



**BOARD MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 24, 2021**

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

**DATE APPROVED: AUGUST 31, 2021**

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

**COUNTY BOARD MINUTES 8-17-21 MEETING**

Vetsch requested clarification regarding the Region 7W Transportation update on page 12. The meeting was a regular meeting, not a special meeting. The item discussed was a contentious topic regarding funding formulas from the previous meeting. Staff conducted an in-depth dive to determine if the funding formula was equitable.

Wetter moved to approve the minutes from 8-17-21 with the clarification. The motion was seconded by Husom and carried 5-0.

**AGENDA**

Vetsch requested the addition of a Letter of Support for the 2021 Transportation Economic Development (TED) Program: Highway 610 Completion Project.

Vetsch moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**A. ADMINISTRATION**

1. Addition of the following Budget Committee of the Whole meetings on August 31, 2021:
  - A. 10:30 a.m. – Wright County Economic Development Partnership
  - B. 1:30 p.m. – Extension
  - C. 2:00 p.m. – Fair Board

**B. ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE**

1. Review monthly Finance Report for July 2021
2. Acknowledge Warrants issued between August 11, 2021 and August 17, 2021 (*See below, Item IX. Warrant Listings*)
3. Approve the reimbursement of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Funds as follows:  
County ARP Funds:  
Approval of county reimbursement of \$2,166.45 from 01-099-493.6910 transfer out into 01-100-493.5910 transfer in as follows:  
\$2,016.70 for Administrative expenses – staff costs  
\$149.75 for Capital Investment or Physical Plant Changes 1.7-PPE-county reimbursement  
Approval of use of ARP Funds from 01-099-493.6261  
\$1,300.68 1.8 other COVID related expenses – Community Health Needs Assessment Project

**C. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

1. Position replacement
  - A. Social Services Supervisor
2. Refer the following topic to the Personnel Committee meeting on August 25, 2021
  - A. Wright County COVID-19 update

**D. PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Accept the findings and recommendations of the Planning Commission for the following Rezoning Requests:

- A. Bart A. Anderson – (Monticello Township) – The Planning Commission made a unanimous recommendation for approval of the request to rezone approximately 40 Acres from AG General Agriculture to A/R Agricultural – Residential
- B. Dennis Havel – (Buffalo Township) – The Planning Commission made a unanimous recommendation for approval of the request to rezone approximately 85 Acres from AG General Agriculture and S-2 Residential – Recreational Shorelands to A/R Agricultural – Residential and S-2

## TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

### ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE, TAMMI VAITH

#### Approve Resolution regarding the placement of a Special Assessment with St. Paul Port Authority

Vaith requested a special assessment on behalf of the St. Paul Port Authority. A Joint Powers Agreement was signed in 2014 for St. Paul Port Authority's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Project. PACE is an innovative finance solution for building owners interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. The special assessment is for a property northwest of the Albertville Outlet Mall. The assessment is over \$5 million with a 20-year finance term.

The Resolution submitted listed the wrong interest rate percentage. Vaith will change the Resolution to reflect the correct interest rate of 5.475 percent.

Vetsch moved to approve the resolution regarding the placement of a Special Assessment with St. Paul Port Authority. The motion was seconded by Husom and carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

### PLANNING & ZONING, SEAN RILEY

#### Accept the findings and recommendation of the Planning Commission for denial of application for rezoning: Cheney Properties LLC – (Rockford Township) – on a vote of 3/2, the Planning Commission made a recommendation for denial of the request to rezone from AG General Agriculture and S-2 Residential – Recreational Shorelands to A/R Agricultural – Residential and S-2

Two public hearings were held in July, including a site inspection. Staff reviewed the findings and recommended denial. In August, the Planning Commission acted on the recommendation for denial. The County Board has final authority on rezoning. All documents will be provided to the applicant.

Wetter asked for clarification regarding a ridge that was referenced in the documents. Riley stated an ice ridge is located on the north side of the lake, which is an environmentally sensitive, large wetland complex. Wetter said there is a wetland bank in the agricultural area and wanted clarification if it drains into the lake. Riley said it does drain into the lake and there was testimony regarding the issue, but that is controlled by Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District and state law.

