

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, July 6, 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, July 6, 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 as presented. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Wiese moved to approve minutes of the 06/14/21 County Board of Appeal meeting. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approve minutes of the 06/15/21 regular meeting. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Rebecca Petersen, Director of Development for West Central Initiative gave a 2020 annual report. Petersen was joined by two other staff members. WCI provided updates on services and community investment in the region and Stevens County specifically. They fielded questions from the commissioners and discussed local daycare issues.

Auditor/Treasurer Stephanie Buss presented the Auditor's Warrants for the 06/16/21, and 06/23/21 and 06/30/21 time periods for review.

Buss requested approval for liquor license for renewal. Commissioner Wiese motioned to approve liquor license for Pomme de Terre Golf Club from 8/1/2021 to 7/31/2022. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

Buss requested approval for a new tobacco license. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve tobacco license for Justin Vannurden. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye.

Buss requested approval for Findings and Order to set date for Public Hearing. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve Findings and Order for public hearing for County Ditch 16 on July 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in County Board Room. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion. Motion passed with roll call vote: Aye: Ennen, Kopitzke, Staples, Wiese and Wohlers.

Buss presented bonding options for County Ditch 5. Jessica Green from Northland Securities gave an overview of the options for a 10-year and 15-year private placement for financing and also discussed general obligation bonding. Green fielded questions. After a lengthy discussion,

Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve a private placement for 10-years with a 3-year call date. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

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

Larson requested approval for culvert repair. Commissioner Staples motioned to award culvert replacement on county road 5 to apparent low bidder, Riley Bros. Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$13,908. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval to award 2021 seasonal striping. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to award 2021 seasonal striping project to apparent low bidder, AAA Striping Service Co. in the amount of \$25,537.68. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson gave a Silver Lake tile project update.

County Administrator Rebecca Young gave a highway building update. Rebar is expected on site week of July 19th. Foundation work should commence mid to late July.

Young requested approval to hire intern for an Organics Recycling Program. Stevens County has been awarded grant monies to setup an Organics Recycling Program. Young gave an overview of the job description and options for advertising. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve intern position and advertisement with changes. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young presented the Telework Policy for review. The board approved a telework policy on a temporary basis through the end of the emergency powers. The need for a telework policy due to emergency has dissipated, however, the benefits of keeping this policy long-term may be more important in terms of worker retention, productivity, happiness, and long-term work goals. After some discussion, Commissioner Wiese motioned to extend telework thru December 31, 2021. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young presented an ARP Budget request to allow administrator to use up to \$20,000 for purchases for eligible expenses for hardware/software or other items that would aid county departments. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve spending up to \$20,000 in ARP funds. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye.


Rebecca Young, County Administrator


Donny Wohlers, Chair