

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, June 15, 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, June 15, 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 one addition; Stephanie Buss; pay approval for CD18. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approve minutes of 06/01/2021 regular meeting. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approved minutes of 06/08/2021 special meeting. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Human Service Director Liberty Sleiter presented the list of warrants for approval. Human Service warrants were approved in the amount of \$106,236.92 on a motion by Kopitzke, second by Ennen and all members voting aye, motion carried.

Sleiter requested approval for contracts with Hancock and Morris Area Schools regarding the Elementary and Secondary Act to provide transportation for children/youth in foster care placement. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve contracts as presented. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motioned carried.

Auditor Treasurer Stephanie Buss requested approval of loan advance from CD18 to CD5 and CD16 in the amount of \$11,100. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve load advance from CD18 to CD 5 in the amount of \$11,500 and to CD16 in the amount of \$5,600 for a total of \$17,100. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Buss requested a loan paydown. Commissioner Wiese motioned to approve paydown of \$12,000 to CD 18. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Buss presented the list of Auditor's Warrants for the 05/27/21, 05/28/21, 06/02/21, and 06/09/21 time periods for review. Buss fielded questions.

Buss presented the Commissioner Warrants for approval. Buss fielded questions. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve Old No. 1 warrant. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Staples, Wiese, Kopitzke, and Ennen – Ayes. Wohlers abstain.

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

FUND	AMOUNT
Revenue	\$26,461.46
Special Reserves Fund	\$4,286.20
County Road & Bridge Fund	\$81,047.40
Solid Waste Service	\$11,219.07
County Ditches Fund	\$20,018.49
Tax Collections Fund	\$23,184.94
TOTAL	\$166,217.56
Warrants \$2000 or more:	
Boyer Truck	\$2,224.76
Counties Providing Technology	\$6,424.00
Crow River Construction	\$61,656.36
Engebretson & Sons Disposal Service, Inc.	\$13,737.56
Hancock Co-op Inc	\$3,031.58
Heartland Motor Company	\$23,184.94
I + S Group, Inc	\$8,389.00
Iowa City Broadcasting Inc-Morris	\$2,367.00
McLeod County Solid Waste	\$2,448.00
Mn Dept of Transportation	\$3,972.72
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc	\$5,016.00
Stevens County Highway Dept.	\$10,729.89
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$3,980.00
Payments for less than \$2000	\$19,055.75
TOTAL	\$166,217.56

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

Buss requested approval for pay request for CD18. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve CD18 pay request in the amount of \$ 388,452.97. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Planning and Zoning Director Bill Kleindl requested approval for a grant funding agreement. Kleindl gave an overview of the grant agreement. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve Grant Funding Agreement with Bois de Sioux as fiscal agent. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Kleindl provided an update on landfill closure and re-permitting for permit modification.

Regional Director Theresa Ebbenga from MN DNR gave an overview of services provided in Stevens County. Ebbenga and other DNR staff presented on a variety of activities that affect land, water, and wildlife in Stevens. Ebbenga and staff fielded questions from Commissioners.

IT Director Vicky Townsend requested approval to purchase N-Able suite for remote management/support and antivirus to replace Goverlan and Vipre solutions. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve N-Able Solution to replace Goverlan and Vipre. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Attorney Arron Jordan requested approval for grant installation and case management software. Jordan gave an overview of the grant and work plan. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to accept grant from MN Department of Public Safety for \$60,000 as presented. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Staples motioned to accept single source bid. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen motioned to accept Prosecutor by Karpel, PBK. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Tolifson requested approval to purchase a budgeted top cut mower. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve purchase of top cut mower from Wildung Implement, apparent low bidder, in the amount of \$8409. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Dan Ross and Sean Vaughn gave a presentation of 3DGEO stakeholders coordination efforts. Ross and Vaughn discussed timelines and financing options for the work they are performing in Minnesota. Ross discussed conversations they have had with the Red River Water Management Basin about a separate LiDAR project they are working on. It was the intent that both parties would work to the same quality control standards that the USGS was hoping to achieve nationwide. Ross and Vaughn fielded multiple questions from Commissioners. After some lengthy discussion, Commissioner Staples made a motion to direct staff to commit to and partner with the RRWMB on their LIDAR project, with funding coming back to board later for payment. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Administrator Rebecca Young request approval to hire Samantha Deseth as Child Support Officer. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to hire Samantha Deseth as Child Support Officer at Grade 16, Step 6 on or before July 7, 2021. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young, requested approval for Integrity Benefit Connect. Young gave an overview of Benefit Connect. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve Integrity Benefit Connect for 2022 open enrollment in the amount of \$1800 from ARP funds. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young proposed wheelage tax resolution for discussion.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 210615-16
WHEELAGE TAX**

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners has authority to implement a wheelage tax; and

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board wishes to implement the wheelage tax during the duration of the debt service payments of a new highway facility;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and imposes a wheelage tax as provided in Minnesota Statutes, § 163.051 as of \$15 per year on each motor vehicle, except a vehicle exempt from the tax as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 163.051, subdivision 1(c), which is kept in Stevens County when not in operation and which is subject to annual taxation and registration under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the wheelage tax be collected at the rate of \$15 by the state registrar of motor vehicles, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes § 163.051, subdivision 2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the county administrator to certify the wheelage tax rate of \$15 to the state registrar of motor vehicles before August 1, 2021, and that the tax be effective January 1, 2022.

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


Young, requested approval for lease agreement with Jim Riley and Sons. Young gave an overview of the lease agreement. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve lease agreement with Jim Riley and Sons with some clerical corrections. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young gave an update on ARP initial budget. A work session is scheduled for July 13, 2021.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye.


Rebecca Young, County Administrator


Donny Wohlers, Chair