

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 23, 2026

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session June 23, 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 was County Administrator/Clerk Matthew Verdick.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of June 2 work session and June 9, 2026
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>
Ancom Communications	2,140.00	National Insurance Services of Wisc Inc	27,481.80
Baudoin Oil Company	27,266.89	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	18,272.64
Bauer Built Tire	2,259.00	Rohl Electric and Services LLC	2,869.20
CivicPlus, LLC	8,170.91	Sheriff Houston County	7,604.17
Department Of Corrections	14,175.00	Streicher's	2,459.61
Diamond Drugs, Inc.	2,323.22	Taylor Print & Visual Impressions, Inc.	4,861.16
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	14,510.50	Viktora Dig and Drain Excavation LLC	3,825.86
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	10,978.75	Village Ranch Inc	42,342.63
Metro Sales, Inc	2,933.39	Zahl Equipment Service Inc	6,431.79
Mississippi Welders Supply Co.,Inc	10,907.62	Ziegler, Inc	5,862.94
Motorola Solutions Inc	10,200.00	60 Payments less than 2000	32,484.64
		Final Total:	260,361.72

4. Approve Health & Human Services Accounts Payable totaling \$215,432.85

5. Resolution to approve MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit application of St. John the Baptist Church (raffle 9/13/26)

Date: June 23, 2026

Res. #52-26

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 June 23, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2026 St. John the Baptist Church presented a request for a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for gambling to be conducted at the St. John the Baptist Church, Adams, Minnesota on September 13, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mower County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the issuance of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Exempt Permit to St. John the Baptist Church for gambling at St. John the Baptist Church, Adams, Minnesota on September 13, 2026.

Passed and adopted this 23rd day of June, 2026.

6. Approve list of surplus property for auction, donation and/or disposal as applicable

Quantity	Item	Department
1	2002 Dool Trailer Fb 1DGCS10122M049160	Corrections
1	2007 Sterling LT 9500 2FHAZDE47AY48796	Highway
1	Tommygate	Highway

7. Approve Liquor License for Grafin Company, Inc. d/b/a Echo Lanes for period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

8. Approve Fireworks Display Permit for Deer Creek Speedway, LLC for July 4, 2026

Motion carried unanimously.

John Garry of the Development Corporation of Austin provided an overview of Opportunity Zones 2.0, noting the program's focus on attracting investment to low-income census tracts through capital gains deferral. He reviewed the three eligible tracts in Mower County noting that state criteria and analysis tools continue to identify tract 0410 as the most competitive area for investment due to its low-income status and prior redevelopment activity. He explained that Opportunity Zones support economic development by attracting private capital with no financial risk to the County. Following brief discussion on data accuracy, redevelopment potential, and program competitiveness, the Board agreed to proceed with submitting the Opportunity Zone 2.0 application using tract 0410.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to authorize the Development Corp. of Austin (DCA) to submit an Opportunity Zone 2.0 application using tract 0410. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:24 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:24 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Caleb and Lexy Frank for a single-family replacement home located at E442FT S348FT N1164FT NE1/4 NE1/4; Section 22 Dexter Twp, MN (PIN: 05.022.0060).

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

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:26 a.m. regarding the Frank housing tax abatement application. The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:26 a.m.

Date: June 23, 2026

Res. #53-26

**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 June 23, 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, Caleb Frank is the owner of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

E442FT S348FT N1164FT NE1/4 NE1/4; Section 22 Dexter Twp, MN (PIN: 05.022.0060)

WHEREAS, Caleb and Lexy Frank 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 June 23, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Caleb and Lexy Frank 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 replacement 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 23rd day of June, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to accept Austin Property Holdings LLC/McIntire Feed and Grain Inc.'s decision to rescind CUP application #1010 to operate an outdoor state licensed cannabis cultivation. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny, to approve the Election Systems & Software LLC Ballot on Demand System, Processing and Services Agreement for the purchase of second ballot on demand system. (\$5,685) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Dataworks Plus Service Agreement (renewal) agreement effective June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027 for digital fingerprinting (\$2,412) subject to review and approval of the county attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Rochester for dispatch services effective June 25, 2026 – July 25, 2026 with possible service extensions not to exceed an additional 60 days without Board approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Muelle, to approve the Quit Claim Deed to correct ownership of parcel 34.905.0052 from Mower County to the City of Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board held a brief discussion regarding a request for Mower County participation on East Central Regional Development Commission to update the Historical Bluff Country Scenic Byway's Corridor Management Plan. Commissioner Glynn volunteered to serve on the steering committee and Commissioner Mueller volunteered to serve as an alternate.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Ankeny reported he attended SEMREX on 6/12, the County Board of Appeals & Equalization on 6/16 and union negotiations on 6/18. Commissioner Reinartz reported he attended the County Board of Appeals & Equalization on 6/16. Commissioner Mueller reported he attended Finance on 6/9, the PowerOn Midwest open house on 6/10, SEMN EMS as well as Workforce Development on 6/11, and Planning Commission on 6/15. Commissioner Glynn reported that she attended the County Board of Appeals & Equalization on 6/16 and union negotiations on 6/18. Commissioner Sparks reported that he attended the County Board of Appeals & Equalization on 6/16, and a SMART quarterly meeting on 6/17.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: DAN SPARKS
Chairperson

Attest:

By: Mutter ✓ Ver
Clerk/Administrator