

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE COUNTY BOARD
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Minnesota, was called to order at 2:00 pm by Board Chairperson Rich Sve. The meeting was held in the Split Rock River Room at the Lake County Service Center, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota. The following commissioners were present: District 1 Commissioner Peter R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick (Rick) L. Goutermont, District 3 Commissioner Richard (Rick) C. Hogenson, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd, District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. The following commissioners were absent: None. Also present: County Administrator Matthew Huddleston and Laurel D. Buchanan, Clerk of the Board. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas vote. Members of the public were present.

MOTION HURD, SECOND WALSH: 01 – Approve agenda. Absent: None

Lake County Administrator Matthew Huddleston updated the County Board of Commissioners on several items of county business. Mr. Huddleston provided an update on the Lake Connections sale process. The Lake Connections Broadband System Pre-Bid Conference was well attended by prospective bidders on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. About 40 people RSVP'd representing twelve entities. Lake County continues to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) on the sale process. Mr. Huddleston discussed renewing leased space with T.H. Auto, extending the agreement for an additional six-month period, for temporary space for the Highway Department. Mr. Huddleston briefed the Board of Commissioners on discussions for an architectural contract amendment with CBS Squared, Inc. for the Lake County Highway Maintenance Facility project. Lake County Highway Engineer Krysten Foster was present for the discussion. Additionally, a soils correction item will be coming forward soon.

Lake County Auditor Linda Libal provided an update regarding the large volume of absentee voting. The County Auditor's Office staff have been receiving and processing property tax payments. County Commissioners and the County Auditor discussed the Travel Policy and timeliness of claim form submissions for payment of per diems and reimbursement of expenses (i.e. mileage, meals). It was discussed that per diems are intended to compensate committee members for meeting attendance, and that per diems for meetings and reimbursement for expenses are two different things. Ms. Libal commented that changes from the 90-day claims submission requirement to the 60-day requirement were proposed after discussions with the State Auditor. Per Ms. Libal, the revised requirement (60-day) follows Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines. Rather than having the County Auditor's Office deny claims that are older than the threshold stated in the county policy, the Board of Commissioners asks to be provided those late submissions for review so that board action may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Lake County residents Joe Mecklin and Pat Hubbard attended the County Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss the portion of the Gun Club Road that is currently a gravel road. Mr. Mecklin and Mr. Hubbard discussed a current petition to have the remainder of the Gun Club Road blacktopped between its intersection at Fors Road and County Road 3. Currently, a section of the Gun Club Road is paved, and a section remains a gravel road. The current petition received October 9, 2018, has been signed by 17 residents living on or near the Gun Club Road, petitioning Lake County to continue on and blacktop the rest of the Gun Club Road.

Mr. Mecklin believes that the use of chloride is deteriorating the condition of the gravel road. When the applied calcium chloride dries, dust conditions are created. Mr. Mecklin stated that breathing this dust is a potential health hazard. Heavy rain impacts gravel road conditions, including maintenance needs such as grading and fixing potholes. Mr. Mecklin also discussed a former petition that was made many years ago requesting that the road remain a gravel road. Mr. Mecklin advises that the wishes of current residents is different than what was articulated in a previous petition from many years ago.

Lake County Highway Engineer Krysten Foster discussed changes in funding streams and availability of funds. Ms. Foster discussed increased costs for blacktop and estimates a project cost of \$1 million for paving the remaining 1.5 miles. Decreases in state and federal funding affect the county's five-year road and bridge plan. The paved section receives a higher traffic volume than the section of the Gun Club Road that is a gravel road. There was discussion about how Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) projects such as Highway 61 construction impacts traffic routes. We see increased traffic on roads such as the Gun Club Road in the summertime due to motorists taking other routes during construction season.

Lake County holds a public hearing annually on five-year road and bridge plan, to receive public input into the road priorities. We have currently focused our five-year plan on preservation of the currently paved county roads. Ms. Foster provided an update on the Stanley Road Project. Recent rainstorms have delayed the project in that swampy area.

