

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2020

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on January 7, 2020 in the Small Courtroom, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am by Commissioner Stearns and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Commissioners Chuck Horsager, Sheldon Monson, Jim Hofer, Jon Kangas, Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson, Planning and Zoning Director Deana Malone, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, Solid Waste Director Chris McConn, Eugene Morthberg, *Review Messenger* reporter Matthew Johnson, *Wadena Pioneer Journal* reporter Michael Johnson and *Independent News Herald/Verndale Sun* reporter Trinity Gruenberg.

Nomination and Election of Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson asked for nominations for the Board Chairperson. Commissioner Kangas nominated Commissioner Horsager as the Chairperson. Motion by Commissioner Stearns, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to close nominations. Voted on the nomination making Commissioner Horsager the Chairperson for 2020 and motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Horsager nominated Jim Hofer as the Vice-Chairperson. Motion by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Monson to close nominations. Voted on the nomination making Commissioner Hofer the Vice-Chairperson and motion carried unanimously.

Amend/Approve the Day's Agenda: Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson asked to add to the agenda the joint meeting with Todd Wadena Community Corrections on February 28th, 2020 at item 8a. Moved by Commissioner Stearns, seconded by Commissioner Monson to add to the agenda 8a. the joint Todd Wadena Community Corrections meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognize Interested Citizens: Eugene Morthberg II was present to ask that the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health be kept separate. He brought up the fact that there is no law that the county human services social workers need to be licensed with the State of Minnesota. He has a complaint about some of the workers that are not licensed who are working for Wadena County. He suggests that licensing be a requirement for all new hires to the department.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approve the minutes from the 12-17-19 meeting.
- Approve the renewal of the liquor license for R & J Horse Sale, Inc. and Knob Hill Sportsmans' Club.

- Approve the DNR Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$8,668.00 with a contract effective date of July 1, 2020. \$4,334.00 to be spent between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 & \$4,334.00 to be spent between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Approval to amend the 2020 Budget for the Snowmobile Grant from \$3,909.00 to the actual amount of the grant which is \$4,334.00.
- Approve the 2020 Attorney Salary Schedule with the calculation of the Assistant County Attorney II at 75% (\$96,753.00) and Assistant County Attorney I at 65% (\$83,853.00).
- Approve the hiring of Gina Poppinga, Eligibility Worker, \$18.66 per hour, Start Date 12/9/2019, Grade: 52, Step: 1, Yearly Gross Salary: \$38,812.80, Total Salary and Employer Contributions (Taxes & Benefits): \$44,728.00.
- Approve the hiring of Amelia Hutson, Social Worker, \$23.06 per hour, Start Date 1/2/2020, Grade: 54, Step: 2, Yearly Gross Salary: \$47,964.80, Total Salary and Employer Contributions (Taxes & Benefits): \$55,243.00.
- Approve the hiring of Lucille Prather, Eligibility Worker, \$19.08 per hour, Start Date 1/13/2020, Grade: 52, Step: 1, Yearly Gross Salary: \$40,779.90, Total Salary and Employer Contributions (Taxes & Benefits): \$46,988.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Waste Management Designation Ordinance Letter: Chris McConn was present to bring the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance Letter to the board. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for Wadena County comes to the Wadena County Facility. A draft letter designation ordinance was drawn up for the board to review and accept and then send it to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Commissioner Kangas wants to hold this off for approval. The decision to have all waste brought to the Wadena County Transfer Station was questioned. If the board signs this draft it will be sent to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for approval. After the MPCA agrees to this plan, a public hearing will be held. Commissioner Kangas would like this held off until a later date. Commissioner Stearns pointed out that we are 10% owner of the Prairie Lakes Solid Waste facility and we benefit from having our solid waste sent to the facility that we own. We pay the Prairie Lakes Solid Waste Facility \$600,000.00 per year and will still need to pay that amount even if we decided not to send our solid waste to the facility. If we chose to send the waste to a different place, we would be getting no services from our \$600,000.00 cost. Chris McConn was asked if this is time sensitive and needed to be acted on today. He said that it could be brought back to the board at a later date. It was decided by consensus of the board to have this brought back at a later meeting for discussion and approval.

Resolution Appointing Membership to Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Board: Commissioner Monson asked to continue on this board. Commissioner Hofer also requested to continue to serve on this board. They have been involved this past year and would like to continue working in this capacity. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Kangas to allow Commissioner Monson and Commissioner Hofer to be the joint powers representatives from Wadena County. The joint meeting between Todd and Wadena County Commissioners and the Todd Wadena Community Correction board was discussed. Commissioner Stearns would like to have this meeting before the AMC Legislative Conference so that they would have information to present to the legislators while at the conference. February 28th was the date of the meeting requested which is after the conference, but it was tentatively set as the date of the

meeting. Heather Olson will check into moving the date up so it is before the AMC legislative conference on February 25-27, 2020.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Monson: 12/18/2019 Morrison/Todd/Wadena Community Health Board Meeting
12/18/2019 Todd Wadena Community Corrections Interviews, 12/30/2019 Central Minnesota
EMS meeting, 1/7/2020 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Stearns: 12/18/2019 Prairie Lakes Solid Waste Meeting, 12/23/2019 South County
Health Alliance Budget Meeting, 1/7/2020 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Hofer: 12/19/2019 IT Liaison Meeting, 1/7/2020 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Kangas: 12/18/2019 Prairie Lakes Solid Waste Meeting, 12/18/2019 ESB 800mhz
Meeting, 12/23/2019 CPT Meeting, 1/7/2020 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Horsager: 12/17/2019 Economic Alliance Meeting, 12/19/2019 Strategic Planning
Economic Development Meeting, 12/19/2019 Convene Webinar, 12/19/2019 Historical Society
1/7/2020 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58
am. Motion carried unanimously.

Heather Olson,
Wadena County Auditor/Treasurer

Charles Horsager, Chairperson
Wadena County Commissioners