

# Wadena County, MN Board Action Form

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Action Requested	
<input type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Information Item <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Report <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Other

<b>Update on 4H Building</b>	
Date of Meeting: 1/20/26	Total time requested: 20 minutes
Department Requesting Action: Highway Department	
Presenting Board Action/Discussion at Meeting: Anthony Maule, P.E. , County Engineer	
<b>Background</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Documentation enclosed	
<p>On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at its board meeting, the Board of Commissioners held a discussion regarding the status of the 4H Building/Event Center Remodel project. The Board requested that Commissioner Stearns, Commissioner Winkels, and County Engineer Anthony Maule meet with the Friends of Wadena County Youth and the project Architect Widseth to review the status and scope of the project. The Board requested that following the meeting, a summary of the meeting be provided to the Board.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting Summary:</u></b></p> <p>On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 a meeting was held at the Wadena County Highway Department and via Zoom. Present were Commissioner Winkels, County Engineer Anthony Maule, Widseth Architectural Designer Trevor Guck, and six representatives from the Friends of Wadena County Youth. Commissioner Stearns was unable to make the meeting. At the meeting Dan Sartell (FOWCY) shared that he worked with CoBuilt Construction of Menahga to obtain an opinion of cost for the project as approved by the Department of Labor &amp; Industry.</p> <p>The opinion of cost was discussed as well as the available project budget. Project scope reductions were considered and discussions over the process of revising plans and the process for Department of Labor &amp; Industry review were discussed. Discussions regarding fire suppression systems were had and the project's Architect shared that it was not simply the addition of office space that necessitated the addition of a fire suppression system to the project scope, but rather the scope of the remodel as a whole for a building of this type of use and level of occupancy. Widseth noted that any alterations to the building beyond simple repair or replacement of interior finishes/furnishings would trigger the need for fire suppression systems based on the feedback received from DLI.</p> <p>In reviewing the project scope, the Friends of Wadena County Youth representatives identified the most primary and important needs for the building which included new flooring/kitchen appliances, a heating/cooling system, insulation, and bathroom upgrades.</p> <p>Widseth's Architect indicated that he felt these items could likely fit the project's available budget. It was noted that these improvements may still prompt the need for the inclusion of fire suppression in the project scope and that this would need to be verified with DLI. Widseth noted that they would follow up with DLI in regards to the proposed scope reduction, process for plan revision/review, and would then report back to the FOWCY and Wadena County regarding DLI's feedback.</p>	

**Summary of Project Scope & Cost:**

- Estimate of Project as Currently Approved by DLI (~\$1.0-1.4M)
- Estimate of Available Funding (~\$365k\*)

**Original Project Scope**

- Kitchen improvements
- Bathroom improvements,
- Building addition
- Pre-engineered trusses
- Office space
- Interior wall alterations
- Door/window upgrades
- Mechanical/HVAC systems
- Fire suppression/sprinkler systems
- Interior finishes
- Exterior finishes
- Plumbing & Electrical

**Proposed Reduced Project Scope**

- Kitchen flooring/Appliances
- Bathroom Upgrades
- Heating/Cooling System
- Insulation
- Fire Suppression (if deemed necessary by DLI)\*\*

\*Budgetary estimated amount available following expenses to date associated with Engineering studies and Architectural Plans including County's remainder of original \$100k commitment.\*

\*\*Fire Suppression costs estimated at ~\$50k

**Options**  Supporting Documentation enclosed

**Recommendation**  The Wadena County Board of Commissioners approves the following by Motion:

**Financial Implications:**

Comments

Funding Source: Road & Bridge

Budgeted: Yes No

Action	Voting in Favor	Voting Against
Motion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon
Second:	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels
<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas
<b>Signatures</b>		

STATE OF MINNESOTA}

COUNTY OF Wadena}

I, Heather Olson, County Auditor/Treasurer, Wadena County, Minnesota hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the proceedings of the County Board of said County with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office of Wadena County in Wadena, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said motion was duly passed by said board at said meeting. Witness my hand and seal: