

REGULAR SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 25, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session July 25, 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, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the agenda adding under General Business a requested motion to rescind the 6/27/23 Board motion accepting the resignation of County Administrator. Motion carried.

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

1. Approve Minutes of July 11, 2023

2. Approve Commissioner Warrants

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3M Company	3,345.68	Gallagher Benefit Services Inc	4,000.00
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	24,972.42	Herness Construction Co	4,900.00
Austin Community Charitable Fund	50,000.00	HILLIER/JON	2,139.98
Baudoin Oil Company	17,690.97	Insight Direct USA, Inc	12,588.42
Beckleys	3,920.00	Language Line Services	2,349.16
CDW Government	20,055.63	MCHS SE Minnesota	12,303.55
Cedar Valley Services, Inc	60,983.10	MEIGS Paving	138,283.22
Chosen Valley Testing, Inc	5,080.00	Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance	3,144.00
Commissioner Of Transportation	11,979.41	Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative	28,370.16
Dell Marketing L P	8,335.90	REDI Transports, LLC	7,470.00
Department Of Corrections	31,200.00	Syversen Truck Center/Dave	2,178.26
Development Corp Of Austin	160,000.00	Ulland Brothers Inc.	12,108.66
Donnelly Law Firm, PLLC	4,335.26	Village Ranch Inc	7,343.10
Erickson Engineering Co., LLC	4,263.00	White Cap	3,929.75
Force America Distributing, LLC	5,691.66	Ziegler, Inc	3,354.06
Freeborn County	5,768.06	90 Payments less than 2000	46,958.20
		Final Total:	709,041.61

3. Approve amendment to MDH COVID grant extending the date to 12/31/23 to spend down the grant funds

4. Approve / deny application of Richard Groth for a fireworks display on 8/18/23 (rain date: 08/19/23)

Motion carried.

Assistant Public Works Director – Environmental Services Valerie Sheedy provided the Board with a department update with the focus of the report on the relationships the

department has built in performing its varied tasks of Feedlot Program Administration, Water Planning, Solid Waste Management, Ordinances and Zoning (Land Use) & Permitting. Valuable partnerships have been developed with farmers and landowners, the MPCA, SWCD, surrounding counties, BSWR, DNR, municipalities such as the City of Austin and the townships, the DCA, septic contractors, surveyors and even other County departments.

Deputy Sheriff Neal Williams was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 23 years of service.

Case Aide I Rosie Ramos was recognized for retirement from Mower County with 22 years of service.

The Board recessed at 9:54 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 9:54 a.m. regarding a Housing Tax Abatement application of the Austin HRA for a single-family home located 34509 Block 001, Lot 003 North Pointe, City of Austin, MN (PIN 34.509.0030).

County Administrator Trish Harren reviewed the application and recommended approval.

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

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:55 a.m. regarding the Austin HRA Housing Tax Abatement application on parcel 34.509.0030.

The County Board reconvened its regular session at 9:55 a.m.

Date: July 25, 2023

Res. #56-23

**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 July 25, 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, Austin HRA is the owner(s) of certain property within Mower County, legally described as follows:

Block 001, Lot 003 North Pointe, City of Austin, MN (PIN 34.509.0030)

WHEREAS, Austin HRA 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 25, 2023 before the Mower County Board of Commissioners, on said application.

WHEREAS, Austin HRA 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 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 25th day of July, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Health & Human Services accounts payable totaling \$280,255.65. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to rescind the June 27, 2023 motion that had accepted the resignation of the County Administrator Trish Harren effective August 4, 2023. Trish Harren will continue to be the Mower County Administrator. Motion carried.

Mike Ruzek and Veteran Service Officer Rod Streich, provided the board report regarding the Honor Guards Park and the Mower County Veterans Memorial renovation project status. The Honor Guards Park updated landscaping project has been completed and there was a dedication ceremony. The Veterans thank the County for its contribution to the project. Mr. Ruzek indicated the Mower County Veteran Memorial renovation project should be moving forward and an architect rendition should be announced soon. The renovation will accommodate more pavers and also present the pavers up off the ground. The committee has a goal to have the renovation project completed with a dedication on Memorial Day 2024. The Veterans thank the County for its donation towards the renovation project.

Finance Manager Loni Swenson presented to the Board the 2nd Quarter Financial Update which included a year-to-date summary of budgeted expense report and the 2nd quarter Investment Report.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, the Board acknowledged and accepted the second quarter investment report presented. Motion carried.

County Administrator Trish Harren provided a summary update of the ARPA budget with a request to reallocate some of the funds set aside for broadband for use for the Recycling Building project. Ms. Harren recommended that an additional \$250,000 be allocated for the Recycling Center for electronics recycling (\$140,000 for the building project itself and \$110,000 for needed driveway updates due to the construction.) It was noted that the application for broadband grant funding to reach the unserved and underserved in the county was unsuccessful.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to reallocate \$250,000 of ARPA funds from broadband to the recycling center building project. Motion carried.

Mike Hanson, Public Works Director, presented bid and/or quote information received for the Adams Fuel Tank project, SAP 050-602-033 road project, Swanston Hot Patcher replacement equipment and Recycling Center Addition.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to award the low quote of Zahl Equipment Service, Inc. for a fuel tank at the Adams shop (\$18,691) and have the project commence. Motion carried. Quote documents on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to award the low bid of ICON Constructors, LLC for project SAP 050-602-033 (Bridge 50602 on CSAH 2 - \$1,422,745.20) and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to award the low quote of Swanston Equipment for the purchase of a new 2023 4 Ton Hotbox/Reclaimer (Model KM8000TEDD) replacing current equipment numbered #47 declaring it as surplus property for auction (\$45,448). Motion carried. Quote documents on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Sparks, to approve the Louise Solar Road Use and Repair Agreement. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to award the low bid of The Joseph Company, Inc. for the recycling electronics addition project (\$629,000.00) and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor-Treasurer and Public Works Director.

Date: July 25, 2023

Res. #57-23

RESOLUTION
For Agreement to State Transportation Fund (Bridge Bonds)
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 050-602-033

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 25, 2023 at the Government Center, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 50602; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$579,262.50 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Mower County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50 and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Passed and approved this 25th day of July, 2023.

Under Committee Reports Commissioner Glynn reported she had attended the SE EMS meeting on July 11, the SWCD meeting on July 12 and attempted to attend Louise Solar Project pre-construction meeting on 7/18 but had arrived after the meeting had already

concluded. Commissioner Mueller reported he had attended the Fair Board meeting on July 11, the Louise Solar pre-construction meeting and a Personnel meeting on July 18 and the dedication of the new kayak launch at the Old Mill/Ramsey Dam on July 19. Commissioner Reinartz reported that he was also at the Personnel meeting on July 18 and the kayak launch dedication on July 19. He had also attended the Senior Center meeting on July 21. Commissioner Sparks reported he had attended a Finance meeting on July 21. Commissioner Ankeny also reported on attending Finance on July 21 and the committee discussed ARPA funding and the upcoming 2024 budget process.

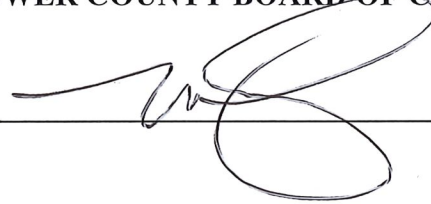
Solid Waste Officer Marcus Thompson thanked the Board for its action to proceed with the electronic recycling addition.

County Attorney Kristen Nelsen reported that she had received a message from Court Administration that they will no longer be managing the Law Library. A meeting of the Law Library Board will be called to discuss options.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (work session)

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____



Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____



Clerk/Administrator