Extension committee for a 3-year term, effective 4.14.26 – 12.31.28 (1st term)
6. Approve Facilities Supervisor position classification
7. Resolution to approve MN Lawful Gambling Premises Permit application of Blooming Prairie Fire Department Relief Association

Date: April 14, 2026

Res. #27-26

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 April 14, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026 the Blooming Prairie Fire Department Relief Association presented for approval a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG214 Premises Permit Application for gambling to be conducted at Brookside Campground located at 52482 320th Street, Udolpho Township, Mower County, MN.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mower County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Blooming Prairie Fire Department Relief Association Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG214 Premises Permit Application for gambling at Brookside Campground located at 52482 320th Street, Udolpho Township, Mower County, MN.

Passed and adopted this 14th day of April, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Sandvik reported to the Board that there was no critical damage in Mower County from the 4/13/26 severe storms in the area.

The Board recessed at 9:05 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:05 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Ryan Nagele for a house located at Section 16 Township 101 Range 016 APPROX E541.99FT W1366.60FT N425.23FT NE1/4 (PIN 01.015.0010)

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval.

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:08 a.m. regarding the Nagele housing tax abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:08 a.m. regarding Housing Tax Abatement application of David & Rebecca Schulz for a single-family home located at

Section 12 Township 103 Range 014 SubdivisionName COUNTRY HILLS ESTATES Lot 001 Block 001 SubdivisionCd 06034 (PIN 06.034.0010)

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval.

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m. regarding the Schulz housing tax abatement application.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:10 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Allen and Debra Fasbender for a single-family manufactured home on a permanent foundation located at Block 001 Lot 003 SubdivisionCd 21019 SubdivisionName NORTH SIDE PARK 2ND ADDN (PIN 21.019.0030).

County Administrator Matthew Verdick reviewed the application and recommended approval.

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:11 a.m. regarding the Fasbender housing tax abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:11 a.m.

Date: April 14, 2026

Res. #28-26

**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 April 14, 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, Ryan Nagele is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Portion of the NE1/4 of Section 16 Adams Township, MN (PIN 01.015.0010)

WHEREAS, Ryan Nagele 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 April 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Ryan Nagele 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 a shouse.
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 14th day of April, 2026.

Date: April 14, 2026

Res. #29-26

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

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held April 14, 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, David and Rebecca Schulz are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Country Hills Estates Lot 001 Block 001, Section 12 Frankford Township (PIN 06.034.0010)

WHEREAS, David and Rebecca Schulz have 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 April 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, David and Rebecca Schulz have 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 14th day of April, 2026.

Date: April 14, 2026

Res. #30-26

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

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 April 14, 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, Allen and Debra Fasbender are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Block 1, Lot 3, North Side Park 2nd Addition, Adams, MN (PIN 21.019.0030)

WHEREAS, Allen and Debra Fasbender have 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 April 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Allen and Debra Fasbender have 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 manufactured home on a permanent foundation.
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 14th day of April, 2026.

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the HHS board agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Health & Human Services Accounts Payable totaling \$144,598.23
2. Accept the Opioid Advisory Committee's recommendations and approve the disbursement of opioid funds as reimbursement to i) Mower County Jail for the implementation of a new monitoring system to enable early detection of medical distress, including opioid overdose and withdrawal-related complications (\$94,890) and ii) Parenting Resource Center for eliminating financial barriers and increasing services to those impacted by opioid use to support family reunification and recovery (\$45,000).

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, upon the recommendation of the Mower County Family Services to approve the Purchase of Service Agreements new agreement with "Austin Aspires" to serve as an independent contractor to carry out duties to serve as the Collaborative Coordinator effective 5/1/26 – 12/31/26 (\$16,363). Motion carried unanimously.

Health & Human Services Deputy Director Casey Lind reported that he has assumed responsibility for the Opioid Advisory Council and is working with facilitator Allison Ward to refine processes, update by-laws, and manage the RFP process as the committee continues to receive new funding proposals. Outreach efforts have been conducted to inform providers of available settlement funds, and proposals over \$25,000 require in-person presentations. Lind reviewed the approval workflow, noting that all projects must meet settlement requirements, be approved by the committee, and then receive Board approval before reimbursement funds are released.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 9:33 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 9:33 a.m. for regular business items.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the 2025 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the cannabis retail registration application of Michael Attleson d/b/a Hidden Gardens Micro effective 04/14/26 – 04/13/28 at 24000 US Hwy 218 North, Austin, MN. Motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Mitch Wenum presented bid information received for projects Seasonal roadside weed spraying, tree and stump removal and CP 50-26-07 Culvert lining.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to award the \$19,440 low quote of Sunshine Ent., LLC for the seasonal roadside weed spraying and have the project commence. Full quote abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the \$21,160 low quote of Olson Tree for tree and stump removal at various county locations and have the project commence. Full quote abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to award the \$333,767 low bid of Subsurface, Inc. for project CP 50-26-07 (both base and alternative bid) for culvert cleaning, rehabilitation and lining for existing culverts on CSAH 3, CSAH 15, CSAH 16 and CR 57 and have the project commence. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and at Public Works. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to amend Snow and Ice Control Policy effective April 14, 2026 by modifying the language in the last paragraph in Section “Levels of Service”, subparagraph section “Dispatching of Equipment” as follows:

