

REGULAR MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: TUESDAY, February 2, 2021 at 8:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Nelson. Commissioners in attendance: Nelson, Knutson, Okeson, Grimsley, and Vareberg (Virtually); County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, and Minute Taker, Cindy Courneya (Virtually).
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the following changes: Under County Attorney: Remove #1: Request to Replace Office Management System Software; and at approximately 10:10 a.m., at the end of the agenda: Add: Closed Session for Attorney/Client Privilege for Update on West Lake Drive Construction Project and for Small Claims Action: Resolution 02-21-1H; and Remove: Work Session – Highway: Discussion for New Public Works Facility. (Knutson, Grimsley), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021, with the requested change. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:

Joseph Allen, a citizen of Becker County, urged that the Commissioners adopt a resolution proclaiming Becker County as a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County.

2. Reports and Correspondence: The Commissioners reported on the following meetings:
 - a. Commissioner Grimsley: Human Services Committee, Lake Agassiz Regional Library meetings (Finance and full Board), Sunnyside Board, Transit Committee, and Heartland Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail meeting, and meeting with the City of Detroit Lakes and Scott Walz with Meadowland Surveying regarding the Museum Building Project.
 - b. Commissioner Okeson: West Central Regional Juvenile Center meeting, Pelican River Watershed District (One-Watershed/One-Plan), Wannigan Regional Park meeting, Highway Committee, and meeting at the Highway Building to review the proposed New Public Works Building.
 - c. Commissioner Nelson: Natural Resources Management (NRM) Committee, Buffalo-Red River Watershed, and Finance Committee meeting.
 - d. Commissioner Knutson: Natural Resources Management (NRM), Environmental Affairs Committee, Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority (PLMSWA), and Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board meeting.

- e. Commissioner Vareberg: No reports given at this time.
 - f. County Administrator, Mike Brethorst: Noted a Better Futures Sale this Thursday and Friday through Environmental, with items for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis to include: filing cabinets, 26 bookshelves, doors, office chairs, and a television. He also provided an update on the CARES Business Relief Grant Program, on open positions on various committees, and on the sale of the Minimum Security Facility.
3. Appointments: There were none.
4. County Administrator – One Watershed-One Plan (1W-1P) – Buffalo Red River (Plan Implementation):
- a. Chair Nelson presented, along with the Becker County Soil & Water Conservation District Director, Bryan Malone. Discussion followed with the commissioners providing their input and stating their intent.

Commissioners Knutson and Vareberg would not support the 1W-1P, due to the concerns and frustration with the bureaucracy; nor would Commissioner Grimsley support at this time, noting inadequate time to review. He did suggest that he would be interested in reviewing it, with it brought back to the Board for further discussion and consideration.

Chair Nelson asked for the Board’s support, emphasizing that there is local representation on the One-Watershed/One Plan Advisory Board. He also pointed out that the landowners will lose much needed funding if the County chooses not to participate and that the County receives State funding for other County programs. Commissioner Okeson would support, noting his active participation with the Pelican River Watershed District, commenting that this would unify what has been going on there.
 - b. BCSWCD Director, Bryan Malone, noted that the Plan was prepared by an Advisory Board of citizens and staff from this area and that the State is supporting Becker County’s local plan. He also reported that if Becker County opts out of approving the Plan, that the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) is asking that he provide an explanation or reasons for Becker County’s decision.
 - c. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1G: to Adopt and Implement the Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, as presented. (Nelson, Okeson), with a roll call vote called and taken: Knutson – Nay; Okeson – Yay; Nelson – Yay; Grimsley – Nay; and Vareberg – Nay. Motion failed 2-3.

- d. Chair Nelson clarified that no action was needed at this time relative to the Implementation of the 1W-1P Agreement and therefore no action was taken.
- e. The item will be brought back to the Board for further discussion and consideration at the next Board meeting of February 16, 2021.

Finance Committee Minutes: Mary Hendrickson presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants, and Over-90-Day Claims, as presented:
 - a. Auditor's Warrants (Tuesday Bills):
 - i. 01/20/2021 in the amount of \$ 1,530,096.92
 - ii. 01/20/2021 in the amount of \$ 28,787.79 (Cost-Effective)
 - iii. 01/21/2021 in the amount of \$ 3,840.00
 - iv. 01/26/2021 in the amount of \$ 233,558.04
 - v. 01/27/2021 in the amount of \$ 7,880.00
 - vi. 01/29/2021 in the amount of \$ 549,047.00

For a Total Amount of \$ 2,353,209.75
 - b. Over-90-Day Claims:
 - i. L&M Fleet – dated 07/15/2020 in the amount of \$168.87 (receipt was lost);
 - ii. Mark's Electric – dated 10/29/2020 in the amount of \$195.00 (invoice just received);
 - iii. NOW Micro – dated 08/2020 in the amount of \$1,665.00 (invoice just received).

