

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 10, 2023

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on August 10, 2023, at 10:00 am.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Remick called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Al Remick, Chuck Flage, Tony Gerardy, Eric Mickelson, and Ron Weiss. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Court Operations Associate Melissa Sletten swore in Eric Mickelson as the commissioner for District 3.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 25, 2023.

**EXPENDITURES**

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Geo-Comm Corporation	\$9,662.70
Gladen Construction	\$259,404.38
Hancock Concrete Products LLC	\$11,075.24
Moore Engineering, Inc.	\$26,752.50
Nelson International	\$18,457.67
Red Lake County Co-op	\$2,266.05
Tyler Technologies	\$4,381.91
Wayne Vandervort	\$2,200.00
14 Payments less than \$2000	\$8,099.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$342,299.65</b>

**DNR LAND SALE**

Emily Hutchins with the Minnesota DNR met with the board to inform them that an Emardville Township resident had contacted the department wanting to sell land in order to become a Wildlife Management Area. Hutchins informed the board that the County will receive PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) and by initial estimates it appears the payments will be more than what the County receives in property taxes. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to authorize the sale of private property to the Minnesota DNR.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following commissioner/committee reports were shared:

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<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Meeting/Report</u>
Gerardy	Interviews with Extension Candidates
Remick	Tri-County Community Corrections

### **AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the board to discuss the County's capital bonding request to the State of Minnesota for the courthouse ventilation and cooling project. In order to proceed with the request, the State requires a resolution from the County board. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No. 08-01-2023, which is as follows:

WHEREAS the Red Lake County Courthouse is in need of a ventilation and cooling system, new windows and updates throughout the building.

WHEREAS the total amount requested from the State of Minnesota 2024 Capital Budget is 2.1 million.

WHEREAS the annual funding gap for the county has resulted in deferring basic maintenance, with resulting safety concerns.

WHEREAS a comprehensive and sustainable solution should include robust funding for counties with small tax capacities.

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 Red Lake County for the Courthouse Improvement Project.

Gervais informed the board that quarterly water tests need to be completed at Huot Park. It was decided that Environmental Services Officer Kurt Casavan will be responsible for this task moving forward.

Gervais also discussed the recently imposed permit requirement at Huot Park. Sheriff Mitch Bernstein voiced his concern over the permits; since no ordinance has been passed, the permits cannot be enforced by the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to rescind the permit requirement for camping at Huot Park.

### **HR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HR Manager Angie Lundeen met with the board to inform them that interim Highway Engineer Mike Flaagan's contract will be expiring on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. His replacement, Taylor Amiot, will be starting on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Flaagan offered his assistance to the county if needed until Amiot starts at the end of the month.

### **SHERIFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sheriff Mitch Bernstein met with the board to discuss the implementation of a cannabis use ordinance. The Minnesota Sheriff's Association had provided the department with a suggested ordinance. It was decided to wait for County Attorney Tanner Holten to look over the ordinance before proceeding.

Bernstein presented the board with a resolution granting him authority to continue entering into grant agreements with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by

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Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution No. 08-02-2023, which is as follows:

Whereas, the County board of Commissioners of Red Lake County desires to authorize Sheriff/Emergency Management Director, Mitch Bernstein, as the Red Lake County's designated signing authority to enter into the specified grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Red Lake, Minnesota as follows:

1. That Sheriff/Emergency Management Director, Mitch Bernstein has been designated to be the signing authority to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division for the 2021, and 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant.
2. That Sheriff/Emergency Management Director, Mitch Bernstein will be authorized to sign all future Emergency Management Performance Grant applications, entering into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, for as long as he is the appointed Red Lake County Emergency Management Director.
3. That Allen Remick, the Chair of the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners and the County Board Clerk, Kelsey Gervais, are authorized to sign this resolution.

Bernstein notified the board that he plans on increasing the amount each city pays for their policing contract beginning in 2024. The board voiced their approval of the increase but agreed to table the decision for the next regular meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Remick, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners