

**STEVENS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
Official Proceedings  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2021, by Chair Donny Wohlers. Members in attendance were: Ennen, Wohlers, Wiese, Kopitzke and Staples.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the Agenda with an addition to item #10. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Wiese moved to approve minutes of 02/02/2021 regular meeting with language change to the Silver Lake project. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Corey Becker, Congresswoman Fischbach Legislative Liaison introduced himself. Becker provided an overview on setting up the Congresswoman's offices and discussion of committee assignments. He then opened it up for feedback on federal issues that board wanted to discuss and fielded questions.

Todd Larson County Engineer requested approval to sponsor a Local Road Improvement Project for Eldorado Township. Todd gave an overview of the sponsorship to the township. Commissioner Kopitzke moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 210216 -07  
OF SUPPORT FROM SPONSORING AGENCY**

**WHEREAS:** Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds are available for local agency projects meeting Routes of Regional Significance criteria; and

**WHEREAS:** Non-State aid cities and townships must have a county sponsor to apply for LRIP funding; and

**WHEREAS:** Eldorado Township has requested that Stevens County sponsor its application for the improvements on 140<sup>th</sup> Street between 610<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the west county line; and

**WHEREAS:** Eldorado Township understands that it will be responsible for all costs not covered by LRIP funding including but not limited to all consultant engineering (including plan

development) and inspection, utility construction, right of way costs and any construction costs over the funding cap; and

**WHEREAS:** Eldorado Township will maintain the road for the lifetime of improvements; and

**WHEREAS:** Stevens County will have the following responsibilities if Eldorado Township is successful and awarded LRIP funds.

- Be the fiscal agent on behalf of the township and have funds flow from MnDOT to the county to the contractor
- Request SAP/SP number for the project
- Ensure the project meets milestones and dates
- Assist local agency in execution of a grant agreement
- Review the plan, proposal and contract documents.
- Submit plan, engineers estimate, and proposal to the DSAE
- Advertise, let, and award the project
- Submit pay requests to State Aid
- Communicate progress and updates with the DSAEs and State Aid Programs Engineer
- Ensure that the project receives adequate supervision and inspection
- Assist with project close out

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the County of Stevens hereby sponsors the application for LRIP funding for the improvements in Eldorado Township on 140<sup>th</sup> Street between 610<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the west county line.

Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Dona Greiner Emergency Management Director gave an update on emergency management. Greiner fielded questions.

Human Service Director Liberty Sleiter, presented the list of warrants for approval. Human Service warrants were approved in the amount of \$69,830.19 on a motion by Ennen, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO.210216-08  
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
TO THE SAFE FUND**

WHEREAS, Stevens County Human Services received donation from Rendsville United Charities in the amount of \$1007.00 for its Senior and Adult Fund for Emergencies;

WHEREAS, State Law requires that the County Board acknowledges receipt of those donations;

THEREFORE, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners acknowledges and accepts the donations received for the Senior and Adult Fund for Emergencies.

Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Sleiter gave a claim update per policy approved in November 2017 that zero claims were written off for 2020 calendar year.

IT Director Vicky Townsend introduce our new IT Systems Administrator Valerie Hector.

Auditor/Treasurer Stephanie Buss presented the list of Auditor's Warrants for the 02/03/21 and 02/10/21 time periods for review.

Kopitzke moved to approve the Commissioner Warrants in the following amounts:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Revenue	\$89,395.07
Special Reserves Fun	\$2,802.21
County Road & Bridge Fund	\$31,353.56
Solid Waste Service	\$5,932.88
County Ditches Fund	\$67,061.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,545.13</b>
Warrants \$2000 or more:	
Access Information Protected	\$2,802.21
Baker Tilly US, LLP	\$4,400.00
Big Stone Ag Service	\$2,025.56
Counties Providing Technology	\$6,400.00
Engebretson & Sons Disposal Service, Inc.	\$13,214.18
EZ Snow Removal	\$3,139.75
Fred's Legacy, LLC	\$3,337.11
Frontier Precision Inc	\$2,421.00
I + S Group, Inc	\$11,101.30
Rinke Noonan	\$5,522.50
Stevens County Times	\$3,693.14
Swift County Auditor	\$30,113.31
The Meixel Land Partnership	\$2,163.41
Traverse County Auditor	\$50,058.17
Tri County Co-op	\$2,135.72
Valu Ford & Chrysler	\$11,005.83
Weiler Family Trust &	\$3,265.01
Wenck Associates, Inc.	\$2,695.88
West Central Communications Inc	\$2,866.80
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$2,743.00
Payments for less than \$2000	\$31,441.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,545.13</b>

Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Buss requested approval of loan advances from CD18 to CD25 and CDS in the amount of \$44,000. Commissioner Wiese motioned to approve loan advances from CD18 to CD25 in the amount of \$20,000 and to CD 5 in the amount of \$24,000 for a total amount of \$44,000. Commissioner Staples seconded with all members voting aye, motioned carried.

