



**BOARD MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 25, 2022**

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

**DATE APPROVED: FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

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The Wright County Board met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter, and Kaczmarek present. Husom was absent.

**COUNTY BOARD MINUTES 01-18-2022**

Commissioner Mark Daleiden moved to approve the minutes from Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Wetter and carried 4-0.

**AGENDA**

Daleiden moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek and carried 4-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Daleiden moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0.

**A. ADMINISTRATION**

1. Approve Performance Review For County Administrator Lee Kelly
2. Reappoint Wayne Bauernschmitt To The Great River Regional Library (GRRL) Board For A Three-Year Term

**B. ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE**

1. Acknowledge Warrants Issued Between January 12, 2022 And January 18, 2022
2. Per M.S. 203B.121, Subd. 1, Appoint The Following Trained Election Staff Members To The Absentee Ballot Board For The March 8, 2022 Township Elections: Lanette Paumen, Tyler Webster, And Corissa Aronson
3. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP) As Follows:  
County ARP Funds:  
Approval Of County Reimbursement And Budget Change Of \$10 Million From 01-099-493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.5910 Transfer In For Recognition Of The Standard Allowance As Outlined In The Treasury Department's Final Rule Released On January 7, 2022 In The General Ledger
4. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP) As Follows:  
County ARP Funds:  
Approval Of County Reimbursement Of \$1,085.85 From 01-099- 493.6910 Transfer Out Into 01-100-493.5910 Transfer In As Follows:  
\$ 1,085.85 For Administrative Expenses-Staff Costs  
Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493-8414.6261 And 01-099-493-8419.6261  
\$19,850.00 5.17 Broadband  
\$5,500.00 3.14 Education Assistance: Technology Support For Seniors

**C. HIGHWAY**

1. Approve Schedule For Receiving Bids For Upcoming Highway Projects

**D. PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Approval To Fill Vacated Building Inspector Position

**TIMED AGENDA ITEMS**

**MARC MATTICE, PARKS & RECREATION**

Accept Donation By Resolution: A Donation From Melanie Leckey For \$100.00 For Maintenance And Upkeep Of Robert Ney Regional Park

Daleiden moved to accept a donation from Melanie Leckey in the amount of \$100.00 for equine trail maintenance and upkeep of Robert Ney Regional Park. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0, on a roll call vote.

Take Action On Parks Commission Recommendations:

Approve Recommendation: To Remove Specific Use Dates Of Equine Trails At Stanley Eddy Regional Park And Allow The Parks & Recreation Department To Seasonally Open And Close Trails Based On Conditions In The Spring And Fall  
Parks & Recreation Director Marc Mattice stated the Robert Ney Park equine trail have been opening and closing based on conditions for approximately six years. The change from specific dates to on-condition dates has been well received by users and the maintenance crews. There have been times the season was extended due to the change and other times the season was shortened. Mattice requested the seasonal open and close of equine trails based on conditions at Stanley Eddy Regional Park be approved.

Daleiden moved to allow the Parks & Recreation Department to seasonally open and close equine trails at Stanley Eddy Regional Park based on conditions in the spring and fall. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0.

Approve Recommendation: Allow Contracted Trail Builder To Exceed County Campground 14-Day Occupancy Rule At Bertram Chain Of Lakes Regional Park While Directly Working For And Under Contract With Wright County Parks And Recreation Department

Mattice stated the county has contracted with Red Construction LLC located in Idaho for trail improvements. The individual has requested to stay in the campground at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park while under contract with the Parks & Recreation Department. Mattice explained the request to stay would exceed the 14-day occupancy policy. Mattice clarified the exception would only be allowed for individuals under contract with the county.

Kaczmarek asked for an explanation of a comfort station. Mattice responded a comfort station is a restroom facility with showers. There are currently two comfort stations. The Parks & Recreation Department is assessing the feasibility of replacing both stations with one new comfort station.

Wetter questioned why many parks have portable toilets rather than restroom facilities. Mattice stated some have been removed due to cracked tanks and replaced with portable toilets. Mattice stated additional pit toilets may be added.

Daleiden moved to allow contracted trail builder to exceed the county campground 14-day occupancy rule while directly working for and under contract with Wright County Parks and Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0.

**VIRGIL HAWKINS, HIGHWAY**

Approve Agreement No. 21-59 Between Wright County And The City Of South Haven For The Oak Avenue LRIP Project Improvements (SAP 086-594-001). The Agreement Outlines The Funding Participation, Administration, Construction And Maintenance Responsibilities Between Wright County And The City Of South Haven For The Oak Avenue Improvement Project

Daleiden moved to approve Agreement No. 21-59 between Wright County and the City of South Haven. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 4-0.

Schedule A Public Hearing On The Local Option Sales Tax. At The November 30, 2021 Transportation Committee Of The Whole (TCOTW) Meeting It Was The Consensus Of The Board To Extend The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) For An Additional 10 Years And Hold A Public Hearing In February, 2022

Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins suggested holding the Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 15. Kaczmarek questioned if it would be possible to wait until the new Government Center is open. Hawkins stated the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) needs to be approved before overlay projects can be awarded. Hawkins stated the Public Hearing would need to be held before the end of March.

Commissioner Darek Vetsch stated he thinks the current Government Center is adequate. Additionally, Vetsch questioned if the technology would be ready in the new Government Center.

Daleiden moved to schedule a Public Hearing on the LOST at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 15. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 4-0.

