

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session February 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller, Dan Sparks and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren and Executive Assistant Denise Barthels

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the agenda adding 1) Appoint Joy Kanne as Assessor; 2) approve Agreement with David Pike regarding Chief Deputy position; 3) Authorize software purchases by IT. Motion carried.

GIS Administrator Eric Miller provided the Board with a department update showing how GIS works as an independent system that works in conjunction with County other systems including the Vanguard appraisal system, the Aumentum tax system, OnBase document management system, 911 and others. GIS also partners with State, Federal, Cities, etc. for data compilation and sharing of information.

Recognitions and Awards

Eleven employees were recognized as Level 4 Leaders having completed the John Maxwell Leadership program. Those employees recognized were Laurie Clendenning, Chris Eastvold, Cindy Jensen, Mike Kellar, Amanda Kiefer, Candy Lahann, Amanda Lee, Eric Miller, Jason Murphy, Valerie Sheedy and Rod Streich.

County Assessor Candice Lahann was recognized for her fourteen years of service at Mower County upon her resignation. The County wishes Ms. Lahann well on her future endeavors.

The Board recessed at 9:46 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:46 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of Frank and Karol Krahn to construct a single-family home located 4.02AC BLDG Site SE ¼ SW ¼; DOC#649185, Section 9 Bennington Twp, Mower County, MN PIN 03.009.0010

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

The applicants Frank and Karol Krahn were present. No one spoke for or against the Krahn housing tax abatement application.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:48 a.m. regarding the Frank & Karol Krahn Housing Tax Abatement application.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:48 a.m.

Date: February 28, 2023

Res. #21-23

**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 February 28, 2023 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, Frank and Karol Krahn are the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

4.02AC BLDG Site SE ¼ SW ¼; DOC#649185, Section 9 Bennington Twp, Mower County, MN PIN 03.009.0010

WHEREAS, Frank and Karol Krahn 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 February 28, 2023 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Frank and Karol Krahn 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 revoked 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 28th day of February, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the Agreement between Mower County and David Pike regarding the future appointment to the Chief Deputy position. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the minutes of February 7 and February 14, 2023. Motion carried.

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

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Association Of Minnesota Counties	3,302.00	Mayo Clinic Ambulance Services	2,316.70
Continental Research Corporation	3,674.00	MCHS SE Minnesota	9,681.80
Department Of Corrections	24,180.00	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	6,858.13
Diamond Drugs, Inc.	2,255.71	Minnesota Counties Intergov'tal Trust	2,500.00
Donnelly Law Firm, PLLC	10,225.47	Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing	3,472.00
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	11,258.00	Office Of Mn It Services	2,413.84
Falkstone LLC	7,877.65	Phoenix Supply	2,388.40
Gallagher Benefit Services Inc	4,000.00	The Master's Touch, LLC	8,100.00
Industrial Networking Solutions	4,139.76	Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	4,071.93
Jones Law Firm	5,387.50	Village Ranch Inc	14,320.45
Language Line Services	2,095.47	Warning Lites of Minnesota, Inc	2,586.15
Mayo Clinic	2,625.00	61 Payments less than 2000	25,875.34
		Final Total:	165,605.30

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Law Enforcement Services Contract with the City of LeRoy to provide law enforcement services within the City limits. (2 year contract effective 1/1/23 – 12/31/24) . Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Law Enforcement Services Contract with the City of Adams to provide law enforcement services within the City limits. (2 year contract effective 1/1/23 – 12/31/24) . Motion carried.

Date: February 28, 2023

Res. #22-23

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CHARTER GRANT APPLICATION
TO MINNESOTA OFFICE OF BROADBAND BORDER TO BORDER**

On motion of Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held February 28, 2023, at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County is a rural county in Southeast Minnesota that continues to have a majority of its geography either unserved or underserved by broadband; and

WHEREAS, broadband has become a basic need for all residents for education, medical, business and other quality of life requirements; and

WHEREAS, broadband access in rural areas is linked to increased job and population growth, higher rates of new business formation, increased home values and lower unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS, Charter is submitting a Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Grant Application to build out fiber service south of the City of Austin, MN in a unserved and/or underserved location; and

WHEREAS, the Mower County Board of Commissioners understands the importance of Broadband for the constituents it serves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mower County supports the Application of Charter for a Minnesota Broadband Border to Border matching grant for the following project:

South and Southwest of Austin, Mn Mower County 148 passings at a cost of \$1,200,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mower County is willing to partner in this build out and has committed matching funds in the amount of \$100,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mower County Board of Commissioners Chair is hereby authorized to sign a Letter of Support directed to the Office of Broadband Development in support of Charter Communications' Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant application.

Passed and approved this 28th day of February, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to amend Resolution #09-23 adopted February 14, 2023 in support of the ARVIG Border to Border Grant by amending the two resolved paragraphs to the following new paragraphs that incorporates a new lower total projected project cost with the ARVIG contribution changed to 15% and DEED grant request at 75%:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mower County supports the Application of ARVIG for a Minnesota Broadband Border to Border matching grant for the following project:

283 passings, 235 unserved and 48 underserved passings in the rural area of Mower County near Adams, Elkton, Taopi, Rose Creek, Leroy, area (122.4 miles). Project cost is \$6,371,266.75. Arvig contribution is 15% or \$955,690.01, Border to Border LOW Density Grant (DEED) request is 75% or \$4,778,450.06 and Mower County portion is 10% or \$637,126.68

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mower County is willing to partner in this build out and has committed matching funds in the amount of \$637,126.68.

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$269,846.56. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to authorize the chair to send a letter requesting a new domain of mowercounty.gov for the county. Motion carried. (subsequent NOTE: .Gov Domain Registration modified the County's request requiring the new domain name to be mowercountymn.gov)

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to appoint Joy Kanne to serve as the Mower County Assessor effective March 6, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to authorize the IT Director to purchase two IT software packages: Freshdesk Support Desk (\$1260) and TeamViewer Corporate (\$3500). Motion carried.

Date: February 28, 2023

Res. #23-23

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 February 28, 2023 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

2023 ROAD RESTRICTION RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 169.87, Seasonal Load Restrictions and 163.02, Subdivision 3, Load Restrictions, the following described County State Aid Highways and County Roads within Mower County, Minnesota, are hereby restricted to a maximum axle load as noted below, that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to impose weight and load restrictions on any highway under County Jurisdiction during the calendar year of 2023 and the County Engineer be hereby authorized to erect proper signs plainly indicating the prohibition or restriction at each end of these described roads. All restrictions shall become

Six Tons per axle

C.S.A.H. No. 5 – From T.H. 218 to C.S.A.H. No. 7
C.S.A.H. No. 11 – From T.H. No. 56 to East County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 16 – From C.S.A.H. 2 to County Road 57
C.S.A.H. No. 18 – From C.S.A.H. No. 7 to Iowa State Line
C.S.A.H. No. 19 – From T.H. No. 56 to C.S.A.H. No. 46
C.S.A.H. No. 22 – From T.H. 218 to C.S.A.H. No. 19
County Road No. 52 – From C.S.A.H. No. 4 to T.H. 56

Seven Tons per axle

C.S.A.H. No. 1 & 15 – C.S.A.H. No. 20 to C.S.A.H. No. 8
C.S.A.H. No. 1 – From C.S.A.H. No. 8 to East County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 3 – From T.H. 56 to C.S.A.H. No. 8
C.S.A.H. No. 3 – From C.S.A.H. 8 to East County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 4 – From C.S.A.H. No. 7 to C.S.A.H. No. 9
C.S.A.H. No. 6 – From C.S.A.H. No. 19 South to T.H. 56
C.S.A.H. No. 8 – From T.H. 16 South to T.H. 56
C.S.A.H. No. 8 – From C.S.A.H. No. 1 to North County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 9 – Iowa State Line to C.S.A.H. No. 6
C.S.A.H. No. 10 – From C.S.A.H. No. 1 North to County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 13 – Interstate 90 to C.S.A.H. No. 7
C.S.A.H. No. 16 – From County Road 57 to North County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 20 – From C.S.A.H. No. 7 to 1 ½ miles west
C.S.A.H. No. 24 – From C.S.A.H. 46 to C.S.A.H. 16
C.S.A.H. No. 26 – From West County Line to T.H. 218
C.S.A.H. No. 27 – From West County Line to 1,595 ft. west of T.H. 218
County Road No. 57 – From C.S.A.H. No. 16 to C.S.A.H. No. 20

Nine Tons per axle

C.S.A.H. No. 1 – From C.S.A.H. No. 36 to C.S.A.H. No. 20
C.S.A.H. No. 1 & 10 – From C.S.A.H. No. 2 to C.S.A.H. No. 15
C.S.A.H. No. 3 – From T.H. 218 to T.H. 56
C.S.A.H. No. 4 – From West County Line to C.S.A.H. No. 7
C.S.A.H. No. 5 – From West County Line to T.H. 218
C.S.A.H. No. 5 – From C.S.A.H. No. 7 to T.H. 56
C.S.A.H. No. 6 – From West County Line to C.S.A.H. No. 19
C.S.A.H. No. 7 – From Iowa State Line to Interstate 90
C.S.A.H. No. 7 – From C.S.A.H. No. 2 to North County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 8 – From T.H. 16 North to C.S.A.H. No. 1

