

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

August 1, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on August 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

Members present, viz: Chair Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller, and Polly Glynn. Member excused: Dan Sparks. Also in attendance: Executive Assistant Denise Barthels.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vivacity Infrastructure Group representatives Benjamin Meyer and Jeff Parris provided the Board with information pertaining to broadband services that Vivacity can offer to Mower County. The company specializes in partnerships. Vivacity is a designer and builder for broadband. Vivacity's customers are municipalities, counties and internet service providers. The networks designed and built meet the individual needs of the customer. Vivacity can provide Mower County with multiple solutions to bring broadband to the unserved and underserved rural areas in the County, making affordable connections from the broadband networks to the homes. State and federal funding grant options could be explored and applied for projects. It was suggested that Mower County establish a broadband committee to further review needs and possible solutions.

Human Resources Director Kris Kohn provided a brief overview update on the progress of the County-wide strategic plan. This is the third survey completed. The score card shows improvement in employee engagement from the first to the third. The score card from employee surveys shows where the County should focus its work. Each department is analyzing their score cards and developing plans focused on need areas.

Commissioner Mueller indicated that the Fair Board is concerned about the use of cannabis at the fair given the legalization of cannabis use that will begin on August 1st. The Fair Board was directed to speak to the County Attorney and the Austin Police Chief for interpretation of the new statutes and what they can do to prepare for the fair.

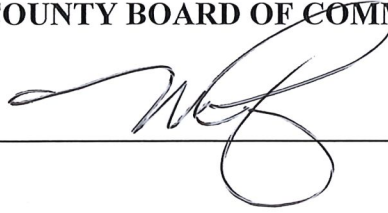
The Board recessed at 2:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2:29 p.m.

CivicClerk Implementation Consultant Jesse Porquis conducted a short board portal training session.

The work session concluded at 2:56 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____



Chairperson

Attest:

By: 
Clerk/Administrator