REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 14, 2026

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

Members present, viz: Chair Dan Sparks, Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller and Polly Glynn. Member excused: Mike Ankeny. 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 Mueller, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Minutes of June 23, 2026
2. Acknowledge the Receipt of Electronic Fund Transfer Payment Reports
3. Approve Commissioner Warrants

Vendor Name	Amount	Vendor Name	Amount
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc	29,186.83	Klein McCarthy Architects	45,105.61
Allweather Roof	57,747.75	Little Falls Machine, Inc.	2,578.11
Austin Automotive LLC	4,063.98	MacQueen Equipment, Inc.	2,857.28
Baudoin Oil Company	26,546.68	Marco Technologies LLC	2,566.76
CDW Government	31,391.39	Mayo Clinic -Rochester	34,662.70
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	57,405.95	MEIGS Paving	14,269.22
Chosen Valley Testing, Inc	9,000.00	Metro Sales, Inc	7,112.99
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	24,675.00	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	30,584.24
Commissioner of Transportation	8,018.58	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	17,683.20
Consolidated Correctional Foodservice	21,390.08	North Risk Partners LLC	4,166.67
Contegrity Group, Inc.	16,898.05	Office Of MNIT Services	2,062.64
DATAPILOT, Inc.	4,495.00	Petroblend Corp.	3,393.70
Dave Lucas Consulting	4,012.50	Ratwik,Roszak & Maloney, P.A.	13,333.82
Election Systems & Software, LLC.	29,585.06	Regents Of The University Of Minnesota	57,937.50
Freeborn County	6,282.20	Schneider Geospatial, LLC	2,496.00
Freeborn County Co-Operative Oil Co.	9,844.15	Sheriff Houston County	7,604.17
Harty Mechanical Inc	7,555.25	Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC	124,393.52
Healthiest You	4,225.00	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	2,767.03
Imperial Dade	15,580.55	Uhl Company Inc	6,683.00
J & S Repair Inc	2,337.66	Village Ranch Inc	25,446.60
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	9,874.00	Ziegler, Inc	3,174.46
Joseph Company, Inc/The	2,300.00	73 Payments less than 2000	39,128.76
K O'Conner LLC	7,500.00	**Final Total:**	**839,923.64**

4. Approve Dorsey & Whitney LLC Bond Counsel Agreement for bond consulting services related to the County Highway Department facility project at an estimated cost of $22,500
5. Approve Resolution to adopt Assessment for Septic Loan for Marvin Thomas Lenway and Diane Cecelia Lenway, spouses (PIN 20.029.0100): $22,000.00

July 14, 2026 **Res. #55-26**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENT

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the policies of the Mower County Septic Loan program the owner of property has requested a loan from Mower County for replacement of a failing septic system on the below-listed property and has requested to pay back that loan by assessment to the subject property, to Mower County, over a ten-year term.

Property owner(s): Marvin Thomas Lenway, and Diane Cecelia Lenway, husband and wife

Property address: 17846 575th Avenue Rose Creek MN 55970

Parcel Identification No: 20.029.0100

Tax parcel legal description: Section 29 Township 102 Range 017 5.3AC N1/2 W1/2 NE1/4 BK 337-241

Assessment amount: $22,000.00, (Twenty-two thousand and no/100 dollars)

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

1. Such proposed assessment, made part hereof, is hereby accepted and shall constitute the special assessment against the lands named herein, and each tract of land herein included is hereby found to be benefitted by the proposed improvement and the amount of the assessment levied against it.
2. Such assessment shall be payable in simple decreasing installments extending over ten (10) 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 three percent per annum. Each payment including interest thereafter will be paid with taxes payable, until the assessment obligation is satisfied.
3. 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.
4. There shall be no penalty for early payment or pay-off of the full balance of the assessment.
5. 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.
6. This assessment must be paid in full at time of property transfer to any other owner, owners, heirs, assigns or entity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board Chair is hereby authorized to execute the Promissory Note on behalf of the County for the loan of the funds from the Mower County Septic Loan program.

Passed and approved this 14th day of July, 2026.

