

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR  
NICOLLET COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 26, 2021

The Nicollet County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. Commissioners Denny Kemp, Jack Kolars, Marie Dranttel, Terry Morrow and John Luepke were present. Also present were County Administrator Ryan Krosch, County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer and Recording Secretary Sarah Frahm.

The meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Zoom meeting technology was used to conduct the meeting. Chair Morrow, Administrator Krosch and Recording Secretary Frahm were in attendance at the County Board Room. All others participated via Zoom. The meeting was also video recorded.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Luepke to approve the consent agenda items as follows: January 5, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, approval of the Natural Resources Block Grant Financial Reports, approval of a 2021 Solid Waste Collection and Transportation License for Hansen Sanitation, Inc., approval of the Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota DHS State Operated Forensic Services, approval of the Annual South Central Community Based Initiative Purchase of Service Agreement, approval of the Chemical Dependency Treatment Provider: Updated Letter of County Need for Mankato Chemical Health, approval of the end of probation for Baylee Nelson, effective January 15, 2021, and approval of the Commissioner Warrants as presented for the following amounts: General Revenue Fund - \$518,309.23 and \$263,756.95, Road & Bridge Fund - \$18,895.56 and 41,231.57, Human Services Fund - \$251,749.43 and \$157,269.68, and acknowledge review of the Auditor's Warrants. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

**Public Appearances**

There were no public appearances.

**Approval of Agenda Continued**

Administrator Krosch stated that he forgot one agenda addition for Public Works: City of North Mankato LRIP Grant Proposal for CSAH 6. Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to amend the agenda with the stated addition. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

## **Health and Human Services**

### **2021 Beyond Brink/WEcovery Purchase of Service Agreement**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Director, Cassie Sassenberg, appeared before the Board to request approval of the 2021 Beyond Brink/WEcovery Purchase of Service Agreement.

Nicollet County was allocated funds through the Opioid Epidemic Response account in the amount of approximately \$7,000 for use in 2020 and 2021. The goal of this funding is to allow counties to provide new or expanded service delivery for families struggling with addiction and served by child protection. As discussed in last week's Board Workshop, Nicollet County Health and Human Services is requesting to begin contracting for Peer Recovery Support Services through Beyond Brink/WEcovery. Many of these services are billable to medical insurance when recommended by a chemical health assessment. Our grant dollars would be used to purchase services for clients only when they cannot be billed.

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Drantel to approve the 2021 Beyond Brink/WEcovery Purchase of Service Agreement. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

## **COVID-19 Update**

### Case Investigation and Contact Tracing:

Director Sassenberg gave a brief update on the response of HHS to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the County is at 2,312 total cases, with 59 active cases. Although the County is trending downward, we are beginning to see positive cases and exposures related to schools reopening and sports resuming. Also, people now have the option to take an online survey for contact tracing instead of answering a phone call with local public health. While the response rate is slightly higher for the online survey, people are not required to answer all questions. Because HHS is worried about getting less data, they are continuing to use phone calls as the preferred way to gather the data.

### Vaccinations:

HHS is continuing vaccinations at the local level for Phase 1A, which includes local health care workers and first responders. There are about 850 people left in this phase to vaccinate. The County is expecting another shipment of about 300 more vaccines doses, and these will be used in the next three days to continue vaccinating people in Phase 1A.

In general, the model for vaccine distribution is shifting. HHS is slowly beginning to receive more vaccines and starting to partner with health care providers.

The vaccine clinics held this past weekend were successful learning opportunities for the HHS staff. About 15 staff participated in the vaccination clinics and they were able to vaccinate more than 1,200 people. Attendees of the clinic gave wonderful feedback, commenting that the clinics were very organized and efficient and the nurses were patient and compassionate. HHS staff learned there were some glitches and learning curves for residents in making appointments and receiving confirmations, and they will follow up on this to make the process easier in the future. HHS staff also learned that there were six doses per vial instead of their original estimate of five doses, so they will be able to vaccinate more people than originally anticipated.

In general, the goal for the pilot clinics was for the State to learn from local public health and to test out new strategies for large-scale events. Based on what they have learned, the State is planning to use contracted staff members. This leaves HHS staff open to focusing on clinics at the local level. The County appreciated the opportunity to help build these events and to partner with local area providers such as District 77, the North Mankato Police Department and Mayo Health Systems.

## **Public Works**

### **Consider 2020 LRIP Application Resolution of Support for SAP 052-615-025**

Public Works Director, Seth Greenwood, requested approval on a resolution for a 2020 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Application in support of SAP 052-615-025 County State Aid Highway 15 (CSAH 15).

The 2020 MN Legislature provided \$75,000,000 for the LRIP. MnDOT State Aid administers the LRIP and they recently have opened up a solicitation for project applications. Eligible county projects can receive up to a maximum amount of \$1,250,000. Applications are due by March 3, 2021 and awards will be announced in May 2021. The CSAH 15 reconstruction project from Trunk Highway (TH) 111 to County Road (CR) 51 does meet the eligibility requirements of the LRIP program.

