

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 13, 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 June 13, 2023, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northwest Regional Development Commission Transportation Manager Tim Finseth met with the board to introduce himself and offer assistance to the County with grant writing and planning of upcoming road projects.

Randy Konickson from the Highway Department met with the board to present a quote for a new motor grader. The quote included the trade-in value of one of the older motor graders currently owned by the County. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the trade-in and purchase of a new motor grader.

Tanner Holten of Harbott, Knutson, Larson & Holten PLLP met with the board to be sworn in as the acting attorney for Red Lake County.

Paul Hajduk with the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust met with the board to present their annual report to members as well as describe the services that are available to Red Lake County.

Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Tanya Waldo met with the board to discuss Wayne Vettleson's planned expansion to his dairy operation. The expansion would require the issuance of a permit by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with approval from the board of commissioners. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve the permit.

Polk County resident Merle Kolstad met with the board to discuss the ongoing issue of water on his property. Kolstad believes a culvert that Red Lake County installed in 1991 is causing water to backup onto his property. The board encouraged Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan to investigate the situation.

HUOT PARK

Peter Mattson met with the board to express his concern over the discontinuation of camping at Huot Park. Others present were: Dann Hoffman, Bray Hoffman, Nichole Larson, Virgil Benoit, Hugh Stadem and Harlan Casavan. It was agreed that the Park Board would hold a meeting at a future date to come to an agreement that would be satisfactory to all interested parties.

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EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously approve commissioner warrants totaling \$424,827.58. A detailed listing is available in the auditor’s office or on the county’s website.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 23, 2023.

HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

HR Manager Angie Lundeen met with the board to seek approval for Kurt Casavan’s annual step increase from step 9 to 10. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the step increase.

Lundeen discussed Minnesota’s decision to observe Juneteenth as a State holiday effective 2023. It was confirmed that no public business can be transacted on the Juneteenth holiday, except in cases of necessity. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to close County offices on Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Lundeen discussed Treasurer Nick Knott’s request to change Deputy Treasurer Carmen Harmoning from 35 to 40-hour work weeks. Harmoning remains the only employee in the courthouse working 35 hours per week and due to the increasing business in the Treasurer’s office the change in hours was strongly recommended. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to change Carmen Harmoning from 35 to 40-hour work weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissioner/committee reports were shared:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Meeting/Report</u>
Gerardy	Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
Weiss	Northwest Regional Development Commission, Tri-County Community Corrections
Flage	Transportation Advisory Committee, Northwest Regional Development Commission
Remick	Tri-County Community Corrections

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the board to discuss the condition of the hedges in front of the courthouse along Main Street. It has been determined that the hedges are mostly dead and in need of being removed. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve removing the hedges.

Gervais updated the board of the total cost of the upcoming courthouse cooling and ventilation project as provided by the architect. Gervais also mentioned that she will be submitting a capital grant through the State of Minnesota to secure additional funding for the project.

ADJOURNMENT

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A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Allen Remick, Chairman
Board of Commissioners