



## BOARD MINUTES

### BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 26, 2022

DATE APPROVED: MAY 3, 2022

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

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

#### COUNTY BOARD MINUTES 04-19-2022

Commissioner Mark Daleiden requested a change to the minutes regarding Tina Goede being referred to as a resident of Otsego rather than a City Council member, as she attended and spoke in an unofficial capacity. Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek added a similar change requesting that the Albertville Mayor Jillian Hendrickson be identified as a resident of Albertville as she was also there in an unofficial capacity.

Commissioner Christine Husom wanted the meeting to be reviewed and have changes made to the minutes to reflect the individuals' titles but specifying that they did not come to the meeting representing their cities. Kaczmarek echoed Husom's want to review the meeting before approving the minutes. County Administrator Lee Kelly added that they indicated that there was no discussion at Otsego or Albertville City Council Meetings about redistricting. He suggested that they be identified as residents of their respective cities and include their official titles for contextual purposes.

Daleiden moved to approve the County Board minutes from Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Darek Vetsch.

Kaczmarek added that he would like his recommendation to send out a survey to county employees asking what they would like in the café space, added to the official recommendations in the minutes from the County Board Workshop on April 12, 2022. Husom noted that the County Workshop minutes had been approved already but concedes that since it was included in the minutes from the County Board meeting on April 19, 2022, she is not opposed to the change.

Daleiden amended motion to include this new change to the minutes. The amended motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 5-0.

#### AGENDA

Kelly requested to remove Item C5. Commissioner Mary Wetter requested to add an item to discuss the school roof at the county fairgrounds. Husom added this as Item 6C.

Daleiden moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item 5C and addition of item 6C. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 5-0.

\*Items added for further discussion

\*\*Items removed for further discussion

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Vetsch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

##### A. ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE

1. Approve Temporary Liquor Licenses For Clearwater Lions Club For Three Events On June 24-25, 2022; July 16-17, 2022 And August 19-21, 2022 At The Rodeo Grounds
2. Motion To Close The Website Design Project And Approve The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget Amendment
3. Motion To Approve The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP) As Follows:

Approval Of Use Of ARP Funds From 01-099-493-8433,8434,8413, 8414

\$7,004.19 - 2.2 Household Assistance

\$76,479.00 - 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission And Distribution- City Of Howard Lake

\$2,370.56 - 1.8 Community Health Survey

\$506.00 - 5.21 Broadband

4. Acknowledge Warrants Issued Between April 13, 2022 And April 19, 2022 (See Below, Item IX. Warrants Issued)

## B. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. Refer To 05/11/2022 Technology Committee:  
Determination Of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) For Mobile Phones

## ITEMS REMOVED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

### A. RECORDER

1. \*\*Authorize The Recording Of "Franklin Ridge" (Franklin Township)
2. \*\*Authorize The Recording Of "Englund Shores" (Rockford Township)

## TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

### **VIRGIL HAWKINS, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Approval Of Quit Claim Deed For The Transfer Of An Easement To The City Of Delano. The County Highway Department Acquired Easements For The Reconstruction Of CSAH 30 In Delano. Part Of The Easement Acquisition Was A Future Street Expansion For The City Of Delano.

Daleiden moved to approve the quit claim deed for the transfer of easement to the City of Delano. The motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 5-0.

### **PAT OMALLEY**

Approval And Signatures On A Resolution Pronouncing May 1-7, 2022 National Correctional Officers And Employees Week In Wright County

O'Malley read the proclamation campaigning for National Correctional Officers and Employees Day to be recognized in Wright County.

*Though the job of correctional officers and employees is often very challenging and, at times, stressful, the thousands who work the corrections profession every day perform their duties well and with great pride. They are brave, courageous and tenacious individuals who put their lives and health at risk every day to keep the public safe and provide a multitude of services to the nation's offenders. They have a tremendous responsibility and are owed our gratitude. The past two years have been a testament to the dedication to serve and bravery of our Wright County Corrections Officers. Through all of the unknown and all of the risk both legally and physically they have continued to be there every day working inside of our jail with our offenders. Our Wright County Correctional Officers are most deserving of our respect, our thanks and the highest praise. They are well-trained, always on watch and prepared to meet any challenge. The men and women working in the Sheriff's Office Jail Division make a difference in our communities. They work with and manage more than 4000 offenders a year in our county. They work inside the jail and outside of the public eye. Their abilities and reputation have allowed us to successfully work with multiple jurisdictions and we continue to attract good, experienced people at a time when other agencies are struggling to bring new people in. On behalf of the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office Command we commend those who serve in the corrections profession.*

Daleiden requested this be posted on the county website and in the government buildings.

