

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 26, 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 December 26, 2023, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 12, 2023, with changes.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan met with the board to discuss the ongoing issues with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Casavan will be scheduling a meeting with the MPCA to begin working towards a solution. Commissioners Weiss and Remick volunteered to be present for the meeting.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot met with the board to request approval for purchasing a pickup from Thibert's Chevrolet for the highway department. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the purchase.

Amiot informed the board that with the upcoming County Road 5 project, residents will need to be reimbursed for any ornamental trees that are removed on their property due to the construction. After contacting multiple plant nurseries, Amiot believed \$250 per tree would be a fair price. The board agreed with Amiot's findings.

Amiot asked the board for their input on whether the County should have a minimum amount for easement and right-of-way payments. Amiot informed the board that other counties have implemented the policy as it simplifies the accounting when calculating payments for minimally affected parcels. The board decided that the County doesn't need to have a minimum amount for payments at this time.

Amiot proposed the county increase the speed limit on all roads from 55 mph to 60 mph to match the direction of the state and lessen confusion with county residents. The board expressed interest in the proposal and asked that Amiot research further into the process and report his findings.

Amiot presented the board with the certificate of final acceptance for the CSAH 19 project. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve the final payment to Gladen Construction.

HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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HR Director Angie Lundeen met with the board to request approval to renew the contract for the county’s website. Lundeen informed the board that GovOffice, who provides the county’s website hosting, has been purchased by Catalis and the most recent invoice shows an increase of over 500%. Lundeen had inquired into other companies that offer the same services, and some would offer long-term cost savings. Lundeen informed the board that a decision would need to be made by the end of December to prevent any disruptions of service. The board advised Lundeen to inquire with Catalis to see if a one-year contract is possible, which would give the county some additional time to research other hosting companies. If not, the board directed Lundeen switch to a cheaper service provider.

EXPENDITURES

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

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Gladen Construction, Inc. | \$56,535.63 |
| Government Management Group, Inc. | \$3,000.00 |
| Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC | \$12,850.00 |
| TRF Lock & Key | \$8,686.00 |
| Triple D Construction & Leasing Co | \$10,695.00 |
| 3 Payments less than \$2000 | <u>\$2,725.24</u> |
| TOTAL | \$94,491.87 |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissioner/committee reports were shared:

| <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Meeting/Report</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| Gerardy | Meeting with City of RLF regarding the Bottineau Trail Bridge |
| Flage | Inter County Nursing |
| Remick | NW Emergency Communications Board, Alluma, Personnel committee |
| Weiss | Personnel committee, Meeting with City of RLF regarding the Bottineau Trail Bridge |

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gervais presented the board with a letter from the County Assessor stating that she had made corrections to the values of 3 properties within the County. The changes were due to clerical errors.

Gervais presented the board with a letter from the Northwest Regional Library Board Chair Roy Sourdif, voicing his approval of the County’s board appointment, Nathan Guillemette. Sourdif requested the board consider appointing Guillemette for another term.

Gervais informed the board that Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care is requesting appointments to their board for 2024. The board reappointed Mary Ann Lambert and Sandy Bertilrud for another term.

2024 BUDGET AND LEVY

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The board reviewed a list of annual items for approval for the next budget year. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 salary grade table reflecting a 5% cost of living increase for employees.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the Elected Official salaries for 2023 as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Commissioners: | \$20,580.00 each |
| Treasurer: | \$82,284.80 |
| Sheriff: | \$106,891.20 |

Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously that the following county levies be adopted and ordered certified to the County Auditor for collection in 2024:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Revenue: | \$2,912,261.00 |
| Road & Bridge: | \$1,055,685.00 |
| Welfare: | <u>\$ 412,030.00</u> |
| Total: | \$4,379,976.00 |

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage and carried unanimously to adopt the 2024 county budget as follows:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Revenue: | \$ 4,829,002.00 |
| Road & Bridge: | \$ 7,274,185.00 |
| Social Services: | <u>\$ 1,735,392.00</u> |
| Total: | \$13,838,579.00 |

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Mickelson, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Allen Remick, Chairman
Board of Commissioner