Wetter stated she thought Wright County allows for one tier of development around lakes. Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer said the Land Use Plan has certain lakes that are designated for development and those that are not designated have an exception in the Land Use Plan to be developed if it is especially suited for lakeshore development. In those instances, the Planning Commission and the County Board usually restricts it to one tier development keeping it consistent with the Land Use Plan.

Kaczmarek said this was the third time the Planning Commission denied this application for rezoning going back a few years. The majority of the public testimony was not in favor of the rezoning. Rockford Township was opposed to the rezoning as well. The rezoning was not in the land use plan and it was confirmed that this rezoning would make it easier to develop more lots in the future.

Kaczmarek moved to accept the findings and recommendation of the Planning Commission for denial of the application for rezoning: Cheney Properties LLC – (Rockford Township). The motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 4-1 with Wetter voting against it.

Kryzer added that the owner was not in attendance at the board meeting, therefore notice and findings will be mailed.

**I-94 COALITION, COMMISSIONER VETSCH**

\*Write a letter of support for the Minnesota State Highway 610-completion project for the Transportation Economic Development (TED) Program through Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Vetsch said the board has previously provided letters of support to assist partners in finding funding through the state and federal government. The I-94 Coalition is collectively working with the City of Maple Grove to secure funding for the completion of the Minnesota State Highway 610 project. The I-94 Coalition is applying for TED Program funds and has requested a letter of support to include with the application.

Vetsch moved to write a letter of support for the Minnesota State Highway 610-completion project through the TED Program. The motion was seconded by Husom and carried 5-0.

\*Item petitioned on the Agenda

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE/ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

Policy Manual. Administration staff have been reviewing the policy manual, most recently sections 300 and 400 hundred. Those sections will be addressed at a September board meeting.

I-94 Coalition. Thursday, August 19, 2021 Vetsch attended an I-94 Coalition met and had a discussion regarding funding for I-94 projects. The coalition is trying to obtain funding for the stretch of freeway from Albertville to Monticello. It's also trying to get the completion funding for holes in the current projects such as the accessibility piece of Highway 610, and ramp funding for other projects which were included in the State Senate's Appropriation Bill and is now at the House of Representatives. The coalition is working with Representatives Dean Phillips and Tom Emmer to get the Spending Bill passed.

Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP). On Friday, August 20, 2021 Vetsch attended a WCEDP meeting for a follow-up, after meeting with the Management Committee in July 2021. At the July meeting there was discussion regarding changing from a membership to a partnership for branding purposes. That way its branded towards all citizens and not just members.

There was also discussion regarding leasing space in the new Government Center. WCEDP will tentatively sign the lease based on the parameters the board set at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

WCEDP wants to do goal setting with all the partners by sending out a survey to figure out which areas the WCEDP needs to tackle such as marketing, education and loans to best utilize the WCEDP's funds.

Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee met the week of August 16, 2021. The committee will be hosting a free Employee Paddle Excursion on Saturday, August 28, 2021. Employees can sign-up online.

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021 the Wellness Committee will be holding the Red Cross Blood Drive event at the Government Center in Room 120.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021 there will be a live virtual presentation by speaker, Barbara Rubel, "Fabulous Framework to Manage Compassion Fatigue, Secondary Traumatic Stress and Vicarious Trauma." Employees can register online.

Saturday, October 9, 2021 there will be a hiking event for employees at Stanley Eddy Park

State Community Health Services Advisory Committee. Husom said new health grants are available, such as a \$500,000 increase to the Tribal Health Grant, \$6 million in new Public Health Infrastructure Funds, \$1.5 million for Minnesota Department of Health for Public Health System Assessment and Oversight.

There was discussion regarding the implications of the Delta variant and the difference between the Delta variant and other variants. The Delta variant has higher viral loads and it spreads twice as easily from person to person.

Local Heroes Days. Local Heroes Days was held at the Monticello RV Center Thursday to Saturday, August 19-21. Food was donated by local businesses.

Local Emergency Medical Services. Kaczmarek attended a Local Emergency Medical Services meeting in Albertville. There was discussion regarding the portable radios that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) use. The radios are unable to transmit from several buildings in Wright County. The Local Emergency Medical Services are working on ordinances in some of the cities to make sure there is the appropriate technology, specifically an antenna that allows the portable radios to work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Angie Fisher, Administrative Specialist