

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: TUESDAY, February 6, 2024, at 8:15 am

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Okeson. Commissioners in attendance: Okeson, Meyer, Vareberg, Jepson and Nelson, County Administrator Pat Oman, and minute taker Peggy Martin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Agenda – Motion and second to approve agenda (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
2. Minutes – Moved and second to approve minutes of January 16, 2024, with the requested changes (Jepson, Meyer) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda (Nelson, Jepson) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:
  - Willis Mattison – In support of Mr. Lindow to stay on Planning Commission Committee.
  - Craig Hall – In support of removing Mr. Lindow from the Planning Commission Committee.
  - Howard Anderson – In support of Mr. Lindow to stay on Planning Commission Committee.
  - Rick Anderson – In support of Pat Oman.
  - Joe Stenger – In support of Pat Oman.
  - Brian Ahlsten – Opposition of Redesigned Minnesota State Flag.
  - Nicole Martinson – In support of Pat Oman.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
  - Commissioner Nelson – Recognition of Matt Erickson, U of M Extension Awards, Sunnyside, NRM, Sheriff, Courthouse.
  - Jepson – Becker County Childrens Initiative, EDA, Crow Wing Watershed, Mahube-OTWA.
  - Vareberg – NRM, EDA, Environmental.
  - Okeson – Environmental, Transit, Pelican River Watershed, Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste.

- Meyer – Transit, Historical Society, Fair Board, Lakes County Service Co-op.

County Administrator: presented by Pat Oman.

1. Report.
  - Union Negotiation Team is set, and negotiations are to begin in February.
2. Hunters for Hunters
  - Motion and second to sign a letter of support to return Wolf Management to the state of Minnesota (Nelson, Jepson) carried.
3. New State Flag Discussion.
  - Motion and second to mirror Crow Wing Flag Resolution and authorize the Board Chair to sign (Meyer, Jepson) carried.
4. Capital Improvement Plan discussion.
5. Centralized Accounting.
  - Discussion on placing accountants under the supervision of the Administrator.
  - In support of moving accounting staff to their respective departments by consensus.
  - Mary Hendrickson objects to moving a third of her staff under administration.
  - Supporting documents will be provided at a later board meeting.
6. Classification and Compensation Study – Tessia Melvin.
  - Discussion on the appeal process and appeals received.
  - Motion and second to approve the DDA Salary Compensation Scale recommendations with the exception of the Land Use Director to be looked at further (Meyer, Vareberg) carried.

Auditor-Treasurer: presented by Mary Hendrickson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 02-24-1A – Carsonville Fire Fighters Relief Association for a raffle on October 19, 2024 at Jack Pines Resort in Carsonville Township (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 02-24-1B – Cormorant Lions Club for a raffle on August 17, 2024 at Cormorant Community Center in Cormorant Township (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve Renewals for 3.2 Off-Sale and Wine, and Strong Beer on Sale to Jolly Fisherman – Anne Buelow -Round Lake Twp (Jepson, Nelson) carried.
4. Motion and second to set a Public Hearing on March 5, 2024 at 9:00 am to take public comment on the new Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Swanies Pub in Cormorant Township (Jepson, Meyer) carried.

Sheriff: presented by Todd Glander.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 02-24-1D – Appointment of Lieutenant Luke Sweere – Deputy Director Emergency Management (Meyer, Jepson) carried.
2. Motion and second to ratify the Medical Examiner Contract Amendment (Jepson, Meyer) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve the purchase request for a Command Post Radio from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$6,355.44 (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
4. Motion and second to approve the Personnel Request for Temporary Boat & Water Deputies using Boat & Water Grant Funds (Meyer, Jepson) carried.

Highway: presented by Jim Olson.

1. Motion and second to approve a Capital Outlay Request for Osage Shop Lighting from Cummings Electric in the amount of \$4,391 (Varberg, Okeson) carried.

Planning & Zoning: presented by Kyle Vareberg.

1. Planning Commission Recommendations 12/20/2023
  - Soo Pass – Request a Conditional Use Permit for Shoreland Conservations Subdivision consisting of sixteen (16) units.
  - Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation and the developer plan as presented (Jepson, Meyer) carried.
2. Planning Commission Special Meeting Recommendations 01/09/2024
  - Recommendation for removal of a Planning Commission Member for misconduct.
  - Steve Lindow – speaking on his behalf.
  - Motion and second to Table indefinitely the removal of planning Commission member Steve Lindow with no call date (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
3. Planning Commission Recommendations 01/31/2024
  - Thomas J Wettels – Request a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Firearms Business.
    - i. Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation (Jepson, Nelson) carried.
  - Verizon on Becker County Land – Request a Conditional Use Permit to construct a two hundred and fifty (250) foot self-support cellular tower.
    - i. Adjusted height to 309 feet.
    - ii. Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation with required lighting (Vareberg, Jepson) carried.

4. Comprehensive Plan Update.

Consider Continues Employment of County Administrator.

1. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to Terminate County Administrator Pat Oman and seconded by Commissioner Meyer who amended the motion to have an effective date of February 20, 2024. Mr. Oman will receive 3 months salary and benefits as stated in Mr. Oman’s Hiring Letter. In the interim, Mr. Oman will be suspended with pay. If Mr. Oman would like to request a hearing with written reasons for termination, he must do so in writing no later than February 13, 2024. If a hearing is requested in writing by Mr. Oman, the hearing will be held during the Board Meeting on February 20, 2024.
  - a. Roll Call vote called by Commissioner Okeson: Nelson-In Favor, Jepson-In Favor, Meyer-In Favor, Okeson-Opposed, Vareberg-Opposed.
2. Motion and second to authorize the Board Chair to sign as the Administrator until a formal interim administrator is appointed (Nelson, Vareberg) carried.

Being no further business, Chair Okeson adjourned the meeting at 11:27 am.

<u>/s/</u>	Pat Oman	<u>/s/</u>	John Okeson
	Pat Oman		John Okeson
	County Administrator		Board Chair