6. Approve ratings on selected job descriptions:

Position	Current Grade	Recommended Grade
Accountant- Health and Human Services	Not Graded	C42
Deputy Director Land Records- Elections	Not Graded	D62
Deputy Director Land Records- Property Services	Not Graded	D62
Deputy Director Land Records- Recorder	C32	C41

7. Approve a personal leave of absence for employee #5229 effective 11/30/26 – 1/8/27

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:02 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:02 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of HRA of Austin to construct a twin home located at Lot 7, Block 1, Murphy Creek Meadows Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.466.0070).

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

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 a.m. regarding the HRA Austin housing tax abatement application (PIN 34.466.0070).

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:03 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of HRA of Austin to construct a twin home located at Lot 8, Block 1, Murphy Creek Meadows Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.466.0080).

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

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:04 a.m. regarding the HRA of Austin housing tax abatement application (PIN 34.466.0080).

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:04 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Tim Sheedy to construct a single-family replacement home located at N1/2 SE1/4 & NE1/4 EXC NW1/4 NE1/4 Section 30 Lansing Twp, MN (08.030.0010).

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

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:06 a.m. regarding the Tim Sheedy housing tax abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:06 a.m.

Date: July 14, 2026 **Res. #56-26**

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

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 July 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, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority is the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 7, Block 1, Murphy Creek Meadows Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.466.0070)

WHEREAS, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority 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 July 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority 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 twin 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 July, 2026.

Date: July 14, 2026 **Res. #57-26**

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 July 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, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority is the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Lot 8, Block 1, Murphy Creek Meadows Subdivision, Austin, MN (PIN 34.466.0080)

WHEREAS, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority 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 July 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, the Housing & Redevelopment Authority 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 twin 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 July, 2026.

Date: July 14, 2026 **Res. #58-26**

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

On motion of Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held July 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, Sheedy Bros Inc. is the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

N1/2 SE1/4 & NE1/4 EXC NW1/4 NE1/4 Section 30 Lansing Twp, MN (08.030.0010)

WHEREAS, Tim Sheedy 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 July 14, 2026 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Sheedy Bros. Inc. / Tim Sheedy 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 a single-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 July, 2026.

The Board recessed at 9:07 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:08 a.m. regarding amending Zoning Ordinance Article VIII, Division 4 to add Outdoor Cannabis Grow Facilities. (commercial growing)

Angela Lipelt, Environmental Services Director, reviewed the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment and Planning Commission recommendations as well as providing additional considerations for fencing and odor mitigation options including setbacks.

One person spoke in favor of amending the Zoning Ordinance to update language and requirements for Outdoor Cannabis Grow Facilities. Three persons expressed concerns with the proposed zoning ordinance amendments emphasizing three main concerns: first, they argued that effective odor-mitigation technologies—particularly ozone-based systems—are already widely used and should be allowed as compliant alternatives rather than relying solely on large setback distances. Second, they raised cost and practicality concerns over requiring an 8-foot security fence, noting that a 6-foot fence is less expensive, easier to maintain, and sufficiently effective for wildlife deterrence without creating excessive visual impact. Third, they stressed that fencing standards need engineering considerations, such as wind load, soil conditions, and installation requirements vary significantly by site, making uniform height mandates potentially impractical. Also noted for the record that one letter in opposition was received.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:39 a.m. regarding amending the Zoning Ordinance Article VIII, Division 4.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:39 a.m.