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Luepke to approve the resolution for a 2020 LRIP application in support of SAP 052-615-025. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

#### RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FUNDING APPLICATION SUBMITTAL FOR 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SOLICITATION FOR CSAH 15 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, in 2002 the Minnesota Legislature established the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) to assist local agencies in constructing or reconstructing their local roads; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Office of State Aid is soliciting grant applications to have projects considered for funding from the Local Road Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, Nicollet County may request up to a maximum amount of \$1,250,000; and

WHEREAS, the CSAH 15 reconstruction project (SAP 052-615-025) is included in the adopted Nicollet County 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (2020-2024) with construction anticipated to start in 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the CSAH 15 reconstruction project (SAP 052-615-025) for submittal to MnDOT State Aid for LRIP funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the CSAH 15 reconstruction project (SAP 052-615-025) is awarded LRIP funds, the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners will consider approving execution of the related grant agreement at a future County Board meeting.

### **Consider Appraisal Engagement Agreement for SAP 052-615-025**

Director Greenwood appeared before the Board to request approval of the Appraisal Engagement Agreement for SAP 052-615-025 (CSAH 15).

To be able to construct the CSAH 15 reconstruction project, additional permanent road right of way (ROW) and temporary easements will need to be acquired. These

acquisitions are identified on the preliminary Nicollet County ROW Plat No. 30 and involve 105 parcels. Included with the County Board packet is an Appraisal Engagement Agreement from Brovold & Company, LLC to perform valuation services for these 105 parcels. Estimated cost is \$46,250 and is comprised of a mix of Minimum Damage Valuations (MDV) and full Real Estate Appraisals. Final cost of this proposal may change depending on the final number of actual MDV's and full Real Estate Appraisals completed.

Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Kemp to approve the Appraisal Engagement Agreement for SAP 052-615-025. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

### **Agenda Addition – City of North Mankato LRIP Grant Proposal for CSAH 6**

North Mankato has requested interest in making a segment of Timm Road (CSAH 6) between Rockford Road (CSAH 41) and Lookout Drive (CSAH 13) into an urban roadway instead of rural. They want to apply for the LRIP grant that is due in March, which could potentially fund \$1 million of the project's \$2.1 million total cost. The City has asked if the County would approve a project like this and help with cost participation.

Director Greenwood and Administrator Krosch are both recommending to not have the project occur at this time. One main concern is that the County is applying for LRIP funds for the CSAH 15 project, and we do not want to have the CSAH 6 project competing for the same funding. Another concern is that there are not many buildings around CSAH 6, so it is more exposed to wind and blowing snow. By lowering the road and converting it to urban without a wind block, the urbanized sections could become an issue for snow removal. Director Greenwood stated that the road has already been improved to a 10-ton road by the County and currently has wide shoulders and is more than adequate to handle traffic. The consensus of the Board was to not have changes made to this segment of CSAH 6 at this time.

### **Administration**

#### **2021-2025 Strategic Plan**

Administrator Ryan Krosch appeared before the Board to request approval of the 2021-2025 Nicollet County Strategic Plan.

This documented is created every year to:

1. Provide a road map for services that is consistent with the identified County strategies, mission, vision, and core values.
2. Help complete the goals portion of staff performance evaluations.
3. Be a decision-making tool for the County Board.
4. Be a communication tool for the public and staff.

Identified goals in the plan are projects or programs that are outside the typical day-to-day work of each department. Although this is a 5-year plan, you will notice most of the goals are focused on the next year or two, which makes this more of a short-term work plan.

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the 2021-2025 Nicollet County Strategic Plan. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

### **Commissioner Committee Reports**

The Commissioners reported on various meetings and activities including:

#### **Commissioner Marie Dranttel**

- Board Meeting
- 1 Watershed 1 Plan Meeting
- Special Ditch Meeting
- True Transit Advisory Meeting (VINE)
- Elected Women's Group
- Region 9 Revolving Loan Fund
- Our St. Peter Webinar
- Brown Nicollet Community Health
- Joint Ditch Meeting with Sibley County
- Planning & Zoning Commission

#### **Commissioner Terry Morrow**

- Board Meeting
- Special Ditch Meeting
- Brown Nicollet Community Health
- AMC Health Committee

#### **Commissioner Denny Kemp**

- Board Meeting
- Mental Health Local Advisory Committee
- MRCI Executive Board
- Special Ditch Meeting
- Statewide Emergency Communications Board Steering Committee
- SECB Finance Committee
- Workforce Council

#### **Commissioner Jack Kolars**

- Board Meeting
- Special Drainage Meeting
- TDS Library Personnel Meeting
- Mankato Area Planning Organization
- Board Workshop
- Greater Mankato Growth
- Brown Nicollet Community Health
- Diversity Council
- MN Valley Action Council

**Commissioner John Luepke**

- Board Meeting
- 1 Watershed 1 Plan Meeting
- Nicollet Co. Soil & Water
- Special Ditch Meeting
- Brown Nicollet Community Health
- Joint Ditch Meeting with Sibley County

**Approve Per Diems and Expenses**

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the expenses and per diems for the meetings noted above during the Commissioner Reports and/or as submitted on approved expense reports, and authorize payment of those expenses and per diems by the Finance Office. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.



TERRY MORROW, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



RYAN KROSCH  
CLERK TO THE BOARD