Lake County Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy updated the Board of Commissioners that our new Minnesota GreenCorps member Rachel Brodeur has joined us in the Environmental Service Department, a host site for the 2018-2019 MN GreenCorps program year. This evening, the Environmental Services Department staff along with Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the University of Minnesota (UMN) Onsite Sewage Treatment Program are holding a Septic Systems & Private Wells Homeowner Education Workshop in at Fall Lake Township Hall, Fall Lake, Minnesota. This free class covers the basics of how septic systems function, well water testing, and how to help protect private wells from contamination sources. It will also provide property owners information on chemicals of emerging concern, including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and the potential impact on ground and surface water. Information on proper maintenance of both septic systems and private drinking water systems will be covered to help property owners protect their investments and the environment.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners has discussed the airport closure in Silver Bay, Minnesota, and Lake County to date has not made an official statement or an official reply to inquiring parties as to whether Lake County would be interested in being a sponsor of a municipal airport. The city-owned airport is closed indefinitely due to runway deterioration as determined by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Office of Aeronautics and Aviation. Inquiries had been made as to the possibility of transferring ownership and management of the airport to Lake County. Discussions have included that Lake County is not interested in owning, operating or managing this airport.

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND WALSH: 02 – Authorize the County Administrator to compose a letter for the Board Chair to sign, articulating Lake County's position with respect to the recent closure of the Wayne Johnson Silver Bay Municipal Airport located southwest of Silver Bay, Minnesota. The County is a supportive partner of the City and will look to the City to be lead on the final plans and future of the airport. Absent: None

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 03 – Approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve the Board of Commissioners' regular meeting minutes from September 25, 2018.

2. Approve Health and Human Services claim payments in the following amounts:
 - a. Administrative payments \$ 115,550.86
 - b. Region III payments \$ 57,309.83
3. Approve the updated Northeast Minnesota Emergency Communications Board Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) 2018 Bylaws and authorize the Board Chair to sign as the appointing authority. The updates include clarifying existing language for the appointing authority, adding an attendance clause, and making a name change to the Emergency Communications Board (ECB) per the State's direction.
4. Authorize payment in the amount of \$33,020.34 to Consolidated Telephone Company, CTC invoice INV-3348, covering circuit expense, payrolls, September commissions, account manager, customer service and tech labor and expenses, domain renewals, office 365 licenses, and misc. shipping charges.
5. Authorize payment in the amount of \$34,712.60 to Consolidated Telephone Company, CTC invoice INV-3350, covering September voices items.
6. Authorize Highway Department purchase of dump truck tires and rims at a cost up to \$7,677.16 from Pomp's Tire.
7. Approve payment of \$160 to Silver Hill Land Improvements to correct a calculation error.
8. Approve additional payment of \$500 for grading on Beaver River Road to Silver Hill Land Improvements.
9. Approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the 2018 Agreement for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding from MN Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM).
10. Approve a one-day temporary on-sale liquor permit for Knife River Recreation Council, Inc for the date of November 30, 2018 at the Knife River Recreation Center, 199 Alger Smith RD, Knife River. Absent: None

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 04 – Approve the probationary appointment of Haleigh Lujan to Dispatcher/Jailer at the Step 4 rate of \$21.15 per hour effective October 18, 2018. Absent: None

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND HURD: 05 – Accept the letter received October 1, 2018, from the Town of Silver Creek (TOSC) regarding the Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Parcels (Parcel Identification Numbers 29-5454-01010, 29-5454-01030, and 29-5454-01020), and direct the Lake County Land Department to make a recommendation to the County Board for response/market value. The letter requests that Lake County withhold the above referenced parcels from sale or lease to others, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 282.01, Subd.1, para. (d), and further requests that Lake County sell these parcels to the Town of Silver Creek for market value pursuant to Minn. Stat. 282.01, Subd.1a, para. (b). This request will be coordinated with the Land Commissioner and the County Attorney, and in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR). Absent: None

MOTION HOGENSON, SECOND WALSH: 06 – Approve architectural contract amendment in the amount of \$25,400.90 for additional services by CBS Squared, Inc. for Highway Maintenance Facility project. Absent: None

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 07 – Adjourn County Board of Commissioners' meeting at 3:28 p.m. Absent: None

From the Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule:

- October 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole. Town of Silver Creek, Town Hall, 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, Minnesota.
- The following meetings will be held in the Split Rock River Room located on the main floor of the Lake County Service Center, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota
 - o October 19, 2018, 1:00 p.m., Budget Meeting.
 - o October 23, 2018. 2:00 p.m., Regular Meeting.
 - o October 30, 2018. 1:00 p.m. Strategic Planning Meeting.
 - o November 6, 2018, 2:00 p.m., Agenda Meeting.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Chairperson
Lake County Board of Commissioners