

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
NICOLLET COUNTY, MINNESOTA
May 12, 2020

The Nicollet County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 9:00 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 Abigail Lewis.

The meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021. There were no public comments submitted by email or phone. No members of the public requested to participate in the meeting by phone. The meeting was recorded and broadcasted live online.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kemp 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 Morrow to approve the consent agenda items as follows: approval of the April 28, 2020 Board Meeting minutes, approval of the Commissioner Warrants as presented for the following amounts: Revenue Fund - \$90,468.67, Road & Bridge Fund - \$99,581.51, Human Services Fund - \$111,222.68 and acknowledge review of the Auditor's Warrants. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

Health and Human Services

Proclamation for May as National Mental Health Month

Health and Human Services Director, Cassie Sassenberg, appeared before the Board to request that the Board proclaim May as National Mental Health Month.

Mental health is essential to overall physical health and emotional well-being. There is a need to recognize that mental illness impacts the lives of many of our citizens and residents of all ages and sectors. Annually, the Nicollet County Local Advisory Council observes Mental Health Month in May by offering educational activities to increase community awareness. Director Sassenberg read the proclamation in to record.

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Dranttel to approve the Proclamation for May as National Mental Health Month. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

PROCLAMATION MAY IS NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall physical health and emotional well-being; and
WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize that mental illness affects the lives of many of our citizens and residents of all ages and sectors; and

WHEREAS, mental illness will strike one of five adults and children in a given year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, people who have mental illnesses can recover and lead full productive lives; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 60% of adults who have mental health disorders are not receiving the help they need; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 90% of those who die of suicide have an underlying mental illness.

WHEREAS, stigma continues to be a significant barrier to people getting the help they need; and

WHEREAS, the cost of untreated and mistreated mental illnesses and addictive disorders to American businesses, governments and families continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, community-based services that respond to individual and family needs are cost-effective, and beneficial to consumers and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Nicollet County Local Advisory Council observes Mental Health month every May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and illness.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Luepke, as Chairperson of the Commissioners of the County of Nicollet, Minnesota, on behalf of the entire County and staff, do hereby proclaim May of 2020 as NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH. I also urge all citizens of Nicollet County, Minnesota to become involved to increase awareness and understanding of mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people who have mental illnesses.

COVID-19: Education / Resources

Director Sassenberg provided an updated on the current COVID-19 situation in Nicollet County and provided information on resources available in the County. Director Sassenberg informed the Board on contact testing tracing, client meetings via teleconference, and community outreach.

Public Services

Tax Penalty Abatement Update

Public Services Manager, Jaci Kopet, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the tax penalty abatement program. Manager Kopet shared that we have received 23 applications, with four rejected and 19 accepted. At this point 61% of property taxes have been collected for the year.

Property Services

Livestock Producer Regulatory Relief Resolution

Property and Public Services Director, Mandy Landkamer, appeared before the Board to request approval on the Livestock Producer Regulatory Relief Resolution.

Landkamer asked for consideration on the resolution which would allow temporary increases in livestock density for permitted feedlot facilities or temporary stocking of unused feedlot facilities while livestock processing plants experience reductions or closures. With adoption of this resolution, the County's ordinance provisions that require a feedlot permit for feedlot expansion or a new feedlot can address this temporary situation without permits or permit violations.

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Kemp to approve the Livestock Producer Regulatory Relief Resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all voting in favor.

Resolution Providing Regulatory Relief to Livestock Producers in Nicollet County

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that has resulted in a COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a National Emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize the use of resources to support the response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners authorized an Emergency Disaster Declaration as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, orders and rules promulgated by the Governor under the authority of Minnesota Statutes Section 12.21, subdivision 3, clause (1), when approved by the Executive Council and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, have, during a national security emergency, peacetime emergency, or energy supply emergency, the full force and effect of law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.32, rules and ordinances of any agency or political subdivision of the state inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, or with any order or rule having the force and effect of law issued under the authority of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 12, also known as the Minnesota Emergency Management Act of 1996, are suspended during the period of time and to the extent that the emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, Governor Tim Walz's Emergency Executive Order 20-33 required "all state agencies to continue to coordinate expeditiously to develop plans to mitigate the economic effects of closures and restrictions necessitated by this peacetime emergency, including potential financial support, regulatory relief, and other executive actions"; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meat processing plants serving Nicollet County livestock producers, are either closing or have reduced production, resulting in a delay and reduction in the processing of live animals. Livestock producers are unable to deliver finished animals to market and they are faced with holding onto animals that would ordinarily be sent to market. Although livestock producers are trying to reduce their production, it will not affect the current numbers of market ready animals; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has, in light of the peacetime emergency and the Governor's Executive Order, instituted a process to provide regulatory relief to livestock producers during this emergency by providing an email portal allowing livestock producers to apply for regulatory flexibility regarding permitted animal units; and

WHEREAS, Nicollet County Property Services (NCPS) has determined it is necessary, in order to provide consistent regulatory relief in light of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency, to institute a similar plan to provide relief and flexibility to livestock producers in relation to the Nicollet County Zoning Ordinance (NCZO); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners, that livestock producers impacted by the COVID-19 peacetime emergency in Nicollet County be provided relief and flexibility from the regulations and requirements of the NCZO, and that NCPS prepare and institute a plan to provide such relief and flexibility which is similar to and in accordance with the plan developed by the MPCA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution remains in effect until the September 1, 2020, and may be extended upon action by the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners.

Additionally, Director Landkamer provided an update on carcass disposal and excess milk in the County.

Commissioner Committee Reports

The Commissioners reported on various meetings and activities including:

Commissioner Marie Dranttel

- Broadband Teleconference

Commissioner Terry Morrow

- Public Health Weekly Check-In

Commissioner Denny Kemp

- Broadband Meeting
- South Central EMS Teleconference
- MRCI Executive Board Meeting

Commissioner Jack Kolars

- Traverse des Sioux Meeting
- MAPO Meeting
- Transportation Alliance Meeting

Chair's Report

- Gaylord Drainage Meeting

Administration

County Administrator Krosch discussed the broadband surveys and requests for internet bills from residents of any Nicollet County township or the city of Nicollet.

Approve Per Diems and Expenses

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Luepke 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

Motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.



JOHN LUEPKE, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



RYAN KROSCH
CLERK TO THE BOARD