

REGULAR MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: TUESDAY July 20th, 2021 at 8:15 a.m.
LOCATION: First Floor – Board Room, Courthouse

Agenda/Minutes

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Nelson. Commissioners in attendance: Nelson, Knutson, Okeson, Grimsley and Vareberg; County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, and Minute Taker, Cindy Courneya.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the following change: at the end of the agenda, at approximately 10:30 a.m. – Add: Land Use – Economic Development Authority (EDA): #1: American Rescue Plan (ARP). (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of July 6th, 2021, with the requested changes. (Knutson, Grimsley), carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum: Several citizens were present and opted to wait to speak until the Planning and Zoning agenda item was addressed relative to the request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to operate a seasonal R.V. park.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - a. Commissioner Nelson: Finance/Courthouse Committee.
 - b. Commissioner Knutson: Sheriff's Committee, Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board meeting and referenced upcoming PLMSWA meeting tomorrow relative to MCIT.
 - c. Commissioner Vareberg: Human Services Committee and Highway Committee.
 - d. Commissioner Grimsley: Development Achievement Center (DAC), Human Services Committee, and MCIT meeting.
 - e. Commissioner Okeson: NW Emergency Communications Board, Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) Board, and Highway Committee.

3. Appointments: There were none. It was noted that the vacancy on the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District Board of Managers has been advertised and the appointment will be made at the Board meeting of August 3rd.

County Administrator:

1. Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) – Presentation on Community Needs Assessment:

- a. A Power Point presentation and overview was provided relative to priorities and outcomes of the Community Needs Assessment. Presenters included Greta Guck, Director of the Detroit Lakes Public Library and Supervisor of the three (3) LARL Library Link sites (Frazee, Lake Park, and Cormorant), and LARL Board Members, Linda Shell and Terry Kalil.

No funds are being requested at this time; however, LARL will be looking for support from the Board in the future for expansion of programming and building improvements, which may include future bonding, if needed.

It has been suggested to form an Advisory Board, to start planning for future growth based on the Community Needs Assessment. Chair Nelson suggested Commissioner Grimsley could potentially serve on the advisory board, as needed.

2. University of MN-Becker County Extension – Presentation and Update:

- a. Bob Byrnes, Interim NW Regional Extension Director, introduced Cecilia Amadou, newly hired NW Regional Extension Director, who attended virtually. He provided a summary/overview of the budget report/staffing. He noted the Extension Committee has recommended approval of the 3-year renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of MN-Extension and Becker County, along with the Addendum, as presented, which also includes the 4-H Summer Intern position.

4-H Youth Development-Extension Educators for Becker County, Leigh Nelson and Gina Schauer, reported on 4-H Programming in Becker County and the upcoming Fair. Becker County 4-H was recognized for its increase in enrollment this past year with numbers currently at 415 youth and 85 adult volunteers, with a 52% increase in five (5) years.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of MN and Becker County for “Providing Extension Programs Locally and Employing Extension Staff”, effective January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2024, to include the Addendum to the Agreement, as presented, with it remaining in

place for the term of the MOA, and which also includes the 4-H Summer Intern position. (Okeson, Vareberg), carried.

The Board also acknowledged adoption of the 2022 Budget as presented, with a 1% reduction, as discussed, and modification of the budget to include the increase in per diems, as approved. The Becker County Children's Initiative (BCCI) has agreed to provide funding to help offset the cost of the Extension Educator.

Finance Committee Minutes: Auditor-Treasurer: 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 Warrants (Tuesday Bills):
 - i. 07/06/2021 in the amount of \$ 79.85
 - ii. 07/13/2021 in the amount of \$ 72,027.77
 - iii. 07/19/2021 in the amount of \$ 29,512.83 (Cost-Effective)
for a total amount of \$ 101,620.45
 - b. Over-90 Days:
 - i. Bob Barker – March 2021: \$2,867.66 (invoice just turned in)
 - ii. Cooper's Office Supply – February 2021: \$2,408.47 (invoice returned to vendor)
 - iii. Enterprise – March 2021 – Final Lease Payment: \$2,351.36 (for vehicles purchased)
 - iv. Essentia – April 2021: \$134.94 (invoice just turned in)
 - v. G & R Controls, Inc. – October 2020: \$1,626.00 (invoice just turned in)
 - vi. Good Co. – February 2021: \$49.49 (invoice just turned in)
 - vii. Dawn Kohanek – January 2021: \$9.00 (no meal receipt)
 - viii. Mark's Electric – February 2021: \$3,312.20 (invoice just received)
(Nelson, Okeson), carried.

Auditor-Treasurer – Mary Hendrickson presented:

1. Licenses and Permits: There were none.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 07-21-2C, as presented, for Becker County to approve the sale of a tax-forfeited one-acre tract of land (Parcel # 50-7001-004) to the State of MN, acting through MnDOT, for Highway 87 improvements, and at the appraisal price of \$21,500.00. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to accept the May 2021 Cash Comparison and Investment Summary, as presented. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to accept the 2020 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reports, for the City of Detroit Lakes and City of Frazee, as presented. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.

Planning and Zoning – Kyle Vareberg presented:

1. Chair Nelson requested that the commissioners speak to any of their respective committee/board appointees that have not been attending meetings on a regular basis, to encourage them to attend and if unable to attend, to consider replacing them. He also asked that a policy be made to address expectations or requirements of meeting attendance for Committee/Board members.
2. Requests – Conditional Use Permits:
 - a. It was moved and seconded to concur with the Planning Commission (July 13, 2021), to approve the application as submitted by Darryl W. & Renee S. Bergstrom, for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for mining operations, for the project located at TBD Hubble Pond Road, Rochert, MN - Parcel #15.0045.000. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.
 - b. It was moved and seconded to concur with the Planning Commission (July 13, 2021), to approve the amended application as submitted by Jerry & Vicki Kub, for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a rock wall with natural vegetation and fabric, for the project located at 19738 Moton Oaks Road, Audubon, MN – Parcel #: 17.1007.000. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
 - c. It was moved and seconded to concur with the Planning Commission (July 13, 2021), to approve the application submitted by Alan Wade & Mary Jane O’Neil for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a retaining wall, with the amendment from ninety (90) feet to one-hundred and twenty (120) feet, for the project located at 48427 Lake of the Valley Road, Ponsford, MN – Parcel #: 12.0010.000. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
 - d. Scott Walz with Meadowland Surveying and Joey Stahl, the applicant/owner for the request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to operate a Seasonal R.V. Park were present, for the proposed project to be located at TBD South Elbow Lake (Parcel #'s: 25.0193.000 and 25.0211.000).

It was noted that the Planning Commission met and approved the CUP, based on the findings included in the minutes. The recommended approval is for forty-one (41) units with eight (8) additional units, to be contingent upon a Change of Zone to Residential. The recommendation included approval for six (6) dock slips.

Information was also provided to support the approval for the project, with Scott Walz referencing the history of other similar projects that encountered a significant amount of opposition as well, noting that “they have turned out well”.

Chair Nelson opened the meeting to anyone from the public wishing to speak, starting with anyone in opposition to the project. He also referenced e-mails and letters received from those in opposition as well. The following citizens voiced their concerns and opposition to the CUP, as presented:

- i. Anne Buelow, owner of Jolly Fisherman Resort.
- ii. John Klepetka – property owner adjacent to the proposed project.
- iii. Gerry Schiller – year-round resident of Elbow Lake since 2003 and landowner/seasonal resident of Elbow Lake prior to that.
- iv. Tim O’Keefe – lives in Virginia - property owner on Ada Beach Road in Waubun, MN (south side/central part of lake).
- v. Duane Sall – Elbow Lake resident on Archers Acres Lane, Waubun, MN (south end of Elbow Lake).
- vi. Don Snobl, owner of Jolly Fisherman Resort.

