

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Lake County Board of Commissioners' meeting was held as a virtual meeting. Board Chairperson Rich Sve, County Commissioner Derrick "Rick" L. Goutermont and County Administrator Matthew Huddleston were present in the Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room, 616 Third Ave, Two Harbors, Minnesota. Other board members were present by video conference. All board actions are by roll call vote at virtual meetings of the Lake County Board of Commissioners. Roll is called for each voting member, for each resolution. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yea vote.

Board Members Present: District 1 Commissioner Peter "Pete" R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick "Rick" L. Goutermont, District 3 Commissioner Richard "Rick" C. Hogenson, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd, and District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. Board Members Absent: None

Also present: Lake County Administrator Matthew Huddleston, Clerk of the Board Laurel D. Buchanan, Lake County Highway Engineer Krysten Foster, Lake County Emergency Manager BJ Kohlstedt, and Lake County Health & Human Services (LCHHS) Director Lisa Hanson.

The meeting was made available to the public to join remotely by telephone by dialing 1-888-742-5095 and entering Participant Code: 7635925916. In-person attendance is not allowed at this time. Lake County buildings are closed to the public due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Board Chairperson Rich Sve announced that there will be opportunity for Public Comments during the public hearing on Lake County's Transportation Sales Tax (TST) program. Written comments are welcome and may be submitted in writing by email to clerk.board@co.lake.mn.us or by United States Postal Service (USPS) mail addressed to Lake County Service Center, Attn: County Administrator Matthew Huddleston, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616.

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND HOGENSON: 01 – Approve the agenda as amended. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

Board Chairperson Rich Sve requested a COVID-19 update from LCHHS Director Lisa Hanson and Emergency Manager BJ Kohlstedt. LCHHS Director Hanson reviewed current statistics of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Lake County has its first confirmed positive case of COVID-19 last week on May 6, 2020. LCHHS Director Hanson advised that our local Community Health Board (CHB) is spearheading an effort to help with COVID-19 contact tracing, as the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is overwhelmed with novel coronavirus cases across the state. We anticipate that local effort will improve response times.

Lake County Emergency Manager BJ Kohlstedt provided an update on congregate care and personal protective equipment (PPE). Ms. Kohlstedt discussed response to inquiries about Lake County's first positive COVID-19 case. Release of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and release of Protected Health Information (PHI) are prohibited by the federal HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information. Individuals' PHI is not provided to Lake County and release of that information is prohibited under HIPAA privacy rules. Commissioners asked questions about COVID-19 testing and its availability locally. We have very limited testing here for symptomatic people. Asymptomatic people are generally not tested.

Lake County Emergency Manager Kohlstedt advised that on May 13, 2020, two F-16s from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Operation will fly over Two Harbors, Silver Bay, Grand Marais, Ely, Cook, Virginia, Hibbing, Bemidji, and Cloquet. Operation American Resolve flyovers demonstrate our continued readiness during the national COVID-19 response, while saluting the American heroes at the frontline of the fight against COVID-19. Upon conclusion of the COVID-19 update from Public Health and Emergency Management, LCHHS Director Lisa Hanson and Emergency Manager BJ Kohlstedt left the meeting at 2:13 PM.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners meeting was recessed at 2:13 PM in order to convene a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering adding new projects and updating cost estimates for Lake County's Transportation Sales Tax (TST) program. After the public hearing concludes or is recessed, the Board of Commissioners meeting will reconvene

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 02 – Recess the Public Hearing at 2:29 PM and reconvene the Board of Commissioners' meeting. The Public Hearing on Lake County's Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Program will be reconvened at 2:15 PM on May 26, 2020. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

The Board of Commissioners meeting was reconvened at 2:29 PM with all members present. County Administrator Matthew Huddleston provided an update on several items of county business. Administrator Huddleston advised on the current status of recruitment efforts for Veterans Service Officer, Facilities Maintenance Manager, and Highway Engineer. Federal funds may be available for potential reimbursements of COVID-19 costs to Lake County, through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The COVID Relief Fund is authorized by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. Direct aid could become available to help offset costs.

Administrator Huddleston advised that he will be bringing forward an Engineering Services Agreement for Erickson Engineering Co., LLC for John McDonald, P.E. to serve as Interim Department Head for the Lake County Highway Department. Lake County Assessor Gregg Swartwoudt will attend Committee of the Whole on May 19, 2020, to provide an update on the local boards of appeal and equalization. Regarding Veterans on the Lake, Administrator Huddleston advised that we are communicating with Iron Range Rehabilitation (IRRRB) department staff regarding the grant request from Lake County. Administrator Huddleston has a meeting this week with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding Lake County's request to relinquish Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status.

There was a discussion about scheduling a virtual meeting with the Lake County Lodging Tax Committee before an upcoming deadline of July 1 with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Lake County plans to publish a public notice in June scheduling the continuance of the public hearing to consider enactment and adoption of an ordinance imposing a tax on lodging. There are edits to the draft ordinance from the hearing that was commenced and recessed on March 5, 2020. We had subsequently published a Notice of Postponement on March 20, 2020, regarding the continuance of the public hearing that was rescheduled for March 24, 2020.

