

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 23, 2024

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 January 23, 2024, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gerardy 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 Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions and corrections.

COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Social Services Director Kristi Nelson presented the board with a resolution pertaining to the administration of Child Support Services. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 01-04-2024** as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota requires a County Interagency Cooperative Agreement covering the administration of child support, establishment of paternity, and medical support liability programs by and between the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Child Support Division and Red Lake County for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

WHEREAS, Red Lake County is empowered to enter into interagency agreements pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 471.59;

WHEREAS, the County IV-D Agency is responsible for local operation of child support services under Minnesota Statutes, section 393.07, subdivision 3; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced entities wish to enter into this Cooperative Agreement to set forth their respective responsibilities in providing services necessary to the operation of the child support enforcement program under title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.), sections 651 through 699b; and enter this agreement to meet the requirements of 45 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), sections 303.107 and 302.34.

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of a County means the governing body of the local unit of government responsible for the administration of public welfare programs and services, including child support, in the county of multi-county area. This may include County Boards, organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 375; local social service agencies, organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 393; Hospital Commissions, as empowered by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 393; Human Services Board, organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 402; Service Delivery Authorities, organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 402A or any other local unit of government which is responsible for the administration of child support enforcement services for the local area.

WHEREAS, the County's Cooperative Agreement Manager is the individual responsible for administration of the Cooperative Agreement as designated by the Governing Board of the County.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the County board of Red Lake County, Minnesota to authorize Kristi Nelson, Director of Red Lake County Social Services to execute the Cooperative Agreement on behalf of Red Lake County.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot presented the board with the Certificate of Final Acceptance from Gladen Construction, requesting final payment for installation of a box culvert in Poplar River Township. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the final payment.

Amiot informed the board that the Red Lake Falls School District would like to form a Safe Routes to School grant committee. Commissioner Flage volunteered to be on the committee to represent the County and Commissioner Remick would be the alternate. Amiot asked the board to approve writing a letter to the Department of Transportation to voice the County’s support of the Safe Routes to School plan. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve writing the letter.

Amiot informed the board that a highway employee has used all their sick time, and another employee has offered to donate some of their own. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the sick time donation.

LANDFILL PERMIT UPDATE

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan provided the board with an update on the MPCA’s decision to withhold funding for the proposed nine county landfill. At that time, no solution had been reached with the MPCA.

MINUTES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the special meeting on January 2nd, 2024.

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>
Enbridge	\$1,084,520.59
Forks Freightliner	\$32,208.00
Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust	\$119,511.00
Minnesota Sheriffs Association	\$2,403.29
Motorola Solutions Connectivity	\$2,820.00
NW ECB	\$3,500.00
O’Day Equipment Inc	\$2,308.82
Seachange Printing and Marketing Service	<u>\$4,487.61</u>
TOTAL	\$1,262,170.04

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mickelson- Inter County Community Council

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Remick- Meeting with MPCA, NW Emergency Communications Board, Tri-County Community Corrections

Flage- MRC, Inter-County Nursing, Red Lake County Economic Development

Weiss- Tri-County Community Corrections, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Quinn County Health, meeting with Red Lake Falls city officials regarding the Bottineau Bridge

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais opened bids for the County's official newspaper. The bids were as follows:

Red Lake Falls Gazette- \$3.25 per column inch

Red Lake County Herald- \$3.50 per column inch

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage and carried unanimously to accept the bid from the Red Lake Falls Gazette. Commissioner Mickelson abstained from the vote. **Resolution 01-06-2024** is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Red Lake Falls Gazette be designated as the Official County Newspaper to publish the Red Lake County Board Proceedings, all legal notices of the County, first publication for the 2024 Financial Statement Summary pursuant to M.S. 375.17, delinquent taxes, all pursuant to M.S. 375.12, 375.17, 279.05, 279.08, in 2024, at the rate of \$3.25 per column inch.

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve the Red Lake County Herald to print the 2nd copy of the County's financial statement. Commissioner Mickelson abstained from the vote. **Resolution 01-07-2024** as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Red Lake County Herald be designated to publish the second publication of the 2024 Financial Statement Summary, pursuant to M.S. 375.17 at the rate of \$3.50 per column inch.

Sheriff Mitch Bernstein presented the board with a resolution approving the formation of an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 01-05-2024** as follows:

WHEREAS, Red Lake County has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and

WHEREAS the Act establishes a framework for the development of a County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS the Act as part of the planning process requires public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Red Lake County Plan includes a risk assessment including past hazards, hazards that threaten the County, an estimate of structures at risk, a general description of land uses and development trends; and

WHEREAS the Red Lake County Plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives and an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs; and

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WHEREAS, the Red Lake County Plan includes a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of the plan into other planning documents and how Red Lake County will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been shared with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and comment; and

WHEREAS the Red Lake County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will make the county and participating jurisdictions eligible to receive FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grants; and

WHEREAS this is a multi-jurisdictional Plan and cities that participated in the planning process may choose to also adopt the County Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Red Lake County supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the Red Lake County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Gervais presented the board with a letter from Hoffman, Phillip, Martell of Thief River Falls which sought approval to begin the County's 2023 audit. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the use of Hoffman, Philipp, Martell's services.

Gervais presented the board with a request from Hunters for Hunters requesting a resolution from the board advocating for the removal of wolves from Federal Protection. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 01-08-2024** as follows:

WHEREAS the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the importance of effective wolf management;

WHEREAS the Red Lake County Board believes that the management of wolves should be returned to the state level for more localized and efficient decision making;

WHEREAS the Red Lake County Board recognizes the role of Senator Amy Klobuchar in representing the interest of Minnesota at the federal level;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED that the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners officially expresses its support for the removal of wolves from Federal protection, advocating for wolf management to be returned to the State of Minnesota, **AND** endorses the immediate initiation of a wolf hunting season in the State of Minnesota once wolves are removed from Federal protection, **AND** authorizes the signing of a letter addressed to Senator Amy Klobuchar, urging her to vote in favor of wolves being removed from Federal protection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to relevant federal and state authorities, including Senator Amy Klobuchar, to convey the official stance of the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners on this matter.

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Gervais provided the board with an update on the Bottineau Trail Bridge. At the last meeting with the City of Red Lake Falls, it was determined that between grants and matching funds that there was enough money to repair the damaged pillar. The decking would be replaced at a later date once more funding had been acquired.

Gervais updated the board on the Enbridge property tax refund as a result of Minnesota Tax Court rulings in the 2012-2014 and 2015-2016 appeal trials and the settlement with the Department of Revenue of the 2017 and 2018 appeals. The county's portion of the refund has already been paid, but the state's portion of the refund, totaling \$1,084,520.59, was now due. At the request of the State, the County has been withholding State General Tax payments to pay the refund.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Flage, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Tony Gerardy, Chairman
Board of Commissioner