C.S.A.H. No. 16 – From Austin City Limits to C.S.A.H. No. 2
C.S.A.H. No. 19 – From C.S.A.H. No. 46 to C.S.A.H. No. 2
C.S.A.H. No. 19 – From C.S.A.H. No. 6 to T.H. 56 at Rose Creek
C.S.A.H. No. 20 – From Interstate 90 to C.S.A.H. No. 3
C.S.A.H. No. 20 – From North County Line to C.S.A.H. No. 46
C.S.A.H. No. 21 – From C.S.A.H. No. 28 to T.H. 105
C.S.A.H. No. 23 – From C.S.A.H. No. 28 to Austin City Limits
C.S.A.H. No. 25 – From C.S.A.H. No. 45 to C.S.A.H. No. 1
C.S.A.H. No. 28 – From West County Line to T.H. 218
C.S.A.H. No. 29 – From C.S.A.H. No. 4 to Austin City Limits
C.S.A.H. No. 36 – From C.S.A.H. No. 26 to C.S.A.H. No. 1
C.S.A.H. No. 46 East – From 28 St. N.E. exit to C.S.A.H. No. 20
C.S.A.H. No. 46 West – From Freeborn County Line to I-90
County Road No. 51 – From C.S.A.H. No. 21 to T.H. 105
County Road No. 58 – From Co. Rd. 58 to T.H. 56
County Road No. 58 – From Interstate 90 to C.S.A.H. No. 3
County Road No. 59 – From West end to C.S.A.H. No. 13
County Road No. 60 – From C.S.A.H. No. 20 east
County Road No. 61 – Austin North to C.S.A.H. No. 2

Ten Tons per axle

C.S.A.H. No. 2 – From West County Line to East County line
C.S.A.H. No. 7 – From Interstate 90 to C.S.A.H. No. 2 West
C.S.A.H. No. 8 – From C.S.A.H. No. 1 North to Olmsted County Line
C.S.A.H. No. 12 – From Iowa State line to T.H. 56
C.S.A.H. No. 14 – From T.H. 56 to T.H. 16
C.S.A.H. No. 27 – From 1,595 ft. West of T.H. 218 to C.S.A.H. No. 45
C.S.A.H. No. 36 – From C.S.A.H. 2 to ½ mile North
C.S.A.H. No. 45 North – From Interstate 90 to T.H. 218
C.S.A.H. No. 45 South – From T.H. 218 to Austin City Limits

Five Tons per axle

All other County State Aid Highways and County Roads of Mower County, Minnesota, not covered by the foregoing 6, 7, 9 & 10 ton per axle restrictions.

Passed and approved this 28th day of February, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to set the project letting date to March 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the office of Public Works and awarded at a subsequent County Board of Commissioner's meeting for the following County projects:

SAP 050-619-019; SAP 050-619-020; CP 50-23-08; and SAP 050-614-012

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve 2021 – 2022 Health & Human Services write-offs. Detail available in Finance department. Motion carried.

Finance Manager Loni Swenson provided the Board with reports reviewing the December 2022 and January 2023 investments. The Commissioners acknowledge the receipt of the December and January investment reports.

Additional requests for ARPA funds were received and considered by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to designate \$25,000 a year for 3 years of ARPA funding for Recovery is Happening. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks to designate \$30,000 for one year of ARPA funding for the Gerard Academy. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on identified needs for the IT department which includes server room updates and phone system update to name a couple. The IT Director is preparing a 1 to 5 year plan. ARPA funds may be available to fund the updates.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Glynn reported that she had attended the SCHSAC meeting on 2/24/23 via zoom. Commissioner Reinartz reported that he had attended the Transportation Legislative updated on 2/24/23 and there was discussion on infrastructure and broadband expansion. He also attended a legislative meeting with Representative P. Mueller on 2/23/23 along with Commissioner Mueller. Rep. Mueller provided the status of some of the larger bills on the floor. Commissioner Mueller indicated that he along with Commissioner Ankeny attended the Joint City-County meeting on February 15 and there was discussion on local sales tax, possible changes with the Law Enforcement Center and dispatch and the Hormel daycare facility among other topics. Commissioner Mueller also indicated his attendance at the AMC legislative conference as Commissioner Reinartz indicated earlier which also included meetings on such topics as NG 911 state and armor radio funding meeting and he attended the public safety policy meeting. Commissioner Sparks reported he had attend a Finance Committee meeting on 2/16, the AMC General Government policy meeting on 2/23 which included discussions on the surplus, youth childcare grants, and housing grants. He also attended a Workforce Development meeting on 2/23. Commissioner Ankeny reported also attending the Finance Committee meeting and the Joint City-County meeting referenced above.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

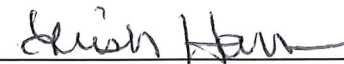
THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____



Vice - Chairperson

Attest:

By:  _____
Clerk/Administrator