The Special Wadena County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting was held on Friday, January 25, 2019 in the Small Courtroom, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Vice-Chairperson Horsager and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were Commissioners: Sheldon Monson, Jim Hofer and Jon Kangas. Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson, Todd County Commissioners Randy Neumann and Barb Becker, Tri County Health CEO Joel Beiswenger, Dan Becker, Wadena Pioneer Journal reporter Michael Johnson.

Vice-chairperson Horsager recognized the visiting people attending the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Monson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**South Country Health Alliance Report:** Commissioner Monson presented the financials from the meeting that he attended concerning the financial condition of South Country Health Alliance. The membership was down 5.3%. The financials came back with a bigger loss than had been anticipated. South Country is currently showing a $14.8 million loss for the 2018 year. The cash reserves of South Country is below the 210% that is necessary in order to meet the Minnesota State Statutes. The cash call would be $1.377 million for Wadena County in order to meet the 210% requirement. That amount comes to about $100 for every man, woman and child that live in Wadena County. The discussion was about the liquid cash that the County has on hand and when the funds would be available to participate in the cash call. Even if the county withdraws from the alliance today, they would most likely need to make the cash call and we are bound to participation in the alliance until 12-31-19 either way. If two or three counties choose to withdraw, this could be the collapse of South Country Health Alliance. The quality of care for the clients may change if the county pulls out of South Country Health Alliance. There is no guarantee that South Country will be able to pull themselves out of this financial condition. Commissioner Stearns spoke with Commissioner Monson and feels that it would be best to pull out of the Alliance at this time. It is with heavy hearts that the commissioners make the decision to withdraw from this alliance as it has served the residents of Wadena County well. The provider community is losing a caring business partner, but the need to keep the taxes in check for the residents of Wadena County is forcing this decision.

The following resolution was read by Commissioner Horsager:

**WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH COUNTRY HEALTH ALLIANCE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

**Whereas**, the Counties of Brown, Dodge, Goodhue, Kanabec, Morrison, Sibley, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, and Waseca have formed a Joint Powers Board to implement and
administer County-Based Purchasing for certain state and federal programs, which Joint Powers Board operates under the name "South Country Health Alliance" ("SCHA"); and

Whereas, this County may exercise its right to withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement as in the Joint Powers Agreement, Section 11: WITHDRAWAL and Bylaws Article IX. Member County Withdrawal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners that Wadena County will withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement operating under the name “South Country Health Alliance” and will file this resolution with the CEO and Joint Powers Board Chair with the effective date of 11:59 p.m. of December 31, 2019.

CERTIFICATION

I, Heather Olson, County Auditor/Treasurer, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on the 25th day of January, 2019.

Witness my hand and seal.

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Heather Olson, County Auditor/Treasurer
Wadena County, Minnesota

Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to pass the above the resolution. Motion carried unanimously. Roll call was taken, Monson: yes, Kangas: yes, Hofer: yes Horsager: yes.

Commissioner Monson reported on the meeting with Senator Gazellka. They spoke about appointment rather than the Election of County Auditor/Treasurer and Recorders, county program aid disparity for small counties and the Highway 10 project. They also spoke with him about South Country Health Alliance and its financial condition.

Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Monson to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm Motion carried unanimously.