

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 5, 2023
Courthouse Commissioner Room
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board Chair Corey Sik, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Joe Drietz, Steve Hauswedell, Dean Nielsen, Corey Sik, and Mic VanDeVere. Also present was Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, Deb Vierhuf and Lincoln County Attorney, Glen Petersen. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the Commissioner meeting minutes from November 21, 2023, the agenda for December 5, 2023 and the Marble Store 3.2 Beer and Wine License. All voted in favor.

At 4:05 p.m. a public hearing was held regarding liquor applications for the Hendricks Golf Club Association and the Knotty Pine Supper Club. Motion by Hauswedell, seconded by Nielsen to approve the intoxicating on-sale liquor licenses for the Hendricks Golf Club Association and the Knotty Pine Supper Club for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. All voted in favor.

Bob Bushman, Lincoln County Sheriff, requested approval of the squad upfit charges. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the upfit charges on the two new Durango's not to exceed \$14,787.76 for the first squad and not to exceed \$17,162.45 on the second squad to be paid to Guardian. All voted in favor.

Bushman requested approval to trade the decommissioned squad cars and put that value towards the upfit costs. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen to approve the trade of the decommissioned squad cars to Guardian in the amount of \$13,000.00 to be put towards the upfit charges. All voted in favor.

Bushman requested approval to hire an additional deputy to replace the vacant jailer position. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Hauswedell to approve hiring an additional deputy to replace the vacant jailer position. All voted in favor.

Bushman informed the Board that he would like to remove the Jail Administrator and the Chief Deputy from the LELS Union. More information will be presented at a future meeting. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that due to some washout at the Tyler rural garbage site, some recycle fill material has been put in by the fence. Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that he met with the Solid Waste Administrator group. The group is looking at a 10-year plan to prepare for the upcoming changes. A concern is the timeline for the liners to be in place at the demolition landfills and where the funds will come from. The group will continue to work on this and Hauschild will be President of this group for 2024. The plan will be brought to each County Board at a later date. Information only.

Hauschild reviewed the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Program and requested approval of the 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Plan. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to approve the 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Plan. All voted in favor.

Hauschild gave an update on the Lincoln County ditches. They were as follows:

- JD 30 – The crossing has been installed.
- JD 31 BR 24 – The final assessment hearing will be held December 7th @ 1:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Courthouse.

Information only.

Hauschild informed the Board that the Verdi forfeited property tested negative for asbestos. The MPCA demolition notification has been completed and the material from the demolition has been hauled to Double D Demo Pit. Information only.

Joe Wilson, Lincoln County Engineer, was present to give project updates. They were as follows:

- Continue to work on getting the 2023 County Culverts and Paving Plans out for bid.
- Received all permits for Co. Hwy. 8 Bridge. Working on contracts and agreements for the box culverts.

Wilson presented maintenance updates. They were as follows:

- Almost complete with the Verdi forfeited property cleanup.
- Ditch burning
- Have been installing culvert markers.
- Snow Equipment is ready
- Will be servicing the snow blower and some other equipment.
- Tree cutting
- Switching to the new key card system for the fuel pumps.

Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he continues to work on finalizing and closing out projects from 2020, 2021, and 2023. Final paperwork has been sent out for the 2021 and 2023 projects. Information only.

Wilson informed the Board that he is working on the final sign off on the Wind Tower Project. Information only.

Wilson presented Resolution No. 36-2023 Final Payment of Contract 04-2020. Motion by Drietz, seconded by VanDeVere to approve Resolution No. 36-2023 Final Payment of Contract 04-2020. All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION
36 – 2023**

WHEREAS, the construction of Contract 04-2020 Paving and Patching Projects on CSAH 1, 5, 8, & 13 has in all things been completed by Duinick, Inc., the final contract costs are as follows:

Original Contract Amount	\$	1,575,575.34
Contract Changes	\$	45,866.42
Item Quantity Changes	\$	66,558.58
Final Contract Amount	\$	1,688,000.34
Final Payment Amount	\$	125,644.40

NOW THEN, BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Lincoln and authorize final payment as specified above.

ADOPTED by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners this 5TH day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Wilson presented Resolution No. 35-2023 for the Local Bridge Replacement Grant Agreement. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve Resolution 35-2023 Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 041-608-035. All voted in favor.

RESOLUTION 35-2023
Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 041-608-035
12/5/2023

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund related to Bridge No. L1965 and L1966; 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 **\$361,405.50** by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Lincoln 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 project but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Dated this 5TH day of December, 2023

ATTEST:

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Tami Nelson, Lincoln County Financial Accountant, discussed the budget with the Board. The Board would like the following done before we pass the final budget.

- Move \$60,000.00 from the parks budget and take out of capital improvement.
- Make an adjustment so the levy will be at a 3% increase.
- The board would like a list of possible projects that will come out of capital improvement.

Information only.

