

REDWOOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

July 18, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room in the Government Center, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Present for all or portions of the meeting were Commissioners Dennis Groebner, Rick Wakefield, Bob Van Hee, Jim Salfer, and Dave Forkrud, County Administrator Vicki Kletscher, County Attorney Jenna Peterson, Administrative Assistant Sierra Fluck, Environmental Director Nick Brozek, Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde, Auditor/Treasurer Jean Price, County Engineer Anthony Sellner, Development Coordinator Briana Mumme, Human Resource Coordinator Peter Brown, Sheriff Jason Jacobson, Keith Muetzel, Roger Baumann, Bolton & Menk Bill Helget, Yellow Medicine County Commissioner Ron Antony, Ryan Holmberg, Mary Busiahn, SRDC Jay Trusty, Yellow Medicine County Ditch Inspector Chris Balfany.

Chair Salfer called the Meeting to order asking for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Wakefield, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 18th agenda.

Chair Salfer asked the Board Members to identify any areas in which they had a conflict of interest, there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

- On motion by Forkrud, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:
 - July 6th board minutes.
 - Payment of bills.
 - Per Diem Requests for Jim Salfer in the amount of \$125.00 and Bob Van Hee in the amount of \$180.00.

General Fund	\$ 120,480.40
Building Fund	\$ 2,296.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 28,751.58
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 135.37
Soil & Water	\$ 76,647.38
Forfeited Tax	\$ 112.00

- **Bills exceeding \$2,000:**

Warrants Approved On 7/11/2023 For Payment 7/25/2023.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE	9,999.92
AREA II MN RIVER BASIN PROJECT	9,055.67

BEHREND/MARK	3,210.08
BLOMEKE CONSTRUCTION INC	7,435.60
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	4,604.00
COUNTY OF RENVILLE	28,063.44
G & R CONTROLS INC	7,354.25
GREAT RIVER GREENING	10,907.67
KERKHOFF BROS INC	4,061.50
KNAKMUHS/DAROLD	56,684.04
MATHIOWETZ CONSTRUCTION CO	3,840.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	10,106.01
NOAH DETENTION CONSTRUCTION LLC	2,296.00
REDWOOD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	6,331.06
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINN	22,948.63
SMITH & JOHNSON	4,000.00
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	3,968.75
THE MARKET AT REDWOOD LLC	9,598.93
74 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	23,094.80
Final Total:	227,560.35

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	59,710.38
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	82,074.96
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	2,152.00
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	44,720.25
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	82,520.40
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO'	9,057.67
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of REVENUE	47,180.24
MN COMMISSION OF FINANCE	424,846.52
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,423.00
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	7,670.92
WEXLEAP	7,430.69
WEXLEAP	7,430.69
42 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	24,638.46
Final Total:	801,856.18

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of REVENUE	2,499.00
1 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	1,500.00
Final Total:	3,999.00

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
TOWNSHIP OF REDWOOD FALLS	69,631.29
TOWNSHIP OF SHERIDAN	45,871.26
TOWNSHIP OF SHERMAN	48,219.32
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGDALE	56,358.32
TOWNSHIP OF SUNDOWN	57,950.82
TOWNSHIP OF SWEDES FOREST	30,004.42
TOWNSHIP OF THREE LAKES	43,715.50
TOWNSHIP OF UNDERWOOD	50,930.51
TOWNSHIP OF VAIL	37,156.91
TOWNSHIP OF VESTA	46,038.70
TOWNSHIP OF WATERBURY	42,043.29
TOWNSHIP OF WESTLINE	33,388.21
TOWNSHIP OF WILLOW LAKE	52,895.51
2 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	614.16
Final Total:	8,729,674.56

MN COMMISSION OF FINANCE	4,908.50
1 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	3,418.61
Final Total:	8,327.11

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M & K BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION INC	239,237.74
MEADOWLAND FARMERS COOP	4,063.85
OLSON CHEVROLET	4,014.98
11 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	3,268.14
Final Total:	250,584.71

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CRYSTEEL DISTRIBUTING INC	139,801.00
STAPLES OIL CO	23,978.70
ZIMMERMANN MAINTENANCE	7,620.00
8 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	1,549.05
Final Total:	172,948.75

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MEADOWLAND FARMERS COOP	6,331.65
R & G CONSTRUCTION CO	278,204.52
TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES	142,122.07
ZIMMERMANN MAINTENANCE	14,797.50
5 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	703.96
Final Total:	442,159.70

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M & K BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION INC	340,256.75
MEADOWLAND FARMERS COOP	11,241.28
4 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	781.70
Final Total:	352,279.73

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- The Board recognized Ryan Becklund- Highway Department for 25 years of Service to Redwood County.

AUDITOR/TREASURER

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Cash Balance Report, Investment Summary, Budget Reports, General Fund; Road and Bridge; Building; Human Services; Ditch; Health; Debt Service; Insurance; Solid Waste; Soil and Water and Conservation District Fund, and July 2023 Disbursements in the amount of \$10,777,097.93.
- CPT Services Agreement was removed from agenda for further County Attorney review.

ADMINISTRATION

- DVHHS Fiscal Host Agreement was removed from agenda for further County Attorney review.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:00A.M.

➤ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Affidavit of Publication was presented.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

SHERIFF

- The Board reviewed the June Jail Population.
- The Board reviewed the Sentence to Service Program Quarterly Report for April, May, and June 2023
- Jacobson Discussed Public Safety Aid funds with the Board.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Chair Salfer appointed Christie Larson as the Redwood County Economic Development Authority At Large Board Member.

ROAD & BRIDGE

- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of two tandem axle snowplow pup Trailers from Towmaster in the amount of \$65,394 each from State Contract #221693, Release Number T-6039(5) to be funded from the 2024 Capital Outlay Budget.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Groebner, with Van Hee & Forkrud absent, the Board voted unanimously to approve adjustment of rural driveway width requirements to 80' shared driveways and 60' single driveways and changed limit from 2 per half miles to 3 per half mile.

Forkrud exited meeting at 9:36 a.m.

DITCH AUTHORITY

- Entered into Ditch Authority at 10:01 a.m.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to approve to set Public Hearing for Redetermination of Benefits for Redwood County Ditches 100, 101, 104, 14+14-1, J5-1 Nelson, J5-Kunkel, J5-1 Bunge, J7, and J16 for September 5th at 10:00 a.m.
- On motion by Salfer, Second by Van Hee, with Forkrud absent, the Board voted unanimously to set the final hearing for CD32 for August 15th at 1:00 p.m.

RECONVENE

- The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 10:55 a.m.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Trusty updated the Board on Programs and Projects of the Southwest Regional Development Commission

Personnel

- On motion by Forkrud, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to hire Juan Jimenez as Part-Time Veteran Services Driver for the Veteran Services Office and placed on the 2023 AFSCME Salary Schedule at Grade6/Step 1 at \$16.99/hour effective July 24, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS

- The commissioners reported on meetings they attended.

Salfer: EDA, Western Mental Health

VanHee: Transportation, Extension, EDA, Southwest Regional Development Commission

Groebner: Soil & Water, RRRSWA, Regional Solid Waste

Wakefield: Southwest Health & Human Services

ADJOURN

- There being no further business, Chair Salfer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. Redwood County entered into a Work Session with Brown County.

Joint board meeting Redwood and Brown Counties

At 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Jim Salfer convened a meeting of the Redwood County Board of Commissioners, and Commissioner Jeffrey Veerkamp opened a meeting of the Brown County Board of Commissioners. Present from Redwood County were Commissioners Salfer, Wakefield, Groebner, Van Hee, and Forkrud, Administrator Kletscher, Environmental Director Nick Brozek, Assistant Ditch Inspector Matt Mumme, and Land Use & Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde. Present from Brown County were Commissioners Braun, Veerkamp, Windschitl, Borchert, and Berg, Administrator Sam Hansen, Auditor Kelly Hotovec, Attorney Charles Hanson, Hwy Engineer Wayne Stevens, and Ditch Inspector Andrew Lange. Redwood County staff summarized Redwood County's objections to the cross county billing from Brown County for a 2018 flood repair project on JD30 costing approximately \$305,000 – the expense was a surprise to Redwood County, it did not go through the required bidding process, the cost was high for repairing only ½ mile of ditch, the project was initially projected to cost approximately \$20,000, and it appeared to benefit a single landowner.

Brown County staff provided a handout to those present showing aerial imagery and photos of the site before and after the project.

Brown County Commissioners and staff made the following statements:

- The contractor found more damage than originally known and went ahead with the repair without first contacting Brown County.
- Brown County initially obtained some FEMA funding to cover costs but was unable to obtain funding for the additional damage discovered, despite filing two appeals with the help of state emergency management staff, due to the work being completed before FEMA could verify the damage. FEMA initial inspection was done when the water level was high, and therefore the majority of the damage was hidden.
- Brown County anticipates a payment from FEMA in the amount of \$54,905.77 to go toward the expense of the JD30 repair.
- The allocation on JD30 is 70.6% to Redwood County.
- Brown County has taken a loan from their general fund to cover the repair bill. The contractor, Ground Zero, was paid on the project. Brown County will waive the accrued interest on the loan.

Redwood County Commissioners and staff had the following questions and comments:

- Is the request for 70.6% of the \$305,386.14 repair bill a firm number?
- Redwood County is concerned about the lack of oversight on the project.
- Would it have been less expensive if another contractor was used?
- Why was it such an emergency to complete this repair? There are damages that are still in the process of repair in Redwood County due to the 2018 FEMA events.
- Was there a physical work order given to the contractor?

Brown County Commissioners and staff made the following statements:

- It was suggested that Redwood County pay the entire \$215,602.61 per the ditch share percentages.
- The contractor had been used before in road construction, and Brown County was having difficulty finding contractors for their ditch repair projects. Their usual contractors were unavailable.
- The material used was in line with what they typically use in highway repairs.
- Materials often cost more in Brown County due to the distance they must be brought for projects.
- There was no physical work order given to the contractor it was a verbal agreement.
- If the drainage authority would have met to discuss the project, it would have moved forward as it did, as the work needed to be done.
- Agreed that there should have been more oversight, so that Redwood County would have had more notice of such a large bill. However, Brown County did not believe that more oversight would have affected the outcome.
- Landowners upstream on the ditch system all benefit from the repair.
- The repair was deemed an emergency because it is best to address the issue right away for the landowner's safety.

- Two additional smaller bills of \$477.00 and \$43,801.67 are also outstanding for repairs conducted by the same contractor to repair damage from the same disaster event on other properties.

Redwood County Commissioners and staff made the following statements:

- If Redwood County doesn't agree to pay, there would be a formal process that would involve further meetings. It would be preferable to resolve, as the issue has been outstanding for several years.
- Chair Salfer stated Redwood would pay the two smaller outstanding repair bills according to the percentages assigned to each county.

Motion by Redwood County Commissioner Forkrud and second by Redwood County Commissioner Wakefield to take Redwood County's 70.6% of the \$305,386.14 bill, totaling \$215,602.61, and reducing that amount by \$38,763.47, which is 70.6% of the \$54,905.77 of anticipated FEMA payment, so that the total payment by Redwood County to Brown County equals \$176,839.14, and Brown County would then keep the entire FEMA payment upon receipt. Roll-call vote was taken of all Commissioners present. Motion carried unanimously.

Brown County staff summarized Brown County's request that Redwood County pay three outstanding spraying bills from Brown County for spraying of judicial ditches that are shared by the counties. The bill for 2020 was \$12,898.62, the bill for 2021 was \$16,134.21, and the bill for 2022 was for \$14,601.80.

Redwood County Commissioners and staff made the following comments:

- The bills in question include the ditch and the buffer strip in Brown County on these ditches.
- In Redwood County, it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain and spray the buffer strip.
- Redwood County sprays the ditch banks, but not the buffer strip.
- This would amount to double-billing Redwood County landowners, as they already pay for all of their own buffer strip. There is no cross-county billing for the buffer strip.

Brown County Commissioners and staff responded as follows:

- Brown County spot sprays both the ditch and the buffer strip. They cannot split out the billing for the buffer strip as opposed to the ditch banks.
- Redwood County has cross-county billed for the spraying of the ditch banks on the ditches in question and has been paid.

Redwood County Commissioners and staff made the following comments:

- Redwood County should be responsible for its own spraying, and Brown County should be responsible for its own spraying, with no cross-county billing from either side.

Brown County Commissioner Veerkamp suggested that Redwood County send back the amount that was cross-billed and paid by Brown County for spraying on the ditches for the years in question.

Motion by Commissioner Braun, second by Wakefield to not pay the three outstanding spraying bills, but to reimburse Brown County for the cross-county spraying paid from Brown County to Redwood County for the three years in question.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Windschitl, second by Commissioner Veerkamp that each county would be responsible for their own spraying on the shared ditches.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Redwood County Commissioners and staff and Brown County Commissioners and staff reviewed and discussed the proposed Joint Drainage Authority Agreement. There was discussion regarding striking the emergency exception for joint board meeting for review and approval prior to ditch repairs exceeding \$25,000 in cost to the other county. Additional discussion regarding adding that spraying the ditch banks and buffers, including removing vegetation, would be an ineligible expense for cross-county billing, and that each county shall be solely responsible for the cost of spraying and vegetation removal conducted on its own side of the county line.

Motion by Berg, second by Groebner to adopt the agreement with the discussed changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Jim Salfer, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Attest: _____
Vicki Kletscher
County Administrator