

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
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 1, by Chair Ron Staples. Members in attendance were Ennen, Kopitzke, Wohlers and Staples. Wiese joined by zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the agenda with one addition: Bill Kleindl; Engebretson hauling agreement for approval. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approve minutes of the 1/18/22 regular board meeting. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Dona Greiner Emergency Management Director gave a CoVID 19 update. Greiner shared the emergency management and local ARMER system administrator annual report for 2021. Greiner requested approval for Regional Emergency Services Committees for 2022. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve the Regional Emergency Services Committees as presented for 2022. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Auditor/Treasurer Stephanie Buss presented the Auditor's Warrants for the 1/19/22, 1/21/22, and 1/26/22 time periods for review.

Buss gave an update on the redistricting process. Buss provided a proposed overview of the redistricting. Buss fielded extensive questions.

Human Resources Coordinator Jan Gomer requested approval of resignation for Mickey Berg. Commissioner Wohlers motioned to accept resignation of Mickey Berg, Child Protection Social Worker effective February 2, 2022. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer requested approval to backfill position. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve backfill of Child Protection Social Worker position. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer gave a staffing update on recruiting process and open positions.

Environmental Services Director Bill Kleindl requested approval for resolution to support fully funding SCORE (Select committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties. Kleindl gave an overview of the resolution.

Commissioner Ennen moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 220201-09
County Board Support Affirming Stevens County's Support
for Fully Funding SCORE Grants to Counties

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes requires counties manage MSW according to an established hierarchy; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties have made investments in waste prevention and recycling systems; and,

WHEREAS, counties with innovative ideas should be provided the requisite opportunity and flexibility to successfully implement those ideas so as to best serve their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties have continued to invest in waste reduction and recycling by imposing local taxes and/or fees; and,

WHEREAS, the revenues the State is collecting via the solid waste management taxes have continued to grow while amounts sent to the counties have not increased proportionally; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties face significant market trends that will require innovative approaches to manage materials separated from solid wastes in order to adequately meet the growing and changing needs of citizens and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota has an opportunity to improve its waste reduction and recycling system through funding the counties investments in infrastructure and expanded operations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Stevens County supports the state funding, by increased SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants, in amounts which fully utilize the solid waste management tax revenues for solid waste reduction, management activities, and improving our environment.

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

Kleindl requested approval for waste hauler application. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve Engebretson and Sons Disposal Service Inc. Solid waste collection/transportation license application. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Engineer Todd Larson gave a highway update on maintenance, engineering, and administration. Larson gave a construction update on highway building.

County Administrator Rebecca Young gave an update on deed grant repayment. The deed grant was received for the tax forfeiture parcel in Hancock for redevelopment. The property was supposed to be redeveloped and increase tax base, that has not occurred. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to make first payment from Fund One – 44. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young requested approval for wage augmentation for three Human Services supervisors. The board previously authorized this for a period of one year for 2021. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve to pay the 2021 salary of \$3,733.33 augmentation to Social Services Supervisor's and the HS Director. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young gave a Daycare Committee update. Young fielded questions. Committee will present grant recommendations at the next board meeting. The committee received 10 applications. Young recommended readvertising to award the remaining dollars available. The RFP for the second grant is still being advertised through 2/21/22 and committee will bring an update to the board when available.

Commissioner Wohlers motioned to approve readvertising for remaining grant funds for awarding. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.


Young gave an update on CoVID Policies.

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

Commissioner Wohlers motion to close under MS Statute 13D.5, Subd.3 at 10:43 am. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye motion carried.

Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to open meeting at 10:59 a.m. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on a motion by Wohlers, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye.


Rebecca Young, Council Administrator


Ronald Staples, Chair