

JUNE 22, 2021
BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., June 22, 2021. Members present: Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Joan Lee, Commissioner Gerald Jacobson, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Mark Holy and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Other present Michelle Cote, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

****REVISED AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the revised June 22, 2021, Board agenda adding No. 2 under Michelle Cote/Property Records and No. 1 under Greg Widseth/County Attorney.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the June 22, 2021, Consent Items:

1. Approve the June 15, 2021, Board minutes.
2. Approve payment to US Bank Voyager Fleet Systems, Kansas City, MO in the amount of \$4,955.17 for fuel at the Sheriff's Office.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS ISSUE FORUM

1. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he participated in an MPO meeting. He also attended the AMC District 1 meeting in Roseau.
2. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she participated in the Personnel Committee meeting which was focused on preliminary negotiations discussion. She also attended the AMC District 1 meeting in Roseau.
3. Commissioner Jacobson brought forth that he attended the AMC District 1 meeting in Roseau in addition to the Dancing Sky Board on Aging.
4. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he participated in the Personnel Committee meeting focused on preliminary negotiations. He also met with the LARL Finance Committee which focused on reserves and cares funding. Information was brought forth regarding LARL's 60th Anniversary.
5. Commissioner Holy brought forth that that he attended no meetings since the prior Board meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Greg Widseth, Polk County Attorney came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Clerk Typist Cashier III Vacancy

Due to a retirement, a motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve posting and hiring a Clerk Typist Cashier III position to fill the vacancy.

SHERIFF

James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Monthly Sheriff Reports

The May 2021 monthly Sheriff reports were presented and discussed with the Board. (Reports on file in the Administrator's Office)

PLANNING AND ZONING

Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to Planning and Zoning:

1. Award Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to James Fuglseth - Parcel 28.00040.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award a Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to James Fuglseth to upgrade the failing septic system and to award the bid to Olson & Sons Excavation, Tim Olson L#1620, who was the low bidder (\$11,800.00) and will be installing the septic system.

2. Award Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Rachel Howard – Parcel 16.00173.01

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award a Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Rachel Howard to upgrade the failing septic system and to award the bid to Sherman Backhoe Service, Ryan Sherman L#3371, who was the low bidder (\$11,500.00) and will be installing the septic system.

3. Award Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Teneille Torgerson-Parcel 88.00092.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award a Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Teneille Torgerson to upgrade the failing septic system and to award the bid to Thompson Gravel & Rock LLC, Darren Lindgren L#3368, who was the low bidder (\$6,050.00) and will be installing the septic system.

4. Award Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Greg Mercil- Parcel 30.00092.01

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award a Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Greg Mercil to upgrade the failing septic system and to award the bid to Great Northern Septic, Brandon Maygra L#4100, who was the low bidder (\$6,300.00) and will be installing the septic system.

5. Award Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Kevin Zahl – Parcel 72.00027.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award a Low Income Septic Fix Up Grant to Kevin Zahl to upgrade the failing septic system and to award the bid to Sherman Backhoe Service, Ryan Sherman L#3371, who was the low bidder (\$9,816.23) and will be installing the septic system.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anne Muir, Historical Society President came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Historical Society:

1. Polk County Historical Society Annual Report

Discussion along with handouts pertaining to the Historical Society 2021 Budget Proposal, the Polk County Historical Society Income Statement for May 2021, and a Power Point Presentation pertaining to the Historical Society for 2021 were presented to the Board. (Handouts on file in the Administrator’s Office)

PROPERTY RECORDS

Michelle Cote, Property Records Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. Abandoned Railroad Right Of Way Purchase – Parcel(s) 19.00124.01, 19.00125.01 and 21.00019.01

Discussion along with handouts pertaining to a letter and appearance from Matthew Rust of Fischer, Rust, Stock & Rust, PLLC, Attorneys at Law along with a GIS map of property and property information were presented to the Board. Polk County has received a request to purchase three strips of land (abandoned railroad property) in Section 32 of Euclid Township and Section 5 of Fanny Township from Robert Tiedemann. No one is currently leasing these properties from Polk County. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to authorize the sale of Parcel(s) 21.00019.01 in the amount of \$9,000.00 to Robert Tiedemann contingent upon the successful purchase by Mr. Tiedemann of Parcel 21.00019.02.

2. *Tax Court Order for Judgment – Minnesota Energy Resources Corp (MERC)

Discussion was held with the Board that the Minnesota Department of Revenue has entered into a stipulation agreement with the – Minnesota Energy Resources Corp (MERC) for the 2020 Estimated Market Values (Payable Tax 2021). Handouts were also presented to the Board pertaining to Order of Judgement and the Valuation and Tax Impact for Polk County. (Handouts on file in the Administrator’s Office)

CLOSED SESSION – POLK COUNTY ATTORNEY GREG WIDSETH AND ATTORNEY KENDRA OLSON

1. Action to Convene into Closed Session - Pursuant To MN Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(b), To Discuss Litigation/Claim Related To The Red River Valley Juvenile Center

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to go into closed session at 9:52 a.m.

2. Action to Reconvene Into Open Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to reopen the Board meeting at 10:14 a.m.

3. Address Litigation/Claim Related To The Red River Valley Juvenile Center

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the Litigation/Claim related to the Red River Valley Juvenile Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to enter into an Agreement for representation with the Pemberton Law Firm, Fergus Falls, MN regarding the litigation/claim related to the Red River Valley Juvenile Center.

4. Discussion Regarding Damage to East Grand Forks Building in 2020

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the damage to the East Grand Forks (Human Service Center) building in 2020. Attorney Widseth will review and report to Administrator Whiting on options to recover County expenses.

ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. 2022 Budget

The 2022 Budget was discussed with the Board.

2. American Relief Program Update

An update was given to the Board regarding the American Relief Program.

With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 o'clock a.m., July 6, 2021.

Gerald Jacobson, Chair

Charles S. Whiting, Polk County Administrator
Clerk of the Board