

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 4, 2023

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on April 4, 2023 in the Wadena City Council Chambers, 222 2nd St. SE, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Weyer and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Michael Weyer, Bill Stearns, Jon Kangas, Murlyn Kreklau, Ron Noon, County Coordinator Ryan Odden, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, County Engineer Darin Fellbaum, IT Director Dave Hotchkiss, Frank Moren, Kim Dailey, County Attorney Kyra Ladd via Zoom, Public Health Director Erica Keppers via Zoom, Human Services Director Jennifer Westrum via Zoom, Administrative Services Supervisor Amie Gendron via Zoom, Transit Director Randy Jahnke via Zoom, County Recorder Tracy Borchert via Zoom, Renee Godding via Zoom, Amy Lane via Zoom, Kim Schroeder via Zoom, *Review Messenger* reporter Matt Johnson via Zoom and *Independent News Herald/Verndale Sun* reporter Trinity Gruenberg via Zoom.

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

Recognition of Interested Citizens: None present today

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Kreklau wanted to move Item G to a discussion and then vote.

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

- Approve the 3-14-2023 and 3-21-2023 minutes.
- Approve the Warrants from 3-17-2023 and 3-24-2023 for a total of \$440,526.76.
- Approve the Humans Services Warrants from 4-4-2023 for a total of \$19,548.76.
- Approve the 2023 Emergency Assistance Program Policy.
- Approve the renewal of Liquor License for John and Sharon Long DBA Wahoo Valley Bar and Grill.
- Approve the Liquor License for Frank and Alicia Moren DBA Twin Lakes Lodge and Resort for 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Item G was then discussed. Commissioner Kreklau would like to have a roster given to the board as soon as possible after January 1st to include vacancies. This would also include a current number of FT employees- 80% employees-50% employees and PT below 50 %. All part of normal operating procedures. They discussed the wording of the new hire report

and suggested changes. Moved by Commissioner Kreklau and seconded by Commissioner Kangas to approve Consent Agenda Item G, the New Hire Report. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

2023 Wadena County 4-H Update: Kim Dailey the Extension Education for 4-H Youth Development in Wadena County gave a 4-H update. She handed out a brochure that introduces new families to 4-H. There are over 100 different project areas in 4-H. She said 4-H is thriving in Minnesota. There were 263 enrolled 4-H members in Wadena County, this was up 26% from the year before. She has 58 volunteers and they are actively recruiting more volunteers. She discussed new and existing opportunities for 4-H families and how those opportunities expand to a statewide level. The board thanked her for coming and for the good work she is doing.

Menahga IT Support: Dave Hotchkiss, IT Director brought before the board a request to enter into an IT support agreement with Menahga Police Department. Wadena County IT department would be offering Menahga Police Department technology services and support. This will generate \$3500.00 of funding for the IT Department. He met with the Menahga City Council on March 27, 2023 to discuss a contract as well as answer questions that the council had. On March 27, 2023 the Menahga City Council passed the contract with a vote of 5-0. He answered questions the commissioners had. Motion by Commissioner Kangas and seconded by Commissioner Kreklau to approve the Wadena County Information Technology Support Agreement & Terms for the City of Menahga Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval to sell Units 25 and 27: Darin Fellbaum, County Engineer said that in 2022, the Highway Department purchased a new Snow Plow to be used out of the Sebeka Shop. This plow did not arrive and be useable until October of 2022. We kept Unit 25, the old plow truck that the new one replaced to use for the winter as a second backup plow. Typically, we only keep one additional plow as backup and are ready to sell this one. Also, the new plow truck also comes with a removable dump box which allows us to use the new plow truck as a semi-tractor to haul pull type equipment in the summer months for hauling gravel, etc. Because of this feature, we are able to remove one Semi Truck, Unit 27, out of our fleet. He is requesting approval to sell this piece of equipment. After discussion with the board, they would like Fellbaum to see whether or not the Solid Waste Department could use Unit 27 before they approved selling it. Motion by Commissioner Kangas and seconded by Commissioner Stearns to approve the sale of Unit 25, 2001 Sterling Plow Truck to be posted on Minnbid for a minimum reserve price of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Commissioner Stearns and seconded by Commissioner Kreklau to approve the sale of Unit 27, 1997 Ford Truck Tractor to be posted on Minnbid for a minimum reserve price of \$10,000.00 unless the Solid Waste Department determines the unit would be useful to them and it would be sold to the Solid Waste Department for \$10,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A break was taken at 9:56 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

Two Board of Commissioner Workshop Meetings: Commissioner Kreklau led a discussion with the board that he would like to see a couple of the board workshop meetings to be held in the evening and at other locations in the county. The consensus of the board is to have an evening board workshop meeting in the spring and one in the fall. In the future when the board meeting schedule is made, it will include two evening meetings in different locations each year.

County Coordinator Report: Coordinator Odden helped with interviews for the Elections Coordinator and Extension Office Technician position. Reviewed and talked with the IT Director regarding the Menahga contract. Attended the AMC Legislative zoom updates. Participated in Sourcewell HR meeting. Housing is a topic of concern brought up at this meeting. Talked to the board about setting up a road tour with the County Engineer, Coordinator and the board. MCIT is doing a walk-through of the buildings and structure next week. Updated the board on what next week's workshop meeting agenda will be.

Commissioner/Committee Reports:

Commissioner Stearns: 4-3-23 MRC zoom meeting.

Commissioner Kreklau: Made an appointment with Ottertail County to learn more about their housing initiatives. 3-26-23 Second Amendment meeting in Verndale. 3-27-23 AMC zoom meeting. 3-28-23 Joint meeting with Ottertail and Wadena Soil and Water meeting. 4-3-23 MRC zoom meeting.

Commissioner Kangas: 3-22-23 Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority zoom meeting. 3-26-23 Second Amendment meeting in Verndale. 3-29-23 PHC meeting. 3-31-23 Mahube-Otwa Board meeting. Fielding a lot of complaints about the proposed valuations of properties.


Commissioner Noon: 3-23-23 Region V meeting at Sourcewell in Staples. 3-26-23 could not attend the Second Amendment meeting in Verndale so sent a letter of support. 3-27-23 Wadena Chamber of Commerce banquet. 3-29-23 CHAMP meeting. 3-30-23 Friendly Rider Safety Meeting.

Commissioner Weyer: 3-27-23 CPT meeting in Morris. 3-30-23 Special meeting with the Law Library. 4-3-23 MRC zoom meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Noon, seconded by Commissioner Kreklau to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Ryan Odden
Wadena County Coordinator



Michael Weyer, Chairperson
Wadena County Commissioner