Vetsch moved to approve the resolution pronouncing May 1-7, 2022, as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Wright County. Motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 5-0.

### **MARC MATTICE, ADMINISTRATION**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEMPORARY PLACEMENT OF A MOBLIE HOME FOR SUPPORTIVE CARE**Consider Approval Allowing Temporary Placement Of A Structure For Supportive Care At 9684 Iffert Avenue NE, Monticello, Minnesota

Husom opens floor at 9:20 a.m. Assistant County Administrator Marc Mattice informed the board that the home was provided, and resident was satisfied. There were no public comments on this matter. The public hearing was closed at 9:22 a.m.

Kaczmarek asked if there was a form sent to the townships to ask for feedback. Mattice replied that the ordinance only required notices be sent to residents within 500 feet of the temporary structure.

Vetsch moved to approve the temporary placement of a structure for supportive care at 9684 Iffert Avenue NE, Monticello. The motion was seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS**

Kelly gave background about the topic of redistricting as brought up during the previous public hearing. This public hearing would be a continuation of the previous public hearing for county commissioner districts from the County Board meeting on Tuesday April 19, 2022. County staff created two redistricting map options to consider. There needed to be a resolution adopted that day to abide by deadlines from the state.

Husom opened the public hearing at 9:31 a.m. As it stood, District 3 had Otsego and more than half of St. Michael and District 4 had Albertville, one precinct in St. Michael, Rockford, Rockford Township and Hanover. The discussion was to move Albertville into District 3 and the two precincts in St. Michael into District 4.

City Administrator and Public Works Director for the City of St. Michael Steve Bot said he was taken off guard and had not know there would be any proposed changes to the districts. He is disappointed that St. Michael was named 15 times in the prior discussion before the city was contacted. He emphasized that if he had known that those changes were being discussed he would have attended the last meeting. Ten years ago, there were eleven options presented, one of those being the option to move to seven districts. Out of those eleven options, St. Michael was going to be split in all options and Monticello and Otsego were one precinct and could not be split at the time. He came up with a third option where the districts in Albertville, St. Michael, Otsego, Hanover, and Monticello be the lowest numbers and push the higher numbers out west where there is less growth. St. Michael had projects coming up that needed neighboring cities' cooperation and a change may affect these things negatively, primarily transportation projects. He requested, on behalf of St. Michael, keep the districts the same.

Former Hennepin County Commissioner and Albertville resident Penny Steel expressed concerned about Map 1 due to personal experiences redistricting in Hennepin County in 2002. Parameters typically stay the same for redistricting, due to case law and staying consistent with districting plans. A few things she felt needed to be considered were equal population, no division of cities unless necessary and compactness. She does not see evidence of the Map 1 passing a compactness test which is one of the vehicles for court challenges for redistricting plans. Her concern was the lack of data regarding the compactness test and the splitting of St. Michael when it was not necessary. She referenced her experience in Hennepin County when Minneapolis had 3-4 board members causing the board to be held hostage. She was sensitive to making one city more important than the others in the county. She wanted to emphasize doing the right thing and it should not be about a commissioner being forced to run for election again. Another concern she expressed with Map 1 was the fact that District 3 was a high growth area, was more populated than the other areas and was only continuing to grow. She encouraged the Board to not adapt Map 1 because of the overpopulation that would continue to be an issue in the coming years, as well as the consideration of the division of St. Michael that was not necessary. She reiterated the importance of not thinking of the ease of rerunning as a redistricting consideration. She asked that the Board goes with Map 2.

Resident of Albertville Jeannie Holland believed that for Wright County it was important to review redistricting as the county will be stuck with the districts for the next 10 years. She said that St. Michael residents are surprised at how fast properties were being developed as well as the growth. As a resident of Albertville, she realized that Albertville is more aligned with Otsego than St. Michael. She also did not like the fact that one city had two commissioners and stated that it looked shady. She pointed out the good representation of citizens at the meeting, expressing her feeling that this was an issue for the public and their needs. She implored the Board to do its due diligence before this 10-year door closes.

Otsego resident Ed Kolenda noticed that Otsego was growing exponentially. He realized that, as his district and St. Michael continue grow at a rate faster than the rest of the county, they did not have equal representation. He believed they were more of a tax-generating community than other rural areas of the county. He promoted the redistricting in order to bring Albertville into Otsego as it would combine the cities together for more equal representation. This change would bring each district to around 28,500. In his view he saw that most government boards were reactive versus proactive and highlighted the fact that the Board had an opportunity to be proactive for the future growth.

Otsego resident Tom O'Neill voiced his specific concern regarding the amount of growth in Otsego. He referenced how the state allocated the number of constituents per House of Representatives seat and how it was strictly regulated. If the amount of growth he noticed was correct, the County had the potential to see a 10 percent growth in representation in the following 10 years. He emphasized that his biggest concern was that each constituent had the same amount of representation.

Monticello resident Stacy Braun was strongly in favor of redistricting. He thought the County needed to be forward thinking. The districts had worked for the last 10 years, but there needed to be consideration for the following 10 years. Otsego and Albertville are more aligned with shared services, including a Fire Chief. There was potential for those services to change and that was why he wanted the Board to be forward thinking and consider where the County will be in 10 years.

Albertville Mayor Jillian Hendrickson, speaking as an Albertville resident, requested that politics be kept out of the conversation and that the Board do what was best for the best representation for the population of the county.

Otsego resident Tom Darkenwald stated the next 10 years could have a big impact on many communities within the County. He learned about the potential change the week prior. 10 years ago, the commissioners were forced to redistrict based on the 10 Percent Rule. At that time there was a lot of public interaction about this change, and they were able to have that public conversation. He emphasized the importance of public discourse when discussing redistricting. Otsego was told by Daleiden in October 2021 that there would be no redistricting and the City of Otsego made decisions based on that assumption. Relationships had been built with other surrounding communities and they want these relationships to continue. Without the ability to have had an all-encompassing public conversation about redistricting, he encouraged the board to go with Map 1.

Otsego City Counsel Member Tina Goede, speaking as an Otsego resident, talked about the importance of doing the right thing for the cities that surround Wright County, for the County's growth and for the importance of being proactive and not reactive. She appreciated that Map 2 showed where all the districts align and thought they were more succinct and made more sense. She emphasized that politics needed to be set aside to do what was right for the community. She advocated for moving forward with Map 2.

Husom closed the public hearing at 9:57.

Husom referenced when the Board discussed redistricting in August 2021 and pointed out that the districts did fall within the 10 percent. Because of that they did not look at redistricting in August 2021. She did however notice the disparity between District 4 which had 26,000 people and District 3 which had 30,000. With 17 cities and 18 townships, she does not think it is fair that the way these are split up. She understood that it was not about individuals, but rather what is best for the County. Last year the Board had numbers from Census that showed the growing imbalance in the county. There were at least 500 more people in St. Michael and 800 more people in Otsego added in 2021. She spoke with a former commissioner about how tough it was to decide how to divide up these districts with 10 different options and the option for seven districts at the time. She knew that cities in the eastern part of the county have good relationships with each other, particularly St. Michael and Otsego. She also noted that it needs to be considered that Albertville did not have much more room to grow.

Daleiden addressed the public concern regarding the last-minute nature of this discussion. He thought this was concerning because all the public would not get a chance to have their voices heard. He acknowledged that the Board have heard from a few members of the community, but not everyone and not even the majority. Husom had reached out to her cities and townships, and she had not received any comments back. However, she understood that this may have been because as it

did not directly affect her cities and townships. She thought that having two commissioners representing one city was unfair and emphasized the goal of keeping cities together. Wetter expressed her concern about the redistricting being brought to the Board as a problem at the last minute. She pointed out that it was only the activists who were being heard and not the general public. She explained that when talking to the Mayor of Hanover Chris Kauffman, he had not heard about redistricting being a conversation. She said Kauffman added that he could not speak for the Hanover City Council but that he was against redistricting. Wetter added that her husband had spoken with neighbors in Rockford Township, and they had not heard anything about redistricting and would also be against it. It would not be fair to make this decision last minute without the ability to notify everyone and receive input from rest of the county citizens. She did not think there would be anything gained by changing the map. Husom said the only thing that would bother her would be that Wetter would have to run again. However, she proposed that if Map 2 was approved, Wetter's seat would be a four-year seat so she wouldn't have to run again in two years. If District 4 were part of the election this year and not part of the following election period. She added that when looking at the numbers, it should have been considered when this conversation first came up.

Wetter pointed out the numbers had already changed from the 2020 Census. Vetsch expressed that he understood that an exercise that happens every 10 years can cause issues and it becomes easy to be complacent because it is such an arduous task. He recognized that the Board probably waited too long to have this public hearing, but that redistricting is a function of equality and that was why they were forced act then. It would have been foolish not to take into consideration the issues from the past like Buffalo having three commissioners from 2002 to 2012 or the population disparity. District 3 will be heavily overpopulated, based on the demographics, if nothing was changed. He pointed out that the one switch would help substantially as Albertville was already mostly built up. Even though conversation should have been started months prior, population comparison and equality are important and as the Board has the opportunity, it should take it. He had spoken with people from his district and, although they would not be affected directly by a redistricting change, they still wanted to see equality between the districts. He stated that moving forward with Map 2 made a lot of sense. He understood Wetter's frustration having to re-run and echoed Husom's intention to move the election period to a four-year seat.

Husom clarified that Districts 1 and 3 had a two-year election term in 2012 and Districts 2, 4 and 5 were staggered at a four-year term. Daleiden requested to hear from legal regarding this desire to move an election term. Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer explained that the statute required staggered terms and this change would still fall within these legal parameters. Husom said she had put a lot of thought and research into this in the past week and thought Map 2 made the most sense when considering Otsego and St. Michael and their growth potential. She noted the 47 percent growth from the previous 10 years in Otsego. Wetter pointed out that that is why 10 years ago a seven-member board was suggested.

Kaczmarek did research this past week and the topic of cost was brought to his attention. He wanted to clarify that \$1,500 is the additional cost for this redistricting proposal. He added that the Board legally followed the timeline for public hearings and the opportunity was given for two public hearings. There was no obligation to spread the word or have a conversation another way. He emphasized the importance of having someone keep an eye on the board meetings because this was where changes and updates were advertised. No one was talking about redistricting in District 5 and deferred to the individuals that showed up to speak and his fellow commissioners. He addressed that no one likes to re-run, but sometimes it is necessary and added that it is a personal choice to do so. Husom asked for any other comments and noted that this is one of the most impactful decisions they would make as a Board because that it only comes up every 10 years. Kryzer clarified that the Board did need to make and adopt a motion that day.

Daleiden moved to adopt Map 1. The motion was seconded by Wetter and failed 3-2. Kaczmarek, Husom, and Vetsch voted against adopting Map 1.

Vetsch moved to adopt Map 2 and to modify the election terms of the District 4 seat. The gavel was passed to Vetsch, and the motion was seconded by Husom. The motion carried 3-2. Wetter and Daleiden voted against adoption Map 2.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**ADMINISTRATION**Adopt Resolution Proclaiming April 26 County Government Appreciation Day

Kelly thought it was appropriate to send out an appreciation email county-wide and adopt a resolution to correspond with what the governor has declared as a proclamation.

Husom read the Proclamation:

*WHEREAS: Minnesota's 87 counties employ over 36,000 people to provide essential services to create healthy, safe, and vibrant communities; and*

*WHEREAS: The work of county employees is fundamental, whether it's a newborn well-check by a public health nurse, a passport renewal, or voter registration and ballot processing; and*

*WHEREAS: Through their commitment to public service, county employees dedicate their time, skills, and expertise for the benefit of their neighbors, at times risking their personal safety to coordinate emergency management or manage justice and public safety systems; and*

*WHEREAS: The vital work that counties do promotes healthy communities, fosters conditions for economic growth, strengthens infrastructure, and improves residents' quality of life.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 26, 2022 as Government Appreciation Day.*

Commissioner Vetsch moved to approve Tuesday April 26, 2022, as Government Appreciation Day in Wright County. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carrier 5-0.

