

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2020

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on January 14, 2020 in the Small Courtroom, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by Commissioner Horsager and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Commissioners Bill Stearns, Sheldon Monson, Jim Hofer, Jon Kangas, County Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, Public Health Cindy Pederson, *Review Messenger* reporter Matthew Johnson, *Wadena Pioneer Journal* reporter Michael Johnson and *Independent News Herald/Verndale Sun* reporter Trinity Gruenberg.

Amend/Approve the Day's Agenda: Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to approve the day's agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognize Interested Citizens: None present today.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Kangas asked to have item B removed for further discussion, it was tabled by Commissioner Horsager. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approve the minutes from the 1-7-20 meeting.
- Approve the allocation for 2020 to the Central Minnesota Council on Aging for \$1,520.00.
- Approve to give the County Engineer permission to advertise and hire 1 -temporary full-time maintenance worker I and 2 – engineering interns.
- Approve the Highway Department for yearly permission to accept quotes and bids for equipment rental, metal culverts, dust control, aggregate materials, aggregate crushing, bituminous materials, crack seal, diesel fuel, roadside weed spraying, traffic signs, sign posts, salt, sand, and road striping for routine maintenance and operations.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Award Second Financials Publishing in Newspaper: *The Verndale Sun* newspaper was discussed to be awarded the second financial publishing for their rate of \$5.50 per column inch. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer. Motion carried unanimously.

Order And Purchase New Vests for Wadena County Sheriff's Deputies On The Wadena/Hubbard Emergency Response Team: At the September 24, 2019 Wadena County Board of Commissioners meeting, Sheriff Carr informed the Board that his Deputies, who are Operators with the Wadena/Hubbard ERU Team, were in need of new bullet resistant vest. The current vests the Deputies are wearing are past warranty and are in need of replacement. The cost of each vest is \$1937.00, with a

total of \$9,685.00 of which would be coming out of the County's General Reserve. Move was made by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Stearns. Motion carried unanimously. Further discussion was brought up about a fund for the vests to be saved for each year in the future for the five year life span of the vests.

Right Of Way Clearing Policy: The Wadena County Highway Department Maintenance Crew (WCHDMC) has recently been clearing the Right of Way on County State Aid Highway 18 (CSAH 18). The clearing of Right of Ways is done for multiple reasons including improvement of distant sight at approaching intersection, to maintain a proper clear zone, increasing exposure to sunlight to help with keeping the roads clear in the winter, etc. The WCHDMC currently clears all of the Right of Way, except in those areas directly in front of houses that are in close proximity to the Right of Way line. Those areas are negotiated with property owners, through at the minimum clear zone area has to have all the trees removed. With the recent maintenance activities, it has been discussed if there is a need for a written policy.

Commissioner Kangas mentioned that he received phone calls from concern citizens living on CSAH 18 because they thought the WCHDMC was being too aggressive with their clearing of trees. He asked Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden if the WCHDMC could be more proactive and flexible with the citizens. Odden mentioned that his Maintenance Foreman, Jason Miller, had been door knocking on each residence's home and letters were sent out to tax payer's addresses that lived along CSAH 18 that would be affected by the clearing. Odden also stated that there is a clear zone that runs 50 feet from the center line on both sides of the road that is an absolute must that the Highway Department must follow for clearing brush and trees.

Odden communicated that the more established trees will be left in a designated area, if discussed with property owners, for fire wood. The Commissioners asked if a motion was needed, but Odden was only looking for guidance from the board to carry out the Right of Way Clearing Policy of which they gave their approval.

Human Services Director Position Description: An updated format was created for the Human Services Director position description that was worked on by Coordinator Odden, DDA and the standard job description. After much consideration the Commissioners wanted the additions of "Child Protection experience/knowledge preferred" and "Masters' Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Public Health, Public Administration or related field required" to the description. Move by Commissioner Stearns, seconded by Commissioner Monson. Motion carried unanimously.

The conversation lead to a hiring committee once applications come in for the Human Services Director position. Moved by Commissioner Stearns, and seconded by Commissioner Monson that Commissioners Kangas and Hofer will be on the hiring committee. Motion carried unanimously.

While reviewing the Human Services Director position description, the Commissioners decided to disband the original committee that was formed to combine the Human Services and Public Health Departments back on the 12-17-2019 regular Commissioners Board Meeting. This committee was moved by Commissioner Stearns on 12-17-2019, and seconded by Commissioner Monson. Motion was carried unanimously. It was now moved to disband by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer. Motion carried unanimously to keep the Human Services and Public Health Departments separate.

A break was taken at 9:48 am. The meeting reconvened at 9:54 am.

Discussion about Committee and Liaison Assignments: The Commissioners reviewed the 2019 Wadena County Commissioner Committee Assignments list to see if there was any assignments that they wanted to switch up for 2020. Commissioner Kangas wanted to have more assignments compared to the year before, of which other Commissioners offered some of their past assignments for him to take for the current year to have more even schedules. Most of the assignments were decided at the meeting, but some were left open for consideration to be completely finalized by the next regular Commissioners Board Meeting.

Set Dates For Joint Meeting With Todd County Board To Discuss Community Corrections: A joint meeting between the Todd County Board of Commissioners and the Wadena County Board of Commissioners has been requested to discuss Community Corrections. County Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden stated that the meeting would be held Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Todd County Government Center in the Maple Board Room.

Review Wadena County Operating Rules: Commissioner Horsager went through a list of changes he was proposing to the electronic version of the Wadena County Board of Commissioners Operating Rules and Guidelines that was dated 2017. The majority of the changes were dates and changing out the District 5 Commissioner from Dave Hillukka to Jon Kangas. Other proposed changes included taking out repetitive words to a section on "Closed Meetings," when the Statue number was already present in the description and adding the word "Regular" before "County Board Meeting" on page 16 as the remaining section would not pertain to a Special Board Meeting.

Commissioner Kangas brought up that the section on "When to Proceed by Consensus, Motion, Resolution, or Ordinance," had a phrase that didn't seem to be precise for "Motions." He questioned the action, "Does not require members to be polled or individual vote recorded." After discussion from the Commissioners this line would be striked from the context of the policy. No move was made on finalizing the policy and it was tabled until the next meeting for more research to be done.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Monson: 1/13/2020 Todd Wadena Community Corrections.

Commissioner Stearns: 1/13/2020 Strategic Planning, 1/8/2020 Transit Advisory and second meeting on Facilities with MnDOT staff.

Commissioner Hofer: 1/8/2020 Transit, 1/13/2020 Strategic Planning, 1/13/2020 Todd Wadena Executive Board Meeting.

Commissioner Kangas: Refuge settlement webinar last week, 1/13/2020 Strategic Planning.

Commissioner Horsager: 1/7/2020 PZ work session, 1/8/2020 Senior Provider Network – sub-committee of Council of Aging, 1/9/2020 TIC committee, 1/13/2020 Strategic Planning.

Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Odden,
Wadena County Coordinator/Engineer

Charles Horsager, Chairperson
Wadena County Commissioners