Drietz – CPT, Missouri River Watershed, DOT/Highway joint meeting, Road and Bridge

Equipment Meeting

Hauswedell – DOT/Highway joint meeting, AMC Conference

Nielsen – AMC Conference

Sik – HRA

VanDeVere – Solid Waste Recycling Commissioner, Rural MN Energy Board, Road and Bridge

Equipment Meeting

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #22202-#22245 for the following amounts: Revenue - \$40,382.16, Road and Bridge - \$26,521.26, Debt - \$10,116.15 and Ditch - \$13,987.93. All voted in favor.

The following bills were over \$2,000.00 per M.S. 375.12 Black Strap Inc. - \$16,354.52, Lyon Co Auditor-Treasurer - \$2,482.37, Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer - \$3,000.00, Tolk Graveling LLC - \$3,482.12, TrueNorth Steel Inc. - \$13,927.94, Victor Construction - \$19,500.00, WSB & Associates, Inc. - \$14,506.65 and 36 payments less than \$2,000.00 - \$17,753.90.

Discussion was held on the SW Consortium. No decision has been made at this time. Information only.

Deb Vierhuf, Lincoln County Auditor-Treasurer, informed the Board that one of the Board Members should attend the SW Consortium Board Meeting on December 8th by zoom. Commissioner Hauswedell will attend. Information only.

Vierhuf requested approval to purchase a new copy machine. Quotes were received from MARCO and Office Peeps. Several options were presented with different per copy prices, overage prices, and unlimited copy prices. Vierhuf recommends purchasing the MARCO Konica Bizhub C360i in the amount of \$5,940.42. With this machine, we will have unlimited copies and it is a faster machine. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell to purchase the MARCO Konica Bizhub C360i copy machine in the amount of \$5,940.42. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the Extension Addendum II which allows Extension to make the 4-H Educator position a 1.0 full time employee. Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Drietz to approve the Extension Addendum II which is an agreement between the University of Minnesota and Lincoln County for providing Extension programs locally and employing Extension Staff changing the 4-H Educator from a .8 Full Time Employee to a 1.0 Full time Employee. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented a request from LCEDC to appoint Terry East to the vacant District 2 seat for the LCEDC Board. This was tabled at this time. Information only.

Vierhuf presented the 2024 SWMHHS Lease Agreement for approval. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Drietz to approve the 2024 SWMHHS Lease Agreement. All voted in favor.

Vierhuf presented the letter from the Wrap organization requesting some of the one-time Public Safety Funds the County will be receiving. Lincoln County will receive \$130,070.00. Vierhuf stated that discussions have been held between Dustin Hauschild, Sheriff Bushman, and Amber Scholten about how these funds can be used for radios and law enforcement needs. Additional information will be presented at the next board meeting. Information only.

Vierhuf informed the Board that Ottetail will be having a planned electrical outage on December 11th from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Since we will not have lights, heat or computers to work on, we will be closing the courthouse once the power goes out. Signs will be posted on the doors and a notice will be posted on the website. Information only.

Motion by Drietz, seconded by Hauswedell, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2023 Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer

Corey Sik, Board Chair, called the Truth and Taxation public meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were County Commissioners Drietz, Hauswedell, Nielsen, Sik and VanDeVere; County Staff Deb Vierhuf, Tami Nelson, Jean Nelson, Dustin Hauschild, and Sheriff Bushman; Members of the public were Krist Wollum, Paul Fehrman, Bob Pryzmus, Ted Stoffel, and Larry Hulzebos.

Items that were reviewed were the proposed 2024 County levy, the budget summary, and area county increases. Handouts were provided to those in attendance. Public discussion was held. Comments from the public were as follows:

- Bob Pryzmus – was very upset by his increase in taxes. The issue was more of a value issue due to the increase in sales in Ivanhoe and improvements made to his property. Pryzmus commented that he does not think every deputy needs their own vehicle.
- Krist Wollum – has concerns about the increase in value. Another concern was the homestead exclusion and why that is decreasing. Jean Nelson, County Assessor, explained how the homestead exclusion works.
- Ted Stoffel – has concerns about the increase in value.
- Paul Fehrman – had some questions about individual line items on the budget. Since our health insurance had such a large affect on the budget, Fehrman feels we should look at higher deductibles. He also feels that when people retire, we should consider not filling the position. Fehrman mentioned the high increase in the Sheriff's budget. Sheriff Bushman talked about all of the changes that are continually coming from the Department of Corrections that we are required to do. Fehrman inquired about the parks increase. VanDeVere stated that \$60,000.00 will be removed and taken out of the capital improvement account. Fehrman inquired about the feedlot increase. Hauschild stated that the county contribution has increased due to the grant amount increasing.

Commissioner VanDeVere stated that close to \$1,000,000.00 is given in tax relief from the wind production.

A full recording is on file at the Auditor-Treasurer's office.

The Board will take the comments into consideration when setting the final budget.

Motion by VanDeVere, seconded by Nielsen to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Corey Sik, 2022, Board Chair

Deb Vierhuf, County Auditor-Treasurer