There was an inquiry about the outcome of a request made by a contractor; the request was made at the Lake County Board of Commissioners meeting on March 10, 2020. The contractor requested permission to "haul heavy" on Lake County U.T. 46 (Boomers Road) during the time that Seasonal Load Restrictions (SLR) are in effect. Lake County officials reviewed and responded to the contractor on March 12, 2020.

Lake County has cause to expect this highway would be seriously damaged if the permissible axle weights of vehicles thereon were not reduced this season. Therefore, seasonal load restrictions for this highway were implemented on Friday, March 13, 2020 in accordance with Minnesota Statute 169.87.

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 03 – Approve Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Approve Board of Commissioners’ meeting minutes of April 28, 2020.

2. Approve Health and Human Services claims payments in the following amounts:
 - a. Administrative payments \$ 40,623.13
 - b. Region III Adult Behavioral Health Initiative payments \$ 226,975.39

3. Approve and award bid price listed below for Wildfire Fuel Reduction (Stevens) Grant projects to reduce hazardous balsam fir understory, blow down and spruce budworm-killed balsam fir on private lands in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas adjacent to United States Forest Service (USFS) projects. Contracts will be paid by Lake County and reimbursed by the federal Wildfire Fuel Reduction Grant.

Project Name	Acres	Value	Awarded to:
Takvam, 13439 Black Bear Trail	0.8	\$ 1,935.12	Upcountry Landworks LLC
Sorenson, 632 Voyageur Road	1.0	\$ 2,418.90	Upcountry Landworks LLC
Subtotal:	1.8	\$ 4,354.02	Upcountry Landworks LLC
Casey, 13384 Black Bear Trail	1.2	\$ 1,980.00	Chucks Wood & Firewise Co
Bercaw, 13378 Black Bear Trail	1.4	\$ 2,310.00	Chucks Wood & Firewise Co
Subtotal:	2.6	\$ 4,290.00	Chucks Wood & Firewise Co
Jorgensen, 592 Voyageur Road	5.1	\$ 16,830.00	Lakeside Services
Drescich, 13464 Pipit Road	1.8	\$ 5,445.00	Lakeside Services
Subtotal:	6.9	\$ 22,275.00	Lakeside Services
Erdmann, 681 Voyageur Road	3.3	\$ 8,349.00	Philip Dodge
Erdmann Camp Voyageur, 709 Voyageur Road	1.8	\$ 4,554.00	Philip Dodge
Subtotal:	5.1	\$ 12,903.00	Philip Dodge
Totals:	16.4	\$ 43,822.02	

4. Approve AIS 2020 Grant in the amount of \$4,340 from the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program Fund to Ely Community Resource for a 2020 Youth Education Water Project in Fall Lake Township. This grant will be funded through the Minnesota Counties Program Aid for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund.
5. Approve AIS 2020 Grant in the amount of \$4,520 from the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program Fund to the University of Minnesota Extension Lake County 4-H for Water Watchers Program. This grant will be funded through the Minnesota Counties Program Aid for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund.
6. Authorize Kemble Inc. to conduct the grinding and screening of the yard waste pile at the Lake County Landfill for a cost not to exceed \$20,000.
7. Authorize the purchase of TV streaming, geofencing, billboard, pump toppers, indoor posters and public service announcements from Wildlife Forever for the period of May through September for \$18,637. This advertising will be funded through the Minnesota Counties Program Aid for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund.
8. Authorize payment to T.H. Auto in the amount of \$6,873.21 for the repairs done to a department squad car, which was damaged when it collided with a deer. This loss was covered through Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust.
9. Award low bid of \$1,425,486.65 to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., of Gilbert, Minnesota for Prospectors Loop - Phase V.
10. Amend Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) contract# 144640 (Amendment Request #3) for additional construction staking and easement work, for \$31,000 above previous amendments and original amount, for a revised total of \$305,900.
Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

MOTION HURD, SECOND HOGENSON: 04 – Approve the change in employment status of Tanya Peterson, Accounting Technician, due to the completion of trial period effective May 10, 2020. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

MOTION WALSH, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 05 – Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Dispatcher/Corrections 60-hour per pay period position between Lake County and Minnesota Public Employees Association. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

MOTION HOGENSON, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 06 – Approve proclamation in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month and proclaim May 2020 as “Mental Health Awareness Month”.
Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None.

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND HOGENSON: 07 – Approve the probationary appointment of Brady Anderson to Veterans Service Officer at the 2019 Step 1 rate of \$26.13 per hour effective May 26, 2020, through May 25, 2024. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None.

MOTION HURD, SECOND WALSH: 08 – Adjourn Board of Commissioners meeting at 3:22 PM. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners will convene for the following meetings to be held at the Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota.

- Committee of the Whole (COW) at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.
- Regular meeting at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.
- Agenda meeting at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.
- Regular meeting at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Board Chairperson
Lake County Board of Commissioners