

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, February 15, 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 15, 2022, by Chair Ron Staples. Members in attendance were: Ennen, Wohlers, Wiese, Kopitzke and Staples.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the agenda with changes; Rebecca Young County Administrator presenting for AT and removal of closed session. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen moved to approve minutes of the 2/1/22 regular board meeting with clerical corrections. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Human Services Director Liberty Sleiter, presented the list of warrants for approval. Human Service warrants were approved in the amount of \$125,828.81 on a motion by Ennen, second by Wohlers and all members voting aye, motion carried.

Sleiter gave an update on claims. There were no claims written off for 2021 totaling \$2500 or more.

Sleiter provided a Human Services Activity Report on 2021-year end numbers.

Rebecca Young, County Administrator presented for Stephanie Buss, Auditor Treasurer the list of Auditor's Warrants for the 02/02/22 and 02/09/22 time periods for review. Young fielded questions.

Young presented the Commissioner Warrants for approval.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the Commissioner Warrants in the following amounts minus \$3,477.42 to CBS Square:

FUND	AMOUNT
County Revenue Fund	\$ 89,376.21
Special Reserves Fund	\$5,540.76
County Road and Bridge Fund	\$52,068.30
Solid Waste Service	\$8,053.80
County Ditches Fund	\$15,169.13
TOTAL	\$170,208.20

Warrants \$2000 or more:	
Anoka County Treasury Office	\$2,000.00
County Providing Technology	\$6,671.00
Donnelly Co-op	\$2,544.71
Engebretson & Sons Disposal Service, Inc	\$15,534.67
I + S Group, Inc	\$14,165.00
Jeremy Michaelson Tree Service	\$5,130.00
Kris Engineering Inc	\$3,637.62
Little Falls Machine Inc	\$2,358.04
McLeod County Solid Waste	\$2,125.20
Morris Coop Association	\$22,878.91
Nuss Truck Group Inc	\$2,133.38
Stevens County Times	\$3,424.32
Traverse County Auditor	\$51,792.27
Tri-County Co-op	\$6,149.15
TriTech Software Systems	\$5,540.76
West Central Communications Inc	\$4,706.50
Payments for less than \$2000	\$19,416.67
TOTAL	\$170,208.20

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

Young requested approval of a loan advances from CD18 to CD3, CD16, and CD25 in the amount of \$16,200. Commissioner Wiese motioned to approve loan advance from CD18 to CD3 in the amount of \$100. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve loan advance from CD18 to CD16 in the amount of \$7,000. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve loan advance from CD18 to CD25 in the amount of \$9,100. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Wiese moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 220215- 10
Approving Stevens County's Application for HAVA Grant Funds

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties are responsible for administering elections, which includes purchasing and maintaining election equipment, including accessible voting equipment, maintenance supplies and election reporting software; and

WHEREAS, it's essential for precincts to have functioning voting equipment so that voters are able to cast their ballot on equipment that is secure, accessible, accurate and reliable; and

WHEREAS, the HAVA Grant is intended to be used to improve accessibility to, implement security improvements for elections systems for, and/or fund other activities to improve the security of, federal elections; and

WHEREAS, the HAVA Grant requires no local match; and

WHEREAS, to receive funding from the HAVA Grant, counties must submit an application to the Minnesota Secretary of State by January 31, 2022; now

BE IT RESOLVED, Stevens County approves its application for HAVA Grant funding and will use the funds to purchase accessible voting equipment, update election reporting software, and cyber security improvements that is approved by the Secretary of State.

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

Jacob Rischmiller, PE from ISG presented a bid recommendation for improvement of CD25. Bids were opened on February 9, 2022 and only one bid received from Joe Riley Construction. Commissioner Ennen motioned to approve Joe Riley Construction as apparent low bidder for \$2,469,595.93 and direct staff to publish contract for construction of CD25 will be award March 15, 2022. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Rishmiller provided an update on other outstanding work. Rischmiller fielded questions from Commissioners.

Jan Gomer, Human Services Coordinator requested the approval for 2022 Wellness Program and use of SHIP Grant dollars. Volunteers for the 2022 Wellness Committee are HR Generalist/Executive Assistant Pam Daly; Metal Health Professional Molly Westerman; Social Worker Kelsey Nelson and HR Coordinator Jan Gomer. Focus for 2022 Wellness will be employee mental health. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve the Wellness committee as presented. Commissioner Ennen seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried. Commissioner Ennen motioned to accept the Public Health SHIP Grant funds in the amount \$2000. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer presented amendments to policies 3.15 Dress Code; 7.15 Parental Leave and 7.14 Family Medical Leave Act. Policy 3.15 removed for approval as it needs more updating. Gomer gave an overview of the update language changes related to union contracts. Commissioner Wohlers motioned to approve personnel policies as presented. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer request approval for Telecommuting Policy. Telecommuting Policy was approved on a temporary basis through the end of February 2022. The policy has been highly successful amongst Supervisors and Employees primarily utilized in the Human Services Department. Commissioner Wohlers motioned to approve Telecommuting Policy indefinitely. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Gomer requested approval for ACT Workkeys Contract. One of the requirements to exit Merit System is to have a process for testing applicants which is EEOC compliant. The ACT Workforce is a vendor the County has used in the past, it meets these standards, is most

