

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

APRIL 12, 2022

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on April 12, 2022 in the Wadena County Court House, 415 Jefferson St. S. Wadena, Minnesota lower level Multi-Purpose Room. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson Kangas and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss topics and no formal board actions will be taken.

Present were: Commissioners Jon Kangas, Murlyn Kreklau, Sheldon Monson, Mike Weyer, Bill Stearns, County Coordinator Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, County Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson, Highway Engineer Darin Fellbaum, IT Director David Hotchkiss, *Review Messenger* reporter Matt Johnson, *Wadena Pioneer Journal* reporter Rebecca Mitchell and *Independent News Herald/Verndale Sun* reporter Trinity Gruenberg.

Amend/Approve the day's Agenda: Commissioner Stearns would like to add legislative priorities at 10.1. Commissioner Monson wanted to add a discussion on ballot drop boxes at 6.1. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Weyer to approve the agenda with the two additions listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Interested Citizen: None present today.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

2022 Fall Tax Forfeiture Property Sale, 2021 Sale Figures: Heather Olson presented the report from the 2021 Tax Forfeiture Property Sale. She would like to hold another sale this year. There are 7 parcels that are available over the counter that did not sell from last year. Some of the properties in the City of Menahga have large assessments on the properties. The City of Menahga will be approached about those assessments being lowered so that the properties might sell. Commissioner Kreklau asked about the funds that go into a Timber Sales fund. Commissioner Stearns stated that is money used for replanting of trees.

Relocation of Mail Room in Courthouse and Ballot Drop Box: Commissioner Stearns spoke about the new mail room upstairs in the hallway outside of the Auditor's Office. This proposal also would change some things in the room used for elections that used to be the old board room. The old board room would need some electrical work done for multiple voting machines to be used at the same time. Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson said that the election room is used for testing of machines and setting up the elections as well as a secure location for the ballots. The temporary election worker also works at a desk in that room. She brought up the possibility of a ballot drop box. She said if the window in her office was larger and could accommodate two