REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 26, 2026

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session May 26, 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 Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of May 12, 2026
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Approve Commissioner Warrants

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name	Amount
Austin Automotive LLC	2,293.53	Muzik's Muddin' LLC	3,005.00
Austin Utilities	32,999.94	New Line Mechanical, Inc.	3,470.00
Baudoin Oil Company	30,414.98	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	17,683.20
Board of Water and Soil Resources	15,450.00	North Risk Partners LLC	4,166.67
Department Of Corrections	18,900.00	Paape Distributing Co.	5,725.00
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	3,979.00	Petroblend Corp.	6,100.74
FRSecure LLC	12,231.25	Plan It Software LLC	3,855.00
Goodhue County	3,898.00	RouteSmart Technologies Inc.	14,256.00
Healthiest You	4,173.00	Sheriff Houston County	7,604.17
J & S Repair Inc	3,515.04	Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	3,950.00
Kaseya US LLC	4,421.23	South Central College	2,282.23
MacQueen Equipment, Inc.	16,169.97	Tiny's Body Shop	2,374.87
Meadows Ctr for Mental Health Service	2,055.53	Veolia Environmental Services Inc	21,151.64
Metro Sales, Inc	2,043.65	Ziegler, Inc	4,763.50
Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	13,549.17	58 Payments less than 2000	31,780.54
		Final Total:	**298,262.85**

4. Approve Health & Human Services Accounts Payable totaling $202,585.98;
5. Approve Resolution adopting Assessment for Housing Tax Abatement repayment of $4,476.34 on parcel 34.468.0220 at 5% commencing 1/1/2027

Date: May 26, 2026 **Res. #43-26**

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 26, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County, hereafter referred to as "County", has a Housing Tax Abatement Program providing incentives to encourage the construction of residential single-family and multi-family housing units; and

WHEREAS, the property located at 1310 18th Street, Austin, MN, Mower County, and owned by Troy and Joann Ramaker, hereto referred to as "Ramaker Property" was approved for participation in the Housing Tax Abatement Program on August 9, 2022 through application by the builder, Cedar City Builders, LLC; and

WHEREAS, Troy and Joann Ramaker purchased the Ramaker Property and assumed participation in the Housing Tax Abatement Program on June 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025, the County sent notice by Certified Mail that the Ramaker Property was at risk of being terminated from the Housing Tax Abatement Program for failing to provide assessor staff access to the interior of the new housing unit in order to perform a new construction walk-through; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2025, the County sent notice by Certified Mail that the Ramaker Property's participation in the Housing Tax Abatement Program had been terminated; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2026, the County sent notice by Certified Mail that an abatement for 2025 property taxes, in the amount of $4,476.34, had been inadvertently distributed to Troy and Joann Ramaker and repayment requested by March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Certified letter was not claimed and the County received no response, the returned certified mail was delivered by Deputy Mensink to the residence and served upon Troy Ramaker on April 21, 2026, at 4:45 pm; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County does hereby assess against parcel 34.468.0220 $4,476.34 for repayment of the housing tax abatement paid in error.

1. Such assessment shall be payable in simple decreasing installments extending over three (3) years. The first of the installments shall be payable along with the first half taxes when due, as reflected on the tax statement payable year 2027, and shall bear interest at the rate of five percent (5%) per annum. Each payment including interest thereafter will be paid with taxes payable, until the assessment obligation is satisfied.
2. The owner of any property, so assessed, may pay the whole assessment on such property by December 31, 2026, without interest accrued.

   Thereafter the owner of property, so assessed, may pay the annual assessment amount, or any amount exceeding the annual assessed amount so listed on the tax statement, with any unpaid interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made.

   Payments will be accepted by the County up until the close of business day December 31 in the year of payment. If December 31st is a weekend or holiday; payment must be received in advance of closing of the last business day in the year payment is made.
3. There shall be no penalty for early payment or pay-off of the full balance of the assessment.
4. The County Administrator / clerk shall forthwith transmit a certified duplicate of this assessment to the County Auditor-Treasurer to be extended on the property tax list of the County and such assessment shall be collected and paid over the same manner as other municipal taxes.
5. This assessment must be paid in full at time of property transfer to any other owner, owners, heirs, assigns or entity.

