

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED  
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DATE: TUESDAY, August 16, 2022, at 8:15 am  
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Knutson. Commissioners in attendance: Knutson, Vareberg, Nelson, and Grimsley, County Administrator Pat Oman and minute taker Amanda Pachel. Commissioner Okeson not in attendance.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Agenda Confirmation – Motion and seconded approve agenda with the removal of the Closed Session (Grimsley, Vareberg) carried.
4. Minutes –
  - a. Moved and seconded to approve minutes of August 2, 2022, with the requested changes (Grimsley, Vareberg) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:
  - Gerry Schram, resident, and board member of Erie Township – stated the speaker system in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Jury Room did not work well
  - Kimberly Jirava, resident of Spring Creek Township – voiced concerns about conditional use permit application for a feed lot in Spring Creek Township
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
  - Commissioner Nelson: Cormorant Lakes Watershed Commission, Red River Joint Powers Meeting, and Highway/Public Works Committee.
  - Commissioner Knutson: Planning & Zoning Meeting, Canvas Board, and Finance Meeting.
  - Commissioner Vareberg: Nothing to report.
  - Commissioner Grimsley: Museum Building, Human Services Committee, and Finance Committee.
3. Appointments:
  - Motion to appoint Sean Felker to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board (Vareberg, Grimsley) carried.

County Administrator: presented by Pat Oman

1. Report: CPR Training, Telecommuting Policy Process and Catastrophic Leave Bank Policy Training, Office Security Updates, Vacancies to fill in Corrections, Sheriff's Office, and Attorney's Office. IT is now fully staffed and with Administrative Assistant, Peggy Martin, the Administration/Human Resources Office is now fully staffed as well.
2. ARPA Project Review: Quotes for drinking fountain/water bottle filling stations, raising the air intakes for the courthouse, snow removal, and drain fields for the transfer station.
3. 2023 Budget Timeline: Review with committees, Finance Committees on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and set Preliminary Budget at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

4. Motion to approve Honeywell contract to upgrade the boiler in the Human Services Building (Grimsley, Vareberg) carried.
5. 2022-2023 Snow Removal Contracts for Becker County Jail and Courthouse: bring cost of outsourcing vs. equipment purchase to Courthouse Committee

Finance Committee Minutes: presented by Mary Hendrickson

1. Regular Claims and Auditor Warrants and Over 90 days:  
08/02/2022 in the amount of \$ 35,168.57  
08/09/2022 in the amount of \$ 49,368.61  
Total of \$ 84,537.18

Motion to approve payment of regular auditor warrants and claims (Grimsley, Vareberg) carried.

Auditor – Treasurer: presented by Mary Hendrickson

1. Licenses: None
2. Motion to approve Human Services Claims for Human Services, Public Health, and Transit. (Grimsley, Nelson) carried.

Assessor: presented by Lisa Will

1. Motion to approve the following abatements: Tax ID 20.8110.000 in the amount of -\$292.00, Tax ID 51.0188.000 in the amount of -\$944.00, and Tax ID 28.8011.000 in the amount of -\$28.00 for a total of -\$1,264.00 (Grimsley, Nelson) carried.

Human Resources: presented by Carrie Smith

1. Updates: Centralizing personnel files, working on the following policies: Personnel Policy, MSRS, Social, and CARES Act for student loan payments pre-taxed, looking at getting a broker for employee medical insurance, and discussion on recording the Board Meetings for public and employees to watch after hours.
2. Motion to approve changing to Humana dental plan and Avesis Enhanced vision plan (Grimsley, Vareberg) carried.

Information Technology: presented by Judy Dodd

1. Update: network security changes, ticket system for Help Desk, and policy updates.
2. Motion to approve CrowdStrike Security Software in the amount of \$7,578.40 (Knutson, Vareberg) carried.

Land Use: presented by Steve Skoog

1. Motion to approve NRM Bud Capping Award to New Eco LLC in the amount of \$20,855.70 (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.
2. Motion to approve Resolution 08-22-2A – Market Price for Solid Waste Management Tax of \$72.04 per ton (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.

Highway: presented by Highway Engineer, Jim Olson

1. West Lake Drive project in full swing.
2. Building Sale – delayed lease payment dates due to appraisal not being complete.
3. Highland Drive project starting on August 22, 2022

Planning & Zoning: presented by Kyle Vareberg

1. Planning Commission Recommendations 08/10/2022:
  - a. Feedlot: Erica L & Eric Zurn Tax ID Number 30.0142.000
    - Dr. Laura Bruner and Jim Blair from the Swine Vet Center (SVC) attended the meeting to represent Erica L & Eric Zurn, who were not in attendance. Dr. Bruner and Mr. Blare explained the Zurn along with the SVC will own the buildings and a client, whom they would not disclose, of SVC will own the animals. Feedlot would house 2,000 adult animals; piglets will leave the farm at approximately 3-weeks of age. Each pig will have roughly 2 ½ liters per year. Commissioner Nelson asked about odor control, Dr. Bruner stated the waste is under the building and is 97% annoyance free.
    - Bill Zurn, Riceville Township resident and father of Eric Zurn, spoke in favor of the CUP
    - The following people spoke against approving the CUP:
      - George Read, Spring Creek Township resident – concerned for ground water quality
      - Kimberly Jirava, Spring Creek Township resident - concerned for odor contamination from animal waste, and being a conflict of having other pigs in the area
      - Vance Jirava, Spring Creek Township resident – concerned for township roads
    - Tom Bergren, Riceville Township resident – expressed concerns for the roads that will service truck route for the feedlot operation, snowplowing the roads, and who will care for the animals in a snow event when roads are not passable.
    - Spring Creek Township’s ordinance does not cover feedlots – per the township attorney
    - Spring Creek Township Board requested the county add a stipulation to enter into a road maintenance agreement with the Zurn family and the Swine Vet Center to pay additional road maintenance costs for maintaining the township road during construction and operation of the feedlot.
    - Commissioner Nelson expressed concerns with the owner of the animals not being disclosed, the township & county roads, and the odor of the feedlot.
    - Commissioner Nelson asked if a stipulation made for the CUP to be non-transferable.
    - Commissioner Vareberg also expressed concerns about the roads.
    - Board Chair Knutson closed testimony.
    - Motion to table until September 6, 2022, meeting (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.
  - b. Preliminary Plat (6 lots): Michael D Anderson Tax ID 06.0376.002
    - Motion to concur with Planning & Zoning Commission on approval of Conditional Use Permit (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.
  - c. Storage Units & Onsite Sales: Raymond & Kristine Johnston 24.0197.000
    - Tabled by CUP applicants, Raymond & Kristine Johnston

- d. Painting Business: Bradley D Olstad & Erin E Olstad Tax ID 08.0066.001
- Motion to concur with Planning & Zoning Commission on approval of Conditional Use Permit (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.

Being no further business, Chair Knutson adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Oman  
County Administrator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Knutson  
Board Chair