Adopt Resolution Establishing The Official Posting Location

Kelly talked about the importance of designating a public posting location for county board and for other individuals and groups who meet on behalf of the county.

Kaczmarek was concerned about the government buildings not having address numbers on them. He noted that this may cause confusion and that he had talked to County Risk Manager Tim Dahl about these being added to the outside of the building. Daleiden added that there had been issues with mail being returned. Finance Director Lindsey Meyer explained she had reached out to the national and local post office departments to be sure this issue would be fixed. She also spoke to Buffalo's postmaster, and he is going to speak with the other postal workers in the area to make sure this is corrected. The issue stemmed from a glitch in the Post Office's system and had nothing to do with how the County's change of address form was filled out by employees. Kaczmarek asked if there would be penalties assessed to taxpayers. Meyer explained that the deadline would be May 15, allowing for more time and the ability to take advantage of the other payment options. She needed to check in this week with the Post Office to see if the issue had been resolved.

Vetsch moved to establish 3650 Braddock Avenue NE as the official meeting place and posting location of Wright County. The motion was seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**\*Discuss The Schoolhouse Roof At The Fairgrounds

Wetter heard that insurance money had been received for roof damages at the County Fair. The Fair Board could not decide if some money could be released to the County Board so the school roof can be replaced at the fairgrounds. She requested that a portion or most of the money could be released to begin the roof repairs so it could be finished before the fair. Kelly wanted to check on the amount needed, and he wanted to meet with the Fair Board as well. Because of the lack of information at that time, he suggested the Board revisit this issue later. Vetsch added that there are still a lot of unknowns and agreed that these discussions needed to be moved to a later date. Husom suggested this be discussed at a Committee of the Whole or a Workshop. Kaczmarek said there was another scheduled discussion for the fairgrounds and suggested this discussion be added to that portion of the agenda. Kelly confirmed he would find a later date to schedule this discussion but understood the time sensitive nature of the topic as the County Fair would be quickly approaching.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Appropriate County Officials (Director Of Parks And Recreation) To Sign Grant Applications, Agreements, And Certifications In Regard To The Wright County Snowmobile Association Participation In The Grant In Aid Snowmobile Assistance Program For The 2022 – 2023 Season

Vetsch moves to authorize the appropriate county officials to sign grant applications, agreements, and certificates in regard to the Wright County Snowmobile Association. The motion is seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

Adopt An Updated Resolution Authorizing Appropriate County Officials To Sign Grant Agreements, And Certifications With The Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources For Development And Maintenance Funds

Daleiden moved to approve the updated resolution to authorize the appropriate county staff to sign grant agreements and certificates with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Development and Maintenance Funds. The motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 5-0.

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

Kaczmarek gave State of the County address in his own words last week on radio station KRWC.

Daleiden met with the Broadband Committee. The Highway Department is going to have a meeting regarding CR-37 and he had asked Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins to talk with the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to get their input regarding whether they would utilize an empty conduit or fiber in the future. The Wellness Committee met last week and was excited to be at new Government Center. They wanted to produce a map of the pathway around the complex. Everyone liked that they were in the same place now for their future walks and events.

Husom met with Albion and Corinna townships.

Vetsch had conversations with Silver Creek Township and found it was interested in the definition of what the pit reclamation fund once it is clarified. There was an I-94 Coalition meeting where they were working towards getting funding at the federal level. This meeting also discussed working to get language in the Transportation Omnibus Bill for gap funding for the I-94 project between Albertville and Monticello. The Economic Development Authority met and discussed its web domain issues, making changes that increase efficiency and are not too costly. The Broadband Committee met and reviewed the applicants they had which looked good.

Wetter had a meeting with this Historical Society and learned that newspapers from the beginning of the county will be scanned and available on the website. Hannah King and Sally Stevens are presenting at a conference and mentioned how she appreciates the maintenance people at the Government Center. An online yard sale will be held from Thursday April 28 to Friday May 6. She had received requests to create a path from the Government Center to the Historical Society so employees can move back and forth between the two. Kelly said he would look into constructing a path.

Kelly was working on the back end of the future implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) program and talked about logistics. The intention was to start holding County Board meetings at the new Government Center Board Room starting Tuesday May 3, 2022. Husom asked that there be clear notice to the public of this change and expressed excitement about the change.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Laine Stephan, Office Manager – Administration.