Passed and approved this 26th day of May, 2026.

6. Resolution to approve MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit application of LeRoy Ostrander Clay Target Team, Inc. for raffle drawing on 8.1.26 at LeRoy Rod & Gun Club

Date: May 26, 2026 **Res. #44-26**

RESOLUTION

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held May 26, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2026 the LeRoy Ostrander Clay Target Team, Inc. presented for approval a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for gambling to be conducted at LeRoy Rod & Gun Club located at 10293 State Hwy 56, LeRoy Township, Mower County, MN on August 1, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mower County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the LeRoy Ostrander Clay Target Team, Inc. Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for gambling (a raffle) to be conducted at LeRoy Rod & Gun Club located at 10293 State Hwy 56, LeRoy Township, Mower County, MN on August 1, 2026

Passed and adopted this 26th day of May, 2026.

7. Approve New Tobacco Licenses for Le Roy Food Mart LLC d/b/a Le Roy Food Mart
   a. Tobacco License for period May 26, 2026 - June 30, 2026 AND
   b. Tobacco License for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
8. Approve Tobacco License for NuWay-K&H Cooperative d/b/a LeRoy Cenex for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
9. Approve Tobacco License for DG Retail, LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store #23892 for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
10. Approve Tobacco License for Freeborn County Cooperative Oil Co. for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
11. Approve Tobacco License for Patriot Travel Plaza, LLC for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Maintenance Crew Leader Kevin Whalen was recognized for retirement with 42 years of service.

The Board recessed at 9:11am for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:11 AM regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Donald & Judy Orum for a single-family home located at West half of parcel 26.004.0041 described as Lots 2 & 3, Block 2 of WW Sweets Addition, LeRoy, MN.

Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy reviewed the application and recommended approval.

Applicants Don and Judy Orum were not present. No one spoke for or against the Orum housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:13 AM regarding the Orum housing tax abatement application. The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:13 AM.

Date: May 26, 2026 **Res. #45-26**

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 May 26, 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, Donald and Judy Orum are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

West half of parcel 26.004.0041 described as Lots 2 & 3, Block 2 of WW Sweets addition, LeRoy, MN *[new parcel to be identified as 26.004.0042]*

WHEREAS, Donald and Judy Orum 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 May 26, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Donald and Judy Orum 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 26th day of May, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to accept and acknowledge Black Husky LLC's decision to rescind CUP #1009 application to operate an outdoor state licensed cannabis cultivation campus. Motion carried unanimously.

The County received bids for the Adams Highway Shop Electrical and Mechanical Upgrades. Four bids were received the low qualified bid was Moh's Contracting, Inc. at $457,000.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to award the $457,000 low bid of Moh's Contracting, Inc. for the Adams Highway Shop Electrical and Mechanical Upgrades and have the project commence. Full bid abstract available from County Facilities or Administration. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Coalition quote for cybersecurity insurance in the amount of $27,481.80. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Mitch Wenum provided an update on radar speed signs used outside various locations (7) in Mower County. The County will purchase and install and maintain ownership. The cities of Lyle, Dexter and Racine will contribute 50% of the costs for radar speed signs used at their city limits. Other locations are being considered and the 50% cost participation model is being presented for consideration.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported he attended union negotiations on 5/13 and 5/20 and a building committee on 5/19 for the highway project. Commissioner Reinartz reported a Senior Center Board meeting was canceled. Commissioner Mueller reported he attended Finance Committee on 5/12, Building Committee on 5/12 and 5/19 and SE MN Emergency Medical Services joint powers board on 5/14 virtually. Commissioner Glynn reported that she attended union negotiations on 5/20 and Safety Committee and also Wellness Committee on 5/21. Commissioner Sparks reported that he attended Finance Committee on 5/12, Assoc. of Mn Counties (AMC) day on the hill on 5/14 and the AMC legislative wrap up virtual session on 5/18 and the Development Corp of Austin (DCA) annual meeting on 5/19.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting is a work session scheduled for June 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: DAN SPARKS

Chairperson

Attest:

By: [signature]

Clerk/Administrator