Chair Nelson closed the time for public testimony and discussion followed with the Board members voicing their consideration on the matter, suggesting that the item be tabled until the first Board meeting of August with the Business Plan to be updated. It was also suggested that the list of “conditions” be worked on in case the site plan does come back.

Chair Nelson requested a motion to table the item to allow time for fine-tuning of the site plan, etc.

It was moved and seconded to table the Planning & Zoning agenda item relative to the request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Seasonal R.V. Park until the next Board meeting of August 3rd, at approximately 9:30 a.m., to allow time for review/changes of the Business Site Plan and to receive feedback/input from those with concerns. (Grimsley, Nelson), carried.

- e. It was moved and seconded to concur with the Planning Commission (July 13, 2021), to approve the application submitted by Kyle Vareberg for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a retaining wall, for the project located at 19529 330th Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN (Parcel #: 10.0278.000). (Grimsley, Knutson), carried, with Commissioner Vareberg abstaining.

4. Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

- a. It was moved and seconded to approve the amendment to the Becker County Zoning Ordinance, as presented, for Proposal #1) Chapter 6, Section 8. Retaining Walls; to add in language: “Retaining walls located in the Pelican River Watershed

District or Cormorant Lakes Watershed District do not require a permit from Becker County and will be reviewed and considered by the Watershed District in which it is located". (Okeson, Knutson), carried.

- b. It was moved and seconded to approve the amendments to the Becker County Zoning Ordinance, as presented, for Proposal #2) Chapter 4, Section 10, Letter D (2.-d). Holding Tanks – with the additional removal of numbers four (4) and five (5), as presented. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

County Attorney: County Administrator, Mike Brethorst, presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 07-21-2A, to hire a full-time Assistant County Attorney through the normal hiring process, due to a resignation. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

Human Services – Denise Warren and Rebecca Fee, Adult Services Supervisor, presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 07-21-2E, to hire a full-time Office Support Specialist, due to a retirement, through the normal hiring process and if filling that vacancy creates another vacancy in Human Services, to then fill that vacancy also. (Grimsley, Vareberg), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the letter of support, as presented, be sent to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development on behalf of the Becker County DAC relative to Vocational Rehabilitation; to recommend that MN DEED/VRS partner with Becker County DAC through a Limited Vendor Agreement. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the Human Services Claims for Human Services, Public Health, and Transit, as presented. (Grimsley, Okeson), carried.

Land Use – Environmental Services – Steve Skoog presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 07-21-2D, to approve Becker County Solid Waste Hauler License Number 21 to AAA Roll-Off Service, LLC, and with the license valid through 2021. (Knutson, Vareberg), carried.

Sheriff – Todd Glander presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the renewal of the West Central MN Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) indefinitely, as outlined in the JPA. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the State of MN – Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), to include Amendment #1 in the packet relative to Line #3 Pipeline Replacement Project, as noted. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase of 14 weapons upgrades - accessories and installation from Johnson Performance, Frazee, MN, at the low quote of \$11,032.00. (Okeson, Vareberg), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase of five (5) Jail radios to replace older ones, from Midstates Wireless, Fargo, ND, at a cost of \$12,342.25 and at State Contract Pricing. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.
5. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 07-21-2B, to hire a full-time Correctional Officer position, due to a vacancy, and through the normal hiring process and if this position creates a part-time vacancy, to then fill that position using the most recent internal/external list or to re-advertise, if necessary. (Knutson, Okeson), carried.

Land Use – Economic Development Authority (EDA): American Rescue Plan (ARP) – Guy Fischer and Steve Skoog presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve that a request letter be sent to the list of local businesses as presented, as per the recommendation and approval of the EDA Board, relative to the American Rescue Plan (ARP 2021) - Business Relief Grant Cares #3 Round 2 Grant Consideration, to review and make a determination if further grant funding is warranted; with the commissioner’s changes to said letter, as discussed, and with the revised letter sent to the commissioners and with final review by the Finance Committee. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.

Being no further business, Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting.

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

/s/ Barry Nelson
Barry Nelson
Board Chair