Snow and ice removal shall normally be accomplished during daytime hours in order to provide the safest environment for the public and employees. In most circumstances, equipment will ~~not~~ be dispatched ~~prior to 6:00~~ ~~between 5:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M.~~ ~~will be off the roads by 6:00 P.M.~~ Some circumstances may require dispatching of equipment during nighttime hours (6:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.). The County Engineer or personnel designated by the Engineer ~~with discretion~~ are authorized to make ~~this the~~ ~~determination~~ ~~on when best to~~ ~~dispatch equipment during a weather event~~. However, due to safety concerns, no personnel shall work more than a 12-hour shift in any 24-hour period.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Mitchell County, Iowa and Mower County, Minnesota to coordinate and improve border bridge ownership, maintenance and inspection for 8 border bridges as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between Howard County, Iowa and Mower County, Minnesota to coordinate and improve border bridge ownership, maintenance and inspection for 2 border bridges to ensure that all ten border bridges meet Federal Highway Administration requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve moving ahead with design for the Highway Facility Addition Project with the design identified as Option 2B as laid out by Klein McCarthy and Contegrity at the 4/7/2026 work session. The Option 2B Plan is to add an addition to the existing vehicle storage building on the current highway department site in northeast Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to set a public hearing on May 12, 2026 at 9:05 a.m. regarding the County's intent to adopt a Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Property Ordinance--An Ordinance for the prohibition of tobacco use on Mower County property to be consistent with new Federal and State tobacco workplace recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to amend Personnel Policy D181 On Call Pay effective April 14, 2026 by modifying the language at the end of the first paragraph as follows:

~~Monday-Friday~~ ~~Saturday/Sunday/Holidays~~

~~\$40.00 per day~~ ~~\$55.00 per day~~

\$175 per week (7 days Monday through Sunday)

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to amend Personnel Policy B105 Statement of Policy (EEOP) effective April 14, 2026 by modifying the language in the first three paragraphs of the policy as follows:

This is to affirm Mower County's policy of providing Equal Opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment in accordance with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action laws, directives and regulations of Federal, State and Local governing bodies, specifically Minnesota Statutes 363A.

Mower County will not discriminate against or harass, nor permit the discrimination against or harassment of, any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, **gender identity**, **familial status**, disability, age or marital status with regard to public assistance **or other protected class status**.

Mower County will take Affirmative Action to ensure that all employment practices are free of such discrimination. Such employment practices include, but are not limited to the following: hiring, **promotion**, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, selection, layoff, disciplinary action, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve contract with Reassurance Solutions for the purchase, installation and annual software support (3-years) for cell and inmate monitoring equipment to enhance medical oversight and emergency response capabilities within the jail facility (\$94,890). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve Amendment No. 1 to Lease No. 11558 (land lease) and Amendment No. 2 to Lease No. LI 171 (Agreement No. 1001856) (equipment on tower lease) with MnDOT each for an additional lease term of ten years effective 6/1/26 - 5/31/36. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Sandvik recognized Public Safety Telecommunicators for their exemplary performance during Public Safety Telecommunicator Appreciation Week, highlighting their professionalism during the recent cyberattack and the seamless relocation of operations to Olmsted County for the switchgear project. He requested the Board's support to evaluate redundancy and cooperative service models to ensure operational resiliency, address increasing staffing pressures, and manage significant upcoming technology costs, including console replacement. Board members discussed potential options such as regional or neighboring-county partnerships, joint powers agreements, and shared technology arrangements, emphasizing the need to balance service reliability, local knowledge, and financial responsibility. The Board agreed that a structured review is appropriate, and a committee will be formed to study redundancy and cooperative dispatch options, with participation from dispatch leadership, the Sheriff's Office, relevant county staff, and two commissioners. Sandvik will coordinate communication with PSAP partners as the evaluation proceeds.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to form a committee for a dispatch study consisting of the Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff, the Public Safety Telecommunicator Supervisor, County Administrator, Chief Administrative Officer, IT Director and two Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sparks appointed Commissioners John Mueller and Polly Glynn to serve on the Dispatch Study Committee.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported he attended Personnel Committee on 4/7. Commissioner Reinartz reported he didn't have any meetings to attend. Commissioner Mueller reported he attended Fair Board on 4/7 and the SE MN Communications Board meeting on 4/13. Commissioner Glynn reported she attended the Joint Airport Zoning Board on 4/1, Personnel Committee on 4/7, SWCD on 4/8 and SEMCAC on 4/13. Commissioner Sparks reported he attended MN Rural Counties virtual meeting on 4/6.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: DAN SPARKS
Chairperson

Attest: [Signature]
By: [Signature]
Clerk/Administrator