

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 6, 2023

The Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in special session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on December 6, 2023 at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

2024 LEVY

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the board to discuss the county’s proposed 2024 levy. The proposed levy showed a 13.99% increase from 2023. After thorough review of the 2024 budget, the board was able to decrease the levy increase from 13.99% to 6.7%. The budget and levy will be approved at the following regular meeting.

BUFFER STRIP PENALTIES

Ethan Dahl with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources met with the board to discuss the penalties that were assessed to Alex Hinrichs for noncompliance with the state’s buffer strip law. Hinrichs was originally given notice of noncompliance in 2017 and has since become compliant after receiving an administrative penalty order in 2023. Hinrichs requested the board forgive the 5 years of assessed penalties. Hinrichs informed the board that he was aware of other counties in the state forgiving buffer strip penalties. Dahl informed the board that only one county in the state has forgiven a buffer strip penalty and the authority to do so was given in their ordinance. Red Lake County’s buffer ordinance does not grant the board the ability to forgive any penalties. Because it is not explicitly stated in the Red Lake County buffer ordinance, Dahl advised the board to not forgive Hinrichs’ penalties. The decision was tabled for the following regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Weiss, seconded by Commissioner Flage and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Allen Remick, Chairman
Board of Commissioners