

RED LAKE COUNTY
Regular Meeting Held April 23, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment of its regular meeting the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on April 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Remick was absent. Chairman Weiss called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the agenda to add County Treasurer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dudycha and carried unanimously.

County Sheriff Bernstein was present to provide an update on spring flood damages. Bernstein informed that damages throughout the state exceeded the 7-million-dollar threshold and will now qualify all counties for 100% federal reimbursement for damages incurred. Flood damage occurred at the Huot Park in Louisville Township, Red Lake Falls Riverside Park, Plummer City Park, and several county and township roads. Bernstein stated that the Schirrick Dam in Wylie Township was re-opened on April 22nd.

County Treasurer Knott met with the board to present the quarterly interest earnings report and update on the county investment portfolio.

County Engineer Erik Hove met with the board to request approval of an AMC resolution in support of increased transportation funding. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Simpson and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution No. 04-02-19** "Transportation Funding" as follows:

WHEREAS; Minnesota Counties maintain 30,742 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) roads and 14,141 miles of county roads, totaling over 30% of the state's roadways; and

WHEREAS; the total annual need is \$1.084 billion over the next 25 years just to maintain the current CSAH and county road system, not including expansion; and

WHEREAS; the annual funding gap for counties has resulted in deferring basic maintenance, delaying expansion projects with resulting safety concerns, mounting congestion, and missed economic growth for businesses and commuters; and

WHEREAS; a comprehensive and sustainable transportation solution should include robust funding for roads, bridges, and transit, and address the varying needs in different parts of the state; and

WHEREAS; increased funding for Minnesota's Highway User Tax Distribution Fund would provide additional, stable funds for MnDOT, all 87 counties, all cities with a population of 5,000 or more, and townships across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, a bill that brings adequate funding to Minnesota's statewide transportation system.

The Board Chairman and County Auditor are authorized to sign the resolution. The complete document is available at the County Auditor's Office.

Hove discussed a culvert replacement project on CSAH 12 in Terrebonne Township (SAP 063-612-008) and requested permission to advertise for bids. The project will involve replacing two metal culverts with one arch concrete culvert. Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Flage and carried by unanimous vote to approve the request as presented.

Meeting with the County Board was Colleen Hoffman with the auditing firm of Hoffman, Phillip & Knutson (HPK) to present the 2016 county financial audit. Hoffman also addressed some of the issues

and concerns generated by the State Auditor about the 2015 audit. Hoffman presented a letter from Abdo, Eick & Meyers, Certified Public Accountants, indicating that random tested audits completed by HPK had passed peer review and been accepted. Hoffman felt that several of the issues by the State Auditor were insignificant. HPK is presently compiling information for the 2017 county audit.

HR Director Lundeen met with the board to present the results of the compensation study conducted by Bjorklund Compensation Consulting. Lundeen explained the process involved in completing the study, noting that job descriptions were reviewed by Department Heads, and in addition job descriptions were created for all Elected Officials. Information was utilized from area counties and from the Association of MN Counties when setting the salary range. The year 2019 will reflect a 1.37% increase to gross salaries reflecting an approximate \$44,000.00 increase with benefits.

Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 9, 2019 as presented.

Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bjorklund Compensation Consulting	\$2,000.00
Brooks Auto	5,430.44
Election Systems & Software, Inc	2,400.00
GCR Tire Center	3,555.25
29 Vendors less than \$2,000	<u>9,805.14</u>
TOTAL	\$23,190.83

The motion includes the following additional bills: \$28.00 to Marco; \$104.94 to Quill.

The following Commissioner/Committee reports were shared:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Meeting/Report</u>
Simpson:	Attended a County Fair Board meeting with Commissioner Dudycha.
Flage:	Participated in an MRC ITV conference discussing Enbridge, medical hemp, buffer strips, broadband funding, gas tax and the transportation bonding bill.
Dudycha:	Social Service Board meeting.
Weiss:	Participated in a Landfill teleconference with Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan. Attended a Quin County CHS meeting.

Auditor Schmitz presented a tax abatement request from the County Assessor for payable year 2019. Information provided from Assessor Amberson indicated that due to a clerical error a duplicate tax parcel was created in the property tax system. Commissioner Dudycha moved, seconded by Flage to approve the tax abatement as recommended by Assessor Amberson for payable 2019 in the amount of \$64.00 for Parcel No. 15-2523-010 located in City of Oklee. Motion carried unanimously.

Auditor Schmitz informed of two court ordered tax abatements for payable year 2019 for TransCanada (Great Lakes Gas). The affected parcels in the county are: PIN #03-5200-000 in amount of \$15,036.00 tax reduction, and PIN #04-5300-000 in amount of \$730.00 tax reduction. The abatements are result of a valuation appeal filed by TransCanada with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Schmitz noted that the pipeline valuation changes are a result of errors made by the State of Minnesota, and are the first in a series of abatements and refunds that counties can expect.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to May 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Robert Schmitz, County Auditor

Ron Weiss, Chair, Board of Commissioners