Board members discussed setback requirements for residences, daycares, campgrounds, trails, and outdoor event or dining facilities, emphasizing the need for universal terminology and avoiding business-specific references. They also examined state-required security fencing amid unclear state guidance, debating whether a 6-foot or 8-foot fence is appropriate given cost, practicality, wildlife impact, wind load, and overall enforceability, with several commissioners favoring a 6-foot height. Odor mitigation was further reviewed, including potential advanced-technology requirements within 3,000 feet and how odor travels under varying conditions. With multiple applications already in progress and significant uncertainty in forthcoming state standards, the Board agreed that the ordinance must be refined—adjusting setbacks, clarifying fencing standards, and defining required plans for parking, loading, lighting, and security—and directed staff to return with a clean, complete revision before taking final action.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to table to the July 28 Board meeting the proposed zoning ordinance amendment, Article VIII, adding Division 4 Commercial Outdoor Cannabis Grow Facilities, for further clarification and language modifications concerning setbacks, fencing standards, and defining required plans for parking, loading, lighting and security. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:04 a.m. for the purpose of the Health & Human Services Board.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the Health & Human Services Board agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Approve Health & Human Services Accounts Payable totaling $139,876.29
2. Opioid Advisory Council Grant: Recover is Happening $64,203.86
3. Purchase of Service Renewal Agreements for Housing Support and Transportation effective 7/1/26 – 6/30/27:
   Housing Support: EON, Inc.; REM; REM Heartland; St. Mark's Assisted Living and Wildwood Grove
   Transportation: Austin Public Schools
4. Purchase of Service Renewal Agreement for Housing Support for Independent Mgmt. Services 1st & 3rd Apartments effective 7/1/26 – 7/31/26

5. Purchase of Service new Agreement for Housing Support for Three Rivers 1st and 3rd Apartments effective 8/1/26 – 7/31/27

Motion carried unanimously.

Health & Human Services reported new staff additions, including Karla Rodriguez as an accounting technician and Amber Miller's promotion within aging services. An overview of Federal HR1 changes highlighted 1) SNAP policy changes including time-limit rules, lists of non-citizens as ineligible and reduced federal administrative funding, and 2) Medical Assistance changes including upcoming work requirements affecting approximately 25 local Medical Assistance recipients. Staff clarified that medical assistance will continue for those who are not able-bodied, with definitions of disability and medical frailty still being refined. Additionally, DHS notified the County of a miscalculated 2026 Child Protection Grant allocation, resulting in a $26,000 budget shortfall.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to adjourn the Health & Human Services Board meeting at 10:18 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY BOARD

The Regular Session of the Board was reconvened at 10:19 a.m. for regular business items.

Luke Reese, JC Hormel Nature Center, appeared before the Board. Unfortunately the nature center's grant application to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) with the County Board's support was not awarded. There is another grant opportunity through the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission and the nature center is requesting the County Board's support for this grant application.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to authorize a letter of support as well as financial support at a 20% match for the JC Hormel Nature Center application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC) for legacy funds to financially support the Connecting Southern MN Students to Nature Program (2027-2029). The County commitment of a 20% match over the grant cycle is as follows:

Year	Total	GMRPTC (80%)	Match (20%)
2027	$80,202.02	$64,161.62	$16,040.40
2028	$170,097.49	$136,077.99	$34,019.50
2029	$89,041.59	$71,233.28	$17,808.32
Total	$339,341.10	$271,472.88	$67,868.22

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board received Development Corporation of Austin and Impact Austin program updates along with a request for continued financial support in 2027. No specific amount was included in their funding request.

Emergency Management Director Amy Bramwell reported on the July 2 and July 8 flood events, noting up to 15 inches of rain, multiple flood and tornado warnings, and several water rescues. Damage assessments exceed $208,000, including $150,000 in DNR trail damage, with additional township impacts still being tallied; 121 total responses were recorded, including a collapsed basement in Austin. The Red Cross provided cleanup kits and vouchers, and Operation BBQ Relief offered free meals in affected communities. Ongoing coordination continues with townships and partner agencies as flood maps, road closures, and impacts are compiled.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to acknowledge and adopt the following peacetime state of emergency disaster Resolution #54-26 enacted by the Chair on July 7, 2026.

Date: July 7, 2026 **Res. #54-26**

RESOLUTION

On the order of Chairperson Sparks, the following Resolution is passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners on July 7, 2026 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS severe storms caused flooding impacted to the population of Mower County and its cities, townships, public utilities and electric cooperatives: and

WHEREAS the storm event has caused damage to include washed out roadways and bridge structural damage; and

WHEREAS the Mower County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management requests the Mower County Board of Commissioner to declare Mower County in a State of Peacetime Emergency for July 2nd 2026 severe storms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mower County Chair declares Mower County in a State of Peace time Emergency for conditions resulting from severe storm event of July 2nd 2026 and continuing.

Passed and approved this 7th day of July, 2026.
This resolution shall become effective upon its passage and without further publication.
Motion carried unanimously.

The Board received a detailed update from Danielle Reed of Klein McCarthy regarding the Government Center Indoor Air Quality building remodel, outlining major mechanical system replacements, improved air handling, added fire protection for IT and dispatch, and design changes intended to enhance efficiency, safety, election security, and long-term cost savings. The project includes reconfiguring Land Records and Administration spaces while preserving existing structural elements where possible. A new first-floor board room and administrative offices will improve public access, privacy, and functionality. The updated cost estimate ranges from $4.52 to $4.75 million, with a 10% contingency due to the challenges of renovating an existing building; most existing furniture will be reused. The project schedule remains on track, with bid documents expected mid-August, bid opening in mid-September, contracts finalized in October, and phased construction beginning with Land Services, followed by Administration, aiming to have election-related areas ready by June.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to acknowledge the Egan Alarm Monitoring Agreement approved by the County Administrator on June 26, 2026 necessitated by the temporary move of Dispatch off-site and the need for an alternative method for proper fire panel monitoring. ($720 annually) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to amend the 2026 fee schedule to include a marriage ceremony officiant fee of $100 under the Auditor-Treasurer's office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to authorize the County Auditor-Treasurer to write-off $79,906.59 *($37,117.95 in delinquent taxes with an additional $42,788.65 in interest and penalty)* in unpaid mobile home/personal property taxes from the years 2003 through 2020 *(beyond the five-year revenue recapture period)* in accordance with Minnesota Statute 277.24. (List of parcels and individual amounts on file in the office of the Auditor-Treasurer.) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the letter of support of Nobels County Landfill Certificate of Need. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was informed that the Minnesota Rural Counties acknowledged the request for cancellation of Mower County membership. The cancellation of membership will be effective December 31, 2026.

The Board briefly discussed an invitation to join a multi-county committee regarding proposed transmission lines in Freeborn and Faribault counties. With Jackson County declining participation and limited clarity on the committee's purpose, commissioners questioned the value of joining, noting uncertainty about potential influence over public utility projects and limited feedback from local residents. Commissioners ultimately agreed to decline the invitation. Staff noted that, similar to past transmission projects such as Dodge Wind, a routing phase is expected, with two potential route options anticipated in the fall.

The Board discussed restructuring its schedule by eliminating the first-Tuesday work session and adding a committee-of-the-whole after the second and fourth Tuesday meetings so all commissioners can participate in committee discussions, improve transparency, and streamline decision-making. Members agreed to try the new format beginning August 11, noting it can be adjusted if needed.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to amend the county board meeting schedule effective August 11 by eliminating the first Tuesday of the month work session and adding a work session to both the second and fourth Tuesday regular sessions. Furthermore the work sessions will include discussions by all commissioners for the committees of Building Operations, Finance & Audit, Land Use and Solid Waste. Therefore, the 2026 list of committee appointments is modified to reflect this change and is on file in County Administration and posted on the County website. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Mueller reported he attended Extension Committee on 6/30, Planning Commission on 7/6 and Fair Board on 7/7. Commissioner Glynn reported she attended union negotiation meetings on 6/24, 6/25 and 6/27 and Personnel Committee on 7/7.

The Board received an update on an economic grant opportunity related to flooding and sewer issues in Grand Meadow. Information was shared with local contacts and will also be sent to SWCD for potential flood-mitigation support. Commissioners briefly discussed retention pond needs and drone footage of the affected area, noting ongoing mitigation work in the Dobbins watershed.

Timothy Sorgine reported concerns that the Narcan vending machine is overheating, not designed for medication storage, and may contain degraded product, raising liability issues. He requested climate control, emergency phone access, and clearer oversight. Staff committed to reviewing the machine with HHS.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Dan Sparks
Chairperson

Attest:
By: Matthew W Vetkin
Clerk/Administrator