

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Organizational Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, March 02, 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, March 2, 2021, by Chair Donny Wohlers. Members in attendance were Wiese, Ennen, Kopitzke, Wohlers and Staples.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the Agenda with additions: Jan Gomer, resignation for approval; and Stephanie Buss, gambling/raffle permit for approval. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approve minutes of the 02/16/21 regular meeting. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Stephanie Buss Auditor/Treasurer presented the Auditor's Warrants for the 02/17/21 and 02/24/21 time periods for review.

Buss presented a petition for partial abandonment on CD 25 Brach 4. Branch 4 is in Section 27 of Baker Township. Buss fielded questions. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve petition for partial abandonment for CD 25 and set hearing for April 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Old #1. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve gambling permit to Donnelly Rod and Gun Club. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Jan Gomer Human Resources Coordinator requested approval of resignation for Jamie Stewart. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to accept resignation of Jamie Stewart, Income Maintenance Supervisor as of March 19, 2021 and to backfill position. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer requested approval to hire Jodi Boegeman as Deputy Assessor/Office Manager. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to hire Jodi Boegeman as Deputy Assessor/Office Manager at Grade 15 Step 6 with a start date of March 8, 2021 pending a successful background check. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer requested approval for an unpaid internship for 160 hours with Samantha McDowell with the County Attorney's Office in Victim Services. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve unpaid internship for 160 hours with Samantha McDowell effective March 8, 2021. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Todd Larson County Engineer gave an update on maintenance, engineering, and administration.

Larson requested approval for 2021 dust control contract. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve 2021 Dust Control Contract to the apparent low bidder, Crow River Construction, New London, MN, with a bid of \$1.22 per gallon applied. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested changing bid opening date due to a change in the newspaper deadline. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve bid opening from March 25, 2021 to March 30, 2021. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Bill Kleindl Planning and Zoning Environmental Services Director request approval to re submit the MPCA recycling and composting grant application. Application requests the maximum grant amount of \$250,000 with a 25% cash/in-kind match of \$63,225. If awarded, grant would start July 1, 2021 and run 24 months until June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Ennen moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 210302-10
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
FISCAL YEAR 2021 GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Stevens County has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY2021 Greater MN Recycling and Composting Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, if MPCA funding is received, Stevens County is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, MPCA requires that Stevens County enter into a grant agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grant agreement and authorizes and directs The Solid Waste Administrator to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

Commissioner Kopitzke seconded with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Rebecca Young County Administrator gave an overview of Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE). Stevens County Board adopted and passed PACE almost seven years ago. This program was established as a tool to allow business owners to finance energy efficient upgrades to their businesses through a tax assessment. Peter Klein from St. Paul Port Authority presented a proposed PACE project in Stevens County for DENCO II. Carson Berger, General Manager, with Denco II gave an overview of the project details and the energy and cost savings anticipated from the project. Berger fielded questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve assessment for Denco II for \$1,859,100 to be placed on the 2021 assessments pay 2022 taxes. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young gave an update on highway bid letting. Young recommend setting a special meeting. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to set Special Meeting for March 9, 2021 to award bids for highway building construction. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young gave a State Business Relief update.

Young presented on the MRC Clean Car Policy. Young had further discussion with Dan Larson at MRC. Larson wanted Board to act on two things: a resolution and proposed MRC policy. MRC supports legislative review of all issues of consequence that would bring harm to the culture and /or economy of rural counties. Further, MRC opposes the attempt by the MPCA to adopt the MN Clean Car rule without consulting the legislature and encourages the Walz administration to withdraw the proposed rule and submit the issue to legislature review. After extended discussion, Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve the MRC Policy Statement. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young gave a legislative update.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye.


Rebecca Young, County Administrative 


Donny Wohlers, Chair

