

**STEVENS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Organizational Meeting  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2023, by Chair Jeanne Ennen. Members in attendance were Kopitzke, Wohlers, Ennen, Lesmeister-Nelson and Staples.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Kopitzke moved to approve the agenda with an addition. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Commissioner Staples moved to approve minutes of the 8/15/23 regular board meeting. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Having none, Auditor/Treasurer Stephanie Buss presented the Auditor's Warrants for the 8/15/23, 8/16/23, 8/23/23, and 8/30/23 time periods for review. Buss fielded questions.

Buss requested a county ditch loan payoff. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve loan payoff to CD 18 from CD 16 in the amount of \$132,300.00. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Buss requested approval for acceptance of a donation. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson motioned to accept donation of \$2000 to the Vets van fund. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Assessor Craig Swanson requested disaster payments for approval. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve disaster payout in the amount of \$2,364.00. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Sheriff Jason Dingman brought back to the board contracts for the body cameras and squad cameras. Previously the board had reviewed the two quotes for implementation of a five-year contract for equipment and maintenance. Contracts were updated with no change in pricing. The contract has two parts that cover the body cameras and squad cameras. Dingman fielded questions. Commissioner Wohlers motioned to authorize the contract with Axon for a five-year contract for body cameras and squad cameras with payment coming from public safety aid and the City of Morris in the amount of \$27,600.00 or 46%. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Facilities Manager Nick Young requested landscape curbing replacement for approval. Young stated it would replace the plastic landscape curbing with poured concrete curbing, renovate front water gardens and some areas around the courthouse. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve quote from Greeley in the amount of \$6,750.00 for concrete curbing replacement and landscaping renovation. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

County Administrator Rebecca Young requested approval to hire Victoria Vargas as regular part-time dispatcher. Commissioner Wohlers motioned to hire Victoria Vargas as regular part-time dispatcher at Grade 15 Step 2 effective, August 21, 2023. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Young presented an outstanding bill from the West Central Regional Juvenile Center for discussion. After some discussion, Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to pay WCRJC in full. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Environmental Services Director Bill Kleindl presented a demolition landfill cover for approval. The remaining portion of Phase 3 of the demolition debris landfill has reached its final fill elevations. The MPCA will allow temporary closure by placing an additional six inches of topsoil and seeding. Kleindl fielded questions. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve Joe Riley Construction bid in the amount of \$31,450 and Dillions Lawn & Landscaping bid in the of \$6,440 for placement of topsoil and seeding. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Chair Ennen called County Ditch 1 hearing to order at 9:30 a.m.

Ditch Inspector Scott Erickson reviewed the petition for an outlet to CD1 from petitioner John Miller. Erickson gave an overview of the petition including specifics and proved recommendations. Erickson fielded questions from the Commissioners.

Chair Ennen opened the meeting for public comment at 9:34 am.

Chair Ennen closed the public comment at 9:35 a.m.

Commissioner Staples motioned to approve Findings and Fact for John Miller for outlet fee of \$720 and benefit value of \$60/acre for 48 acres totaling \$2880 for CD1. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Chair Ennen closed the public hearing.

Chair Ennen call the second hearing to order at 9:36 a.m. for Cannabis Ordinance.

County Administrator Rebecca Young reviewed the ordinance and recommendations from staff. Discussion was held.

Chair Ennen opened for public comment.

Hearing none, Chair Ennen closed the meeting for public comment.

Commissioner Staples motioned to approve Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Chair Ennen closed the public hearing at 9:52 a.m.

Todd Larson County Engineer gave a highway update on maintenance and engineering.

Larson requested approval for final payment on SAP 075-030-014. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve final payment for SAP 075-030-014, County Wide Sealcoating to Morris Sealcoat in the amount of \$ 12,911.27. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval for final payment on CP 2023-01. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson motioned to approve final payment for CP 2023-01 crush and stockpile aggregate in the Wiese pit to Brown Excavation Inc. in the amount of \$ \$24,902.01. Commissioner Wohlers seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval to purchase a 2023 budgeted pickup truck. Larson presented a couple quotes. After some discussion, Commissioner Wohlers motioned to purchase a one-ton truck from Heartland Motors for up to \$50,955 plus applicable fees. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval to contract with Creative Coatings to shotblast the top layer of concrete and apply epoxy paint to the area around the truck lift and pit area. Larson fielded questions. Commissioner Staples motioned to approve the contract with Creative Coatings to apply epoxy paint sealant in the amount of \$8,020.00. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

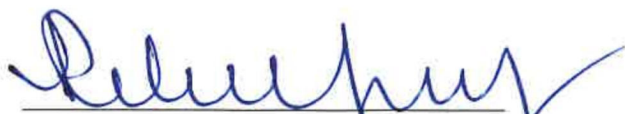
Larson requested approval to purchase a parts washer. Larson fielded questions. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson motioned to replace the solvent washer with a Cuda 2840 front loading parts washer from TPS Products LLC in the amount of \$14,600. Commissioner Kopitzke seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval to purchase a melter trailer and heat lance. Larson explained the opportunity to purchase a well maintained, used melter trailer and heat lance. Larson fielded questions. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson motioned to approve purchase of melter trailer and heat lance from Lawerance Schreffler for a total cost of \$7,000. Commissioner Staples seconded the motion with all members voting aye, motion carried.

Larson requested approval to purchase a rolling bridge jack. Commissioner Kopitzke motioned to approve purchase of RJ36BK rolling bridge jack from Benco at dealer cost of \$11,597.00. Commissioner Lesmeister-Nelson 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 10:27 a.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Wohlers and all members voting aye.

  
Rebecca Young, County Administrator

  
Jeanne Ennen, Chair