

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COUNTY BOARD
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Lake County Board of Commissioners' meeting was held as a virtual meeting. At virtual meetings of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, board actions are by roll call vote if any board members are participating from a remote location. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas.

Lake County Board members present in the Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room (SRRR), 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota: District 1 Commissioner Peter "Pete" R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick "Rick" L. Goutermont, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd and District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. County Board member present by remote video communications: District 3 Commissioner Richard "Rick" C. Hogenson. Board members absent: None.

Also present by remote video communications: Lake County Health and Human Services (LCHHS) Director Lisa Hanson, County Administrator Matthew Huddleston, Highway Engineer Jason DiPiazza, County Auditor Linda Libal, Clerk of the Board Laurel D. Buchanan, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Director Tara Solem and SWCD board member Doug Haus.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve called to order at 2:00 PM, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The meeting was made available to the public to join remotely by telephone by dialing 1-888-742-5095 and entering Participant Code: 7635925916. Board Chairperson Rich Sve announced that the phone line is in listen-only mode. No public comments will be taken over the phone. 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, MN 55616.

Lake County buildings are closed to the public due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In-person attendance is not allowed at this time. The public may be allowed into our facilities by appointment only. Constituent Tim Jezierski requested to attend in-person; this was allowed with the requirements of attendees wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance of a minimum of six feet apart between attendees.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve announced that he is calling an emergency meeting that will take place today after the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole (COW). The purpose of the emergency meeting is for the Lake County Board of Commissioners to make necessary changes to the appointments to the 2020 General Election Absentee Ballot Board. The meeting is being called because of circumstances that, in the judgment of the Chairman require immediate consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve announced that this meeting has been posted as a special meeting. The purpose of the special meeting is to consider and take action on renewal of Lake County's annual subscription of Microsoft Office 365 and associated licenses, and authorizing payment of annual invoice to SHI. Board Chairperson Rich Sve recessed the regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee of the Whole (COW) in order to convene the special meeting at 2:09 PM.

County Administrator Matthew Huddleston advised that this action is necessary to correct some invoice issues that we have had with an Information Technology (I.T.) subscription. Payment of the invoice is time-sensitive to avoid disruption of service.

MOTION HURD, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 01 – Authorize payment to SHI in the amount of \$44,158.00 to renew Lake County’s annual subscription of Microsoft Office 365 and associated licenses. Reseller has not changed to Compudyne as previously planned and will remain with SHI. Next renewal will be due 11/1/2021. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None

The special meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM, and the Board Chairperson Rich Sve resumed the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

LCHHS Department Director Lisa Hanson provided a weekly COVID-19 situation update. Ms. Hanson reviewed COVID-19 statistics in the State of Minnesota, locally and in the Midwest region of the United States. Lake County Public Health works with local case investigators. County Attorney Russ Conrow joined by remote video communications at 2:18 PM. Ms. Hanson advised that case counts have surged. Lake County Public Health is in communication and coordination with schools, hospitals and other local partners.

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Director Tara Solem and SWCD board member Douglas Haus introduced themselves. Ms. Tara Solem provided a brief summary of her background and advised that she is replacing the previous District Manager Karen Tucker. SWCD continues to work with Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy on the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program. Ms. Tara Solem advised that Ms. Liz Anderson is our AIS Specialist. Ms. Sonja Smerud has moved on to pursue other interests and is no longer working for Lake County SWCD. Ms. Solem reviewed other projects and priorities that the Lake County SWCD has been working on, in collaboration with Environmental Services on One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) and in coordination with the Highway Department regarding culverts. Ms. Solem discussed the forestry program and Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS). Mr. Douglas Haus advised that property owners may call and request a site visit. Lake County SWCD provides consultations to people wanting to learn more about the plants on their property, and how to manage plants such as buckthorn and spruce bud worm. Board Chairperson Rich Sve thanked Ms. Solem and Mr. Haus for updating the Board of Commissioners on the work of the SWCD.

County Administrator Matthew Huddleston updated the Board of Commissioners on several items of county business. Administrator Huddleston discussed a vacancy in Lake County’s list of delegates for the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), discussed potential options for filling the vacancy, and will bring forward a recommendation for board action on October 27. Commissioner Walsh left the meeting at 2:44 PM and returned at 2:47 PM.

County Administrator Matthew Huddleston continued with his update including recruitment. LCHHS Director Lisa Hanson answered questions with respect to her department. Highway Engineer Jason DiPiazza reviewed additional requests for board action. One is a request to sign a letter of support, on behalf of Lake County, for the City of Silver Bay’s application for 2021 State Park Road Account funding for road improvements on East Lakeview Road for Black Beach Park access.

Highway Engineer Jason DiPiazza also discussed a request for entering into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to provide winter roadway maintenance services on CR 221 (Split Rock State Park Access) and Old Highway 61 in Beaver Bay Township through June 2021. Commissioners inquired about the 8th Street project open house. Mr. DiPiazza advised that this is planned to take place outdoors at the Minnehaha Elementary School. Commissioners inquired about the Highway 3 culvert replacement and how that project turned out. Mr. DiPiazza advised that the road reopened as scheduled. The Emergency Alert System was used to communicate information regarding the road closure.

County Auditor Linda Libal and County Attorney Russ Conrow advised that they are present for the next meeting.

Committee of the Whole was adjourned at 3:17 PM.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Board Chairperson
Lake County Board of Commissioners