Human Resources Coordinator Jan Gomer requested approval to hire Paul Rohda as Custodian. Commissioner Ennen motioned to hire Paul Rohda as Custodian at Grade 12 Step 11, and a 35-hour vacation bank with a start date of 2/23/2021 contingent on a successful background check. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Environmental Services Director Bill Kleindl requested approval of Bois de Sioux Mustinka Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. The Bois de Sioux Mustinka One Watershed One Plan group needs to have an implementation agreement in place prior to receiving grant funding from BWSR. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve Bois de Sioux Mustinka MOA for implementation. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Kleindl requested approval for 2020 County Feedlot Report. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve the 2020 County Feedlot Report as presented. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Nathan Reinbold from Pope/Douglas Organics Program gave an update on their current organics program and facility construction near Hoffman. Reinbold fielded questions. Reinbold provided an overview of the P/D support for Stevens Organics Grant Application.

Kleindl request approval to accept Wenck Scope of Services Quote for demolition landfill. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve agreement with Wenck as presented. Commissioner Staples seconded with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Kleindl along with Wenck consultant, Marlon Mackowick, presented options for a synthetic cover closure for the demolition landfill. After some discussion, Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to support purchase of a geomembrane with soil drainage layer in the amount of \$114,988.35 plus the cost of the welding rod. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Administrator Rebecca Young presented on behalf of the Business Relief Subcommittee the results of the grant awards. Young gave an overview of the grant requirements and decision making process. Stevens County received \$256,250 to award in state relief grants. The monies have less restrictions and requirements on what it can be spent on. However, the legislators were more prescriptive on priority businesses that were directed to be funded. Young and members of the committee fielded extensive questions from the board. Commissioner Wohlers abstained from the decision of the grants presented.

Commissioner Staples motioned to approve grant amounts as presented.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Advertising Costs</b>	<b>\$773.34</b>
<b>American Legion 29</b>	<b>\$13,269.00</b>
<b>Crystal Lanes</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Detoy's</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Don's Cafe</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Empowered Living</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>HBG/Buddies</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Holleman Fitness LLC</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>
<b>Morris Eagles</b>	<b>\$23,645.66</b>
<b>Place To Be</b>	<b>\$9,812.00</b>
<b>Spaulding's</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Stone's Throw</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>The Met/Fromm Enterprises</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>
<b>Wohsol(Old #1)</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Shear Design</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>B-Bop Hair Shop</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>Caroline's Cleaning</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
<b>Cimaroc Kennels</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Kanga's Klips</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Morris Area Childcare</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Tammy Marquart Cleaning</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>DAC</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>

Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with Ennen, Kopitzke, Staples and Wiese voting aye, motion carried. Wohlers Abstained.

Commissioners were provided an opportunity to update on assigned committee activities.

Commissioner Ennen moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 210216-09  
RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE RULE MAKING PROCESS  
WITHOUT CONSULTING THE LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, Stevens County is responsible for providing essential government services such as transportation infrastructure and solid waste management that promote a vibrant community;  
WHEREAS, Stevens County works tirelessly to be good stewards of our tax dollars and provide these programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner;  
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of adopting California's Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandates, which are expected to phase-out the sale of fuel-powered passenger vehicles by 2035;

WHEREAS, the adoption of these rules is being conducted by rulemaking, which limits the scope of the discussion to a narrow set of issues, precluding a broader policy debate on the economic development, transportation, energy, and waste disposal impacts of the policy. The proposed rule and process for adopting it also fail to address many of the Minnesota-specific concerns related to our county's demographics and climate.

WHEREAS, the MPCA's own documents show that the plan to mandate California's LEV and ZEV standards is likely to increase the cost of all light- and medium-duty vehicles sold in Minnesota by an average of \$1,139; increasing our fleet procurement budget by 4-5%;

WHEREAS, the MPCA estimates the rule will displace 674 million gallons of fuel by 2034, before the phasing out of fuel-powered vehicles, but the MPCA's documents do not address the long-term consequences on our county's transportation revenues or the impacts on our local ethanol plant/biofuels industry;

WHEREAS, batteries in electric vehicles weigh ten-times as much as batteries in vehicles with internal combustion engines and include more toxic elements, exposing our county to increased disposal costs and liabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Stevens County opposes the MPCA's attempt to adopt California's mandates through rulemaking without consulting the Legislature; and

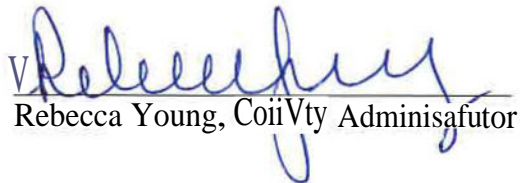
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stevens County encourages the Walz administration to withdraw its proposed rulemaking and bring a proposal to the Legislature where a more comprehensive policy can be considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stevens County stands ready to advise the Governor, his administration, and our regional Legislators on proactive methods to achieve the goals raised by Governor Walz without adversely impacting our ability to provide public services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Stevens County will advocate against this rulemaking to ensure that our concerns about increased costs, lost transportation revenues, and battery waste are contemplated and mitigated.

Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye motion carried.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Wiese and all members voting aye.

  
Rebecca Young, County Administrator

  
Donny Wohlers, Chair