

RED LAKE COUNTY
Regular Meeting Held September 24, 2019

Pursuant to adjournment of its regular meeting the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on September 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Weiss called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the addition of the Red Lake Watershed District.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried by unanimous vote to approve the IUOE Local 49 Union Contract for a 3-year period commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

Myron Jesme and Al Page representing the Red Lake Watershed met with the board members to present the 2018 annual district report. Jesme reported on the several district projects in-process or completed during 2019. Jesme provided a detail report on repairs needed to the RLWD #10 outlet structure and on repairs completed during the summer on the Schirrick Dam in Wylie Township. Jesme informed that the One Watershed-One Plan (1W1P) document has now been completed and having a completed plan allows the 1W1P Committee to receive state funding to use towards projects throughout the Watershed and the Red Lake County SWCD District as participants in the 1W1P. Jesme commented that the working relationship with the County Highway Department and County Environmental Office is excellent.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on September 10, 2019 as presented.

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AAA Striping Service Co.	\$27,414.43
Waste-Not-Recycling, LLC	3,000.00
36 Vendors less than \$2,000.	<u>8,877.04</u>
TOTAL	\$39,414.43

The motion also includes the following added expenditures: \$125.96 to Quill Office Products; \$3,210.00 to ReadTech; \$73.08 expenses and \$200.00 per diem to Chuck Flage; \$37.12 expenses and \$290.00 per diem to Allen Remick.

Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Flage to approve payment of \$826.88 to Ken's Electric, Inc. Voting aye: Commissioners Simpson, Flage, Dudycha and Weiss. Abstain: Commissioner Remick. The motion carried.

Auditor Schmitz informed that the NW Regional Development Commission is seeking nominations from counties in its service area for two Minority and six Public Interest At-Large Representatives for 2-year terms to the Commission. Counties nominate individuals but the RDC makes the actual appointment from the list of names that are submitted. County Commissioner Ron Weiss is the current member on the RDC representing the Watershed Districts. Commissioner Remick moved and seconded by Commissioner Flage to nominate Ron Weiss for appointment to the Watershed District Public Interest position. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Auditor Schmitz informed that no damage estimate has been received yet from MCIT nor Hartford regarding the July storm damages to the Courthouse roof and computer system.

The following Commissioner/Committee reports were shared:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Meeting/Report</u>
Simpson:	None.
Flage:	Attended an Inter County Nursing meeting discussing 2020 salaries and hiring of staff to fill positions.
Dudycha:	Tri County Corrections discussing facility usage, budget, and personnel issues.
Remick:	NW Regional Development meeting discussing the budget and heard program reports. Also attended meetings of County Extension, County Safety, NW Mental Health and the NW Regional Communications Board.
Weiss:	None.

Environment a Officer Kurt Casavan presented a Petition for Repair of County Ditch 57, Branch 16 located on the north end of Section 11 in Emardville Township. A buildup of cattails and silt is restricting drainage. The petition is filed by Earl & Neil Pederson. In addition, Casavan informed that the west side of the main ditch system in Section 13 of Emardville will also have some areas cleaned. Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried unanimously to approve the petition for maintenance of County Ditch 57 as presented.

There was discussion of a drainage issue in Terrebonne Township on County Road 120. A tile pump has been running steady due to the excessive rainfall and is causing water to back-up on adjacent lands because of the sediment buildup in a couple of the culverts. Casavan mentioned he will look into the issue.

Chair Weiss mentioned that a citizen questioned why implement tires are not accepted during the free tire collection. Casavan commented that implement tires are not accepted free because of the significant cost to the county to dispose of at a recycle facility.

Casavan and County Engineer Hove then discussed the need for a GPS Survey System to be used jointly by both Environmental and the Highway Department. Casavan commented that he can use the GPS to complete survey work on the buffer strips along ditch systems in addition to Highway Department projects. Hove commented that the GPS will save manpower hours and reduce project costs. Casavan stated that it would qualify to use the State Riparian Aid (Buffer Strip) dollars to purchase the equipment. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Flage and carried by unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a Trimble R10-2 GPS Receiver and Controller in amount of \$36,919.56 from Frontier Precision Inc.

The board discussed a request from the city of Red Lake Falls to waive late penalty costs of \$181.65 on (2) two city owned parcels as the May 2019 first half property taxes were not paid until September. Commissioner Simpson moved, seconded by Dudycha to deny the City of Red Lake Falls request and not waive the \$181.65 in penalties on the (2) two city owned parcels. Voting aye: Commissioners Simpson, Flage and Dudycha. Voting nay: Commissioners Remick and Weiss. Motion passed.

HR Director Lundeen mentioned that some employees had concerns on the Compensation Study going into effect January 1, 2020 regarding their placement on the new step chart. Board members asked that Lundeen research more detail.

County Engineer Hove presented the proposed Highway Department budget for the 2020 year. Hove reviewed in detail the revenues and expenses comprising his departmental budget. Hove requested a levy of \$575,100 or an increase of \$50,100 from year 2019. Chair Weiss commented that the board will take his request under consideration when setting the proposed tax levy and budget later in the meeting.

The County Board then proceeded to review the proposed 2020 county budget. Auditor Schmitz presented detail information for the County Revenue Fund and provided a summary of the overall

proposed county tax levy and budget. There was discussion on state mandated services; including the state funding available to provide some services, and ways to reduce the overall budget costs. The board made adjustments in several departments. Board members also discussed the benefit, amount of usage, and the cost of services provided by the University of Minnesota Extension. Members felt that the 20% FTE Ag Educator position was not beneficial to the county and cost-effective as most farmers use local Agronomy Services. There was discussion that the county has the option of changing terms of the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by providing 90-day notice to the U of M. Commissioner Dudycha moved, seconded by Simpson and carried by unanimous vote to inform the University of Minnesota Extension Service of the County's desire to amend the current Memorandum of Agreement, and to thereby eliminate the 0.20 FTE Extension Educator position currently held by Heather Dufault, effective as of December 31, 2019 and, in addition, that the County Auditor provide the required 90-day written notice to U of M Extension Services in St. Paul, MN.

The board also discussed the Highway Department and Social Services proposed budgets. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Dudycha and carried unanimously to adopt the proposed tax levy at \$3,510,278.00 less \$464,602.00 State County Program Aid, resulting in \$3,045,676.00 certified tax levy (1.5% increase) for payable year 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. until October 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Robert Schmitz, County Auditor

Ron Weiss, Chair, Board of Commissioners