reasonably priced and will allow Human Resources to proctor customized exams and assessments on-site after each interview using a virtual medium. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned approve ACT Workkeys agreement effective 2/8/22 through 8/31/24. Commissioner Wiese seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Rebecca Young County Administrator requested payment to Donlar for Pay Application #9. Young gave an overview on construction project. Commissioner Wiese motioned to pay Donlar Pay Application #9 in the amount of \$258,696.81. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young presented Daycare Grants for approval. Daycare subcommittee advertised and reviewed applications. There were 9 applicants receiving approximately \$27,500. Commissioner Ennen moved the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION 220215-12
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
DARCY FURHMAN**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

**RESOLUTION 220215-13
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
JACKIE DRIPPS CHILD CARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

RESOLUTION 220215-14
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
JENNA'S DAYCARE

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

**RESOLUTION 220215-15
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
LITTLE RASCALS DAYCARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$4000.

**RESOLUTION 220215-16
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
MACCC DAYCARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,500 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,500 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$4500.

**RESOLUTION 220215-17
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
MARIE HANSEN DAYCARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

**RESOLUTION 220215-18
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
SHERRY TIEGS FAMILY CHILDCARE AND PLAYSCHOOL**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

**RESOLUTION 220215-19
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
STEPHANIE THORSTADS FAMILY CHILDCARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed

family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$4000.

**RESOLUTION 220215-20
ARPA DAYCARE GRANT FOR
BECKY VOGEL DAYCARE**

WHEREAS, ARPA DAYCARE Grant offers emergency relief of an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to daycares facing serious financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the goal of these funds is to provide temporary financial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic and resulting daycare closures and modifications;

WHEREAS, these grant funds come from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, CFDA 21.027, which Congress designated a portion to go to local governments to meet urgent financial needs within communities;

WHEREAS, daycares in Stevens County that have suffered significant, temporary loss of revenue directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, grant funds can be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency can be used for business expenses, and may include Improvements to house mechanical systems, air purifiers, etc., Improvements to home where care is provided to help with distancing and public health precautions, Modifications to home where care is provided to help with separation of private family space, any business expenditures to support a new licensed family childcare, to include but not limited to: trainings, inspections, product to support care of children, modifications to home

WHEREAS, these grants may be considered taxable income and therefore the Grantee is responsible for consulting with its tax professional regarding taxing consequences;

WHEREAS, the Grantee has applied to Stevens County for ARPA grant funds and Stevens County has determined that the Grantee is eligible to receive the grant funds;

WHEREAS, Grant agreements of between \$250 and \$4,000 may be approved and executed by the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual undertakings set forth herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows: Subject to and upon the terms and conditions of executed grant agreement, the County agrees to provide the Grantee with a grant in the amount of \$2500.

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

Young presented for Dona Greiner Emergency Manager a letter of support for Armer radio funding. This letter and resolution support work Griener is doing to legislatively advocate for state funding for purchase of radios statewide. Commissioner Ennen motion to approve the following resolution and letter of support.

**RESOLUTION 220215-11
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
OF HF 2821/SF 2670 AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, The County of Stevens is writing in support of this important public safety initiative, HF 2821/SF 2670.

WHEREAS, Effective radios are the backbone of public safety in the State of Minnesota. Our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel depend upon this ARMER system to effectively perform their jobs. Radios save lives and serve every constituent of the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. They are costly to maintain and replace. In local government units, where budgets are tight, it is very difficult to plan for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure. Local government units would urge the state to fund a grant program that allows for the critical upgrade of radios. We would also encourage sustainable funding to support ongoing replacement costs.

WHEREAS, The cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact of our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source.

WHEREAS, In Stevens County, there are 270 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our small rural emergency departments. There are thirteen emergency services departments who serve Steven County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services departments

WHEREAS, Stevens County has aging radios on the ARMER system that are no longer supported by Motorola, it is extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our emergency services departments rely on the ARMER radio system to provide the interoperability between the departments at the local, regional, State, and Federal levels. The replacement cost for the radios that are at the end of their life expectancy, range from \$2,500 to \$4,800 each, this expense does not

include the radio programming or additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the Statewide radio system. The additional cost will be approximately \$400 per radio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Stevens County supports the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of public safety initiative.

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

Young reviewed the negotiated changes to the AFSCME General and Highway Contracts for 2022 -2024 and requested approval for both contracts. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve the AFSCME General and Highway Labor Contracts for 2022 -2024 as presented. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young presented a land purchase agreement for review. The purchase agreement for land acquisition from HRA for purposes of building the daycare PODS. Land sale will be contingent upon execution of grant to build spaces. After a lengthy discussion, there was consensus in directing staff to proceed with finalizing the purchase agreement for the 3/1/22 meeting.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. on a motion by Wohlers, second by Kopitzke and all members voting aye.


Rebecca Young, County Administrator


Ron Staples, Chair