(Knutson, Grimsley), carried.

Auditor-Treasurer: Mary Hendrickson presented:

1. Licenses and Permits:
 - a. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1A, to approve the Gambling Application for Exempt Permit to conduct a Raffle for the Carsonville Fire Fighters Association on October 16, 2021, for the Carsonville Fire & Rescue – Station 2, 24770 County Highway 48, Osage, MN, in Osage Township. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1B, to approve the application for Re-purchase of Tax Forfeited Lands for Wanda C. Boswell, Parcel #: 04.0080.000, with the re-purchase price of \$4,769.95 paid in full. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

3. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1C, to advertise and hire a full-time Accountant, due to a retirement; with an intended start date of May 3, 2021, and if the position is filled internally, to authorize to advertise and fill that vacant position. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.

Assessor – Lisa Will presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the following abatement:
 - a. PIN #: 51.0021.001 – City of Lake Park – in the amount of -\$578.00, due to a house fire. Total Abatement = -\$578.00 (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

Sheriff: Todd Glander presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1E, to hire two (2) full-time Sheriff Deputy positions through the normal hiring process, due to resignations. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.

Land Use – Parks & Recreation – Guy Fischer presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Grant Contract Language and Workplan for the Bucks Mill – MN Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR) – Conservation Partners Legacy Program Grant Award for the two (2) acre land acquisition; with the grant award at \$26,225.00 and County Match at \$2,700.00, with the total project cost at \$28,925.00. (Okeson, Grimsley), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1F, to support and approve the ULTRA Snowmobile Club Grant Application to the MN Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR), for the Federal Recreational Trail Program’s Equipment Grant to purchase grooming equipment at an estimated cost of \$43,415.00, and with a 25% secured match by the ULTRA Snowmobile Club. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

Human Services – Denise Warren presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Subacute Detox 2021 Contract Renewal for Detox Services with Central MN Mental Health Center, at a cost of \$500.00 per day and Civil Commitment services, when needed, at a cost of \$560.00 per day. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2020-2022 Community Partnership Agreement, as presented, between Becker County Public Health/WIC and Mahube-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc., Head Start/Early Head Start Programs. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

3. It was moved and seconded to accept the Fourth Quarter Board Reports for Adult Services, Behavioral Health, Child Protection, Child Support, Income Maintenance, Public Health, and Combined (AS, PH, BH). (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the Human Services Claims for Human Services, Public Health, and Transit, as presented. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

Becker County Museum – Executive Director, Becky Mitchell presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1I, to reaffirm support for the Becker County Historical Society & Museum’s Capital Campaign, as presented; to approve full support of a grant total of \$1,100,000.00 towards this project and for Becker County to act as the fiscal agent on behalf of the museum and the State of MN, in accordance with the rules and regulations by the State of MN Bonding guidelines. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

Highway – Jim Olson presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase of Total Station Survey Instrument from Frontier Precision, Waite Park, MN, at a cost of \$30,986.20 at State Contract Pricing. (Okeson, Nelson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase of a 2021 Sullair 185 Compressor with reel and trailer at the low quote of \$22,950.00 from RDO Equipment, Moorhead, MN. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1D, to support the City of Frazee’s application to MnDOT for funding through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), for the reconstruction of South River Drive between Becker County 10 (Juniper Avenue) and East Main Avenue; and that Becker County is willing to be the sponsor for said project through to its completion. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.

Commissioners - Closed Session for Attorney/Client Privilege for Update on West Lake Drive Construction Project and for Small Claims Action: Resolution 02-21-1H.

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-21-1H, to hereby Close the Session pursuant to the attorney-client privilege, to discuss the features of the County’s litigation regarding the West Lake Drive Construction Project (Right-of-Way) and a separate Small Claims Action. (Knutson, Grimsley), carried.
2. Closed Session –
3. It was moved and seconded to Open back into Regular Session. (Knutson, Grimsley), carried.

4. It was moved and seconded to counter or proceed with legal actions in Small Claims Court, at the discretion of the Environmental Services Committee. (Okeson, Grimsley), carried.
5. It was moved and seconded to allow the Highway Committee to develop terms for final Agreements for West Lake Drive. (Okeson, Grimsley), carried.

Being no further business, Board Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting.

/s/ Michael M. Brethorst
Michael M. Brethorst
County Administrator

/s/ Barry Nelson
Barry Nelson
Board Chair