The Wadena County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting was held on May 19, 2020 in the Small Courtroom, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Commissioner Horsager via Zoom and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call by the Chair of the Commissioners.

Also present were: Commissioners Bill Stearns via Zoom, Sheldon Monson via zoom, Jim Hofer via Zoom, Jon Kangas, County Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, Public Health Director, Cindy Pederson via zoom, Human Services Director Jennifer Westrum, Amie Gendron, Cheri Dodds, Ashley Koenig via zoom, Kylene and Darrin Lehmann via zoom, Review Messenger reporter Matthew Johnson via zoom, Wadena Pioneer Journal reporter Michael Johnson via zoom and Independent News Herald/Verndale Sun reporter Trinity Gruenberg via zoom.

Amend/Approve the Day’s Agenda: Ryan Odden asked to have item G removed. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to approve the day’s agenda as presented with Item G removed. Roll call: Kangas-yes, Hofer-yes, Monson-yes, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognize Interested Citizens: None present today.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- Approve the Minutes from the 5-12-20 meeting.
- Approve the Warrants from 4-24-20, 5-1-20, 5-8-20, US Bank 5-8-20, and 5-15-20 for a total of $759,983.30.
- Approve the Human Service Warrants from 4-24-20, 5-1-20, 5-8-20, and 5-15-20 for a total of $61,399.45.
- Approve the request from Trailbreakers, Inc. to sponsor the 2021 grant application to the DNR for the Snowmobile Assistance – Maintenance and Grooming – Program, serve as the fiscal host and have the Auditor/Treasurer sign the quarterly applications for grant allocations.
- Approve the Preventure Training Letter of Agreement between Wadena County Public Health and Overdose Lifeline, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $14,000.00 for the time period of June 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020.
- Approve the temporary reduction in employment status for Jill Davis from 60% FTE to 40% FTE for the time period May 30, 2020 to August 28, 2020; returning to 60% FTE on August 29, 2020; at her current grade and step.

Roll Call vote: Kangas-yes, Hofer-yes, Monson-yes, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:
**Human Services Statistical Reports:** Amie Gendron gave the statistical reports. The MAXIS and METS cases have increased from March to April. The cash balance on hand is $1,199,178.00. The budget is at 32% overall spending for the year through April. Costs for county burials, out of home placements, detox and mental health holds/evaluations are higher than usual.

**2019 Collections Report:** Amie Gendron reported that the county had a very good year on the collections for the county programs. They received $367,172.63 in 2019. She stated the probate amount collected was higher than expected. The State and the County share the funds collected with the county receiving 25% of some accounts and 100% of other accounts collected.

**Special Needs Basic Care Medica Contract:** Cheri Dodds presented a request to provide care coordination for disabled adults within the county. We have not had this in place since January of 2020. This is offered from the state because our county is without a contract currently. Discussion was held on work load and possible revenue of the two programs; Medica with Human Services managing and Blue Plus that Public Health will be managing. Motion by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to approve the Medica Health Plans Wadena County SNBC/SNCP Case Management Participation Agreement. Roll-call vote: Commissioner Kangas-yes, Commissioner Hofer-yes, Commissioner Monson-yes, Commissioner Stearns-yes, Commissioner Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Outstanding Payment on Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Placements:** Human Services Director, Jennifer Westrum, brought forward an outstanding bill of $192,294.00 that Wadena County owes the Department of Human Services for three patients that were hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital from 4-18-2017 to 8-19-2019. These patients did not have an adequate discharge plan and were held at the hospital with the costs being charged to the county. We have been paying $300.00 per month on this bill. She presented the options of how to repay this bill to the State. Commissioner Kangas wanted to know why this outstanding liability was not made known in the budgeting process in prior years. The county should be looking for alternate placement for patients who no longer meet criteria for inpatient services so the county will not be assessed for more bills like these. Commissioner Horsager and Hofer were on the budget committee and were not aware of this bill. The county commissioners would like to be aware of the county liabilities that are outstanding. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Monson to continue with $300.00/month payment with the stipulation that the budget committee and human services totally review this issue in the budgeting process. Roll-call vote: Kangas-yes, Hofer-yes, Monson-yes, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Emergency Executive Committee Update:** Ryan Odden stated that there is limited access to the building. There are a few persons allowed in the building for necessary court dates and other appointments. There is a screening station at the door for all who enter. The recommendation is that this remain the policy until the June 2, 2020 meeting. There was no opposition voiced to this current limited access of the building.

**Horse show discussion:** The resolution that the board previously passed stated that events on County property follow the Governor orders. The current orders only allow for 10 people to meet together. County Attorney, Kyra Ladd, said that MCIT will not provide insurance coverage for any event on county property if it violates the Governor’s orders. Ashley Koenig was on zoom and spoke that the event will be for more than the 10 that are allowed now, but that the social distancing could be maintained for this event. Kyra Ladd stated, “The County would take on risk in a negligence lawsuit if MCIT is not allowing liability coverage during the emergency order.” Kylene
Lehmann wanted to know why they now need to have permission to hold events. Public Health Director, Cindy Pederson, then read the executive order that is currently in place and said that this event does not fall within the guidelines that are currently in place. It was stated, because of the Pandemic, times are different and during this time the resolution states that events on county owned property will be approved by the county board. There was opposition to keeping things closed voiced by Commissioner Kangas and Darrin Lehmann. Commissioner Kangas feels that the size of an area should be considered when putting a limit on the number of people that can be in an area. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Stearns that they deny the request to hold the horse show event on county fairgrounds during the time of the executive order. Roll-call vote: Kangas-no, Hofer-yes, Monson-aye, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried 4-1.

Commissioner Kangas would like the Emergency Executive Committee to look into abating the taxes for business that are forced to be closed due to the Pandemic. They have no choice but to remain closed, but are still expected to pay the property taxes due. This could be prorated for the number of days that the business was forced to be closed. He would like the Emergency Executive Committee to consider this at their next meeting.

**Video Conference Policy:** Dave Hotchkiss asked that the policy to not store the video long term would be adopted. Commissioner Hofer asked if the voice only recording was the official recording and he was told that it was. Other counties use their recordings for other purposes than Wadena County is using it for. The recording of the meeting right now is used only as backup to the official recording should it fail. The recordings made now during the COVID 19 crisis could be held only long enough for minute creation and approval. Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to accept the Video Conferencing Policy that was presented. Roll call vote: Kangas-yes, Hofer-yes, Monson-yes, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Kangas: 5/14 Deputy Interviews, 5/18 CPT meeting, 5/19 Board Meeting.


Commissioner Monson: 5/18 Fair board meeting, 5/19 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Stearns: 5/13 Wadena Economic Committee, 5/19 Board Meeting.


Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am. Roll call vote: Kangas-yes, Hofer-yes, Monson-yes, Stearns-yes, Horsager-yes. Motion carried unanimously.