Daleiden suggested blacktopping approximately 100 feet on township and city roads when the county is already doing a paving project. Daleiden added it would help the townships and cities as well as the county. Hawkins stated the Highway Department has done this on previous overlay projects.

Approve Resolution Of Final Acceptance For Contract No. 20-02 And Authorize Final Payment To Park Construction Company In The Amount Of \$64,433.61. Contract No. 20-02 Was The Four-Lane Reconstruction Project On County Highway 39 In Otsego. The Work Was Completed By Park Construction Company Of Minneapolis. The Final Value Of The Work Certified Is \$6,443,361.12

Daleiden moved to approve final acceptance for Contract No. 20-02 and authorize final payment to Park Construction Company in the amount of \$64,433.61. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 4-0, on a roll call vote.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Minnesota Rural Counties Membership

County Administrator Lee Kelly stated he sent the Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) platform for 2022 as well as previous years to the commissioners to review. Staff contacted former Commissioner Charles Borrell who previously served on the committee.

Kaczmarek stated he has served on the committee for a year. He stated it does not seem like many of the initiatives lined up with the county. Additionally, all meetings are held on Zoom. Kaczmarek questioned if Flaherty & Hood could work with MRC to determine shared initiatives and find areas to help each other. Kaczmarek also stated he would like to have discussion topics for MRC at County Board workshops.

Wetter stated she feels the priority issues MRC is focused on are similar to the county's priorities. Wetter added MRC's priorities are transportation funding, local government road wetland replacement program funding, rural broadband funding, emergency readiness grant funding, maintaining regulatory certainty of waters designated under the public waters inventory, county-based purchasing, and county program aid. Wetter stated she thinks it is a good idea for the county to continue the membership.

Daleiden asked how much the annual membership costs. Kelly responded \$2,900. Daleiden stated MRC has been beneficial in the past in making the county aware of issues. Vetsch stated MRC only has two employees so the members must put in effort for the group to be successful.

Kaczmarek requested staff to contact Flaherty & Hood lobbyists regarding a partnership with MRC. Kaczmarek also requested priorities be discussed at County Board workshops. Vetsch added Flaherty & Hood could be used to help develop language, benefitting both the county and MRC. Kaczmarek also requested MRC Executive Director Dan Larson send information to all commissioners, not just himself.

Daleiden moved to renew membership with MRC for 2022. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0.

#### Energy Transition Advisory Committee Appointment

Vetsch stated Rose Thelen of Clearwater Township requested to be appointed to the Energy Transition Advisory Committee. The committee was assembled by legislators to research communities that have been impacted by the loss of a power plant.

Wetter stated Thelen favors green power sources. Wetter stated she does not believe that is what the public wants. Wetter added the public wants cheap electric bills and want more nuclear which is cheaper and more efficient. Wetter stated she cannot endorse Thelen to represent the county.

Vetsch suggested setting a date to interview Thelen and gain her perspective on matters. Vetsch added the individual representing Wright County should be representing the desires and wishes of the Commissioners rather than personal interests.

Daleiden stated no openings are listed on the Energy Transition Advisory Committee's webpage. Vetsch added meetings have been delayed. One individual left an appointed position, so the position will be re-opened. When the resolution was passed, the requirement of appointment letters for application was left out. Positions will have to be re-opened for individuals unable to get appointment letters. Daleiden questioned why information was not sent to the county board. Vetsch stated the positions are posted on the Secretary of State's website.

Wetter questioned why a recommendation letter is needed. Vetsch responded the letter will show the individual has the local jurisdiction's support.

Daleiden moved to add Rose Thelen's request to be appointed to the Energy Transition Advisory Committee to the Tuesday, February 8 County Board Workshop. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 4-0.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

Dental Clinic. Bids were opened on Monday, January 24, 2022. The bids were \$150,000 - \$200,000 higher than expected. Daleiden suggested reaching out to surrounding counties and ask if any would be willing to donate. Kaczmarek questioned if Community Dental Care is still fundraising. Daleiden responded yes. Kelly stated the surrounding counties have been previously contacted and have supported the project. Daleiden suggested discussing the topic further with Public Health at the February 8 County Board Workshop.

Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership (CMRP). A 3,000+ acre solar farm is being proposed before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by Xcel Energy. The City of Becker requested CMRP to help illustrate the impact the proposed large solar farm would have on the area in Sherburne County, the City of Becker, and Becker Township. Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski is taking over as chair for CMRP.

Trailblazer Transit. Vetsch is chair of the group. There have been discussions about the labor challenges. Six new drivers have been hired, which reaches the onboarding capacity. There are still over 15 open positions. Demand for rides is increasing however some rides must be denied due to lack of drivers.

Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP). The strategic plan and budget were adopted. Minor changes were made to the bylaws.

Government Center. Vetsch stated he met with individuals that have a proposal for the Government Center. Every interest in the property has challenges because site improvements are needed.

Historical Society. Wetter thanked those that participated in the Festival of Trees and congratulated Commissioner Christine Husom on winning. 1,600 people came to see the 85-tree display, there were \$1,300 in donations, and 3,300 votes. The social media videos were a huge success in getting people to attend.

Wright County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kelly and other staff members attended the kick-off meeting on Monday, January 24. The plan must be updated every five years, which is coordinated by Emergency Management.

Website Redesign. The redesigned website was launched on Thursday, January 20. There is a search bar for individuals to easily find things. The site is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible and user-friendly from cell phones and tablets.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Clow, Office Manager.