The Wadena County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting was held on May 21, 2019 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 Stearns and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Commissioners Chuck Horsager, Jim Hofer, Sheldon Monson, Jon Kangas, County Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kya Ladd, Human Service Director Tanya Leskey, Human Service Administrative Services Supervisor Amie Gendron, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, Sargent Bryan Savaloja, Deputy Tyler Wheeler, GIS Gina Dahms, IT Director David Hotchkiss, Human Service Employees: Lucille Prather, Kristy Brown, Naomi Van Batavia, Erica Keppers, Review Messenger reporter Matthew Johnson, Wadena Pioneer Journal reporter Michael Johnson and Independent News Herald reporter Trinity Gruenberg.

Amend/Approve the day’s agenda: Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Horsager to approve the day’s agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approve minutes from the 5-14-19 minutes.
- Approve Warrants from 4-26-19, 5-3-19, 5-10-19, US Bank 5-10-19 and 5-17-19 for a total of $746,228.31.
- Approve Human Service Warrants from 5-3-19, 5-10-19 and 5-17-19 for a total of $42,314.85.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Enter into Agreement with MN Department of Public Safety: Sargent Bryan Savolja presented the request to hold a full scale disaster exercise on September 14, 2019. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Horsager to authorize the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office to enter into a reimbursement-based agreement with the Department of Public Safety, HSEM, for an amount not to exceed $16,000.00 for a full-scale disaster exercise in Wadena County, currently scheduled for September 14, 2019 and pass the following Resolution:

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT

WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
WHERE AS: The Wadena County Sheriff, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, for a full-scale disaster exercise September 14, 2019. Wadena County will be reimbursed for any costs related to the exercise, up to $16,000.00.

CERTIFICATION

I, Bill Stearns, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and, I, Ryan Odden, County Coordinator of the County of Wadena, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners at the meeting held on the 21st day of May 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOU with Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320 (General Unit Employees): Ryan Odden made the request to make adjustments to the 2019-A Wage Schedule for the grades that were missing from the schedule. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Monson to approve Memorandum of Understanding that approves the revised 2019-A wage schedule for the local 320 (General Unit Employees). Motion carried unanimously.

MOU with Law Enforcement Labor Services (Deputies Unit): Ryan Odden made the request to revise the 2019-A wage schedule for the Law Enforcement Labor Services to correct a typo on Grade 54D, Step 7. It read, $24.62 and should have read $25.64. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Kangas to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2019-A Wage schedule correcting Grade 54D, Step 7 from $24.62 to $25.64 for the Law Enforcement Labor Services (Deputies Unit.). Motion carried unanimously.

MOU with Law Enforcement Labor Services (Jailer/Dispatcher Unit): Ryan Odden made the request to revise the 2019-A Wage schedule for the Law Enforcement Labor Services (Jailer/Dispatcher Unit) to add Grade 52D which was missing. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Horsager to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2019-A Wage schedule adding Grade 52D. Motion carried unanimously.

Human Services Statistical Report: Amie Gendron was present to give the monthly report. Total Maxis and MNsure cases at 2,705 year to date. The monthly fund balance is at $1,453,034.00. This is down because of the cash call that we made to South Country Health Alliance. Our overall spending is at 34% for the year. The Detox and Child Welfare cost are up, but that is happening elsewhere around the state.

2018 Wadena Count Performance Report: Debra Nelson presented the Wadena County Performances Report for 2018 for SNAP and Cash Assistance. Wadena County is at the top of the counties within our region for performance at 80.8%. They are trying to process the applications that are turned in as quickly as possible. The number of cases are down, but this could be because of the strong economy or the aging population of the residents. Once a person moves into an assistive living facility or a nursing home, they are no longer eligible for some programs.
**Proclamation Declaring May Foster Care Appreciation Month:** Naomi Van Batavia was present to request that Wadena Declare May Foster Care Appreciation Month. Kristy Brown gave a report on the foster care within Wadena County. Currently there are 25 foster homes within the county. Of those homes, 17 homes are where children are placed with relatives that are licensed and 8 are homes that care for any child that needs placement. There are also a couple of corporate care options for children that need that kind of care. There are 10 families in the process of becoming licensed foster care homes within the county. Erica Keppers was recognized for being a foster parent. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Horsager to declare May Foster Care month. Motion carried unanimously.

A break was taken from 9:50 am to 9:57 am.

**Architectural Design for Lower Level:** Ryan Odden presented the costs that have been incurred so far with the lower level design. The amount that was budgeted was $40,500.00. So far, the cost incurred is at $22,648.84 with an additional $4,100.00 of expected costs. There was discussion on the remaining area in the lower level that still needs renovation. The board took a tour of the existing area in the lower level. By consensus it was decided to leave the hall in the downstairs, complete the IT area and move the wall in the planned IT area to the east as close to the window as they can get. They would also like the small conference room finished on the inside.

**National Association of Counties Annual Conference – Send Chairperson Stearns:** Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Commissioner Monson to send Chairperson Stearns to the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV from July 11-16, 2019 with a budgeted cost up to $2,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**Coordinator/Engineer Combined Position:** Chairperson Stearns brought forth the difference in cost by changing time allocation for the Coordinator/Engineer. Commissioner Kangas wanted a board discussion on the cost to the county for the 70/30 split that was approved last week. He feels that the actual cost of the salary to the county is higher than he thought it would be. There was much discussion on the associated cost with each time allocation. Moved by Commissioner Kangas that the time allocation for the County Coordinator/Engineer be set at 50%/50% ($50,824.40 Engineer/$61,162.00 Coordinator for total of $111,986.50), seconded by Commissioner Monson adding that he wants fresh data on the pay of other county coordinator’s presented within the next two months for comparison. Roll call vote: Kangas – yes, Hofer – no, Stearns – no, Monson – yes, Horsager – yes. Motion passed 3-2.

**Commissioner Reports:**

Commissioner Kangas: 5/20 Budget Committee Meeting, 5/21 Board Meeting.
Commissioner Stearns: 5/21 Board Meeting
Commissioner Monson: 5/21 Board Meeting
A break was taken to move the meeting to the Multi-purpose room at 10:36 am.

**Closed Session for Negotiation Strategy:** The Closed Session for Negotiation Strategy was opened at 10:40 am. The purpose of the meeting in closed session, permitted under MN State Statute 13D.05, Subd. 1 – to discuss negotiation strategy for labor contracts. The meeting reopened at 11:19 am.

Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am. Motion carried unanimously.

___________________________________  ____________________________________
Ryan Odden,                                 Bill Stearns, Chairperson
Wadena County Coordinator/Engineer          Wadena County Commissioners