
The Meeker County Board of Commissioners met on February 19, 2019, at the Meeker County Courthouse in the City of Litchfield, Minnesota. Call to order was at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Mike Housman.

Present: Commissioners – Beth Oberg, Joe Tacheny, Mike Housman, Steve Schmitt and Bryan Larson, County Attorney Brandi Schiefelbein, County Administrator Paul Virnig and Administrative Coordinator Cori Heacock.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Tacheny to adjourn the February 5, 2019 board meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Housman called for public comments and there were none.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Oberg to approve the February 19, 2019 agenda as printed.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Tacheny to approve County Board minutes for February 5, 2019 as printed.
Motion carried unanimously.

The following employees were recognized for years of service:

- Christine Paul, County Recorder, 15 Years
- Dorothy Hunt, Social Services Accounting Assistant, 20 Years

Motion by Tacheny, second by Schmitt to approve a Conditional Use Permit, as recommended by the Planning Commission, for USS Turkey Solar LLC to construct a solar garden consisting of approximately 4176 solar panels to generate a maximum of one megawatt of power. Said facility, in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District is proposed to consist of: solar modules, inverters and racking; fencing; access roads as required; on-site underground electrical collection lines; up to one weather station (up to 20 feet tall); and interconnection poles to connect the project to Excel Energy's distribution system, with stated conditions.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Schmitt to approve a Renewal Conditional Use Permit, as recommended by the Planning Commission, for Park Avenue Solar Solutions LLC to construct a solar garden consisting of approximately 3696 tracking solar modules to generate a maximum of one megawatt of power. Said facility, in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District, is proposed to consist of: solar modules, inverters and racking; fencing; access roads as required; on-site underground electrical collection lines; and interconnection poles to connect the project to Excel Energy's distribution system, with stated conditions.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tacheny, second by Larson to approve Social Services accounts payable as follows:

Human Services Fund	\$141,588.10
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Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Oberg to approve Agreement for Replacement of Bridge 92618 Between Cedar Mills Township and Meeker County.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Larson to accept the engineering proposal from Erickson Engineering for the design and construction of Bridge 92618 for a not-to-exceed fee of \$97,268.

Motion carried unanimously.

Pursuant to law, below is a statement showing the amount of taxes levied for County purposes for the current year, the amounts collected and apportioned to date, and the balance uncollected, together with the actual cash balance remaining to the credit of each County fund at the close of business on the 31st day of January, 2019.

FUNDS	Amount Levied	Amount Collected	Balance Uncollected	% Uncollected
	8,037,752.96	7,961,209.60	76,543.36	
Road & Bridge	1,836,450.79	1,818,962.19	17,488.60	
Social Service	2,946,187.49	2,918,130.88	28,056.61	
Family Service	129,668.38	128,433.60	1,234.78	
Debt Service	676,558.04	670,115.18	6,442.86	
Regional Library	211,134.27	209,080.72	2,053.55	
Total	13,837,751.93	13,705,932.17	131,819.76	0.953%
Balances remaining to the credit of each Fund:				
	Balances			
	Debit	Credit		
County Revenue		8,128,625.06		
Road & Bridge		2,976,416.11		
Social Services		5,861,563.28		
Family Services		655,429.37		
Capital Projects		246,728.57		
Debt Service		466,873.73		
Total	0.00	18,335,636.12		

Motion by Larson, second by Schmitt to approve the 2018 Gravel Tax Report and distribution to the townships.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Tacheny to approve county and hospital accounts payable as follows:

General Revenue Fund	\$112,737.62
Road & Bridge Fund	39,434.86
County Parks Fund	85.63
Solid Waste Fund	1,133.19
County Nurse Fund	3,103.81
Family Services Bldg. Fund	11,517.79
Capital Projects Fund	353.22
Ditch Fund	18,643.23
County Hospital	435,063.45

Credit Cards:

General Revenue Fund	10,989.29
Road & Bridge Fund	995.90
County Nurse Fund	449.38
Family Services Bldg. Fund	104.46

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Housman called for a recess of the County Board Meeting at 8:53 a.m. to convene as the County Ditch Authority.



The County Board convened as the County Ditch Authority.

Present: Commissioners – Beth Oberg, Joe Tacheny, Mike Housman, Steve Schmitt and Bryan Larson, County Administrator Paul Virnig, County Auditor Barb Loch, Highway Engineer Phil Schmalz, Ditch Inspector Ed Hoekstra, and Administrative Coordinator Cori Heacock.

Motion by Tacheny, second by Schmitt to acknowledge the Petition for Drainage System Transfer for a portion of County Ditch 19 to the City of Litchfield, and set a public hearing for April 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeker County Board Room.

Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Board Chair Housman called to adjourn as County Ditch Authority at 9:00 a.m. and reconvene as County Board.

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Board Chair Housman reconvened the County Board meeting.

John McNamara of Wold Architects and Engineers presented facilities build and remodel options to the board.

The Board took a 5 minute break.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Larson to approve the status change of Patrol Sergeant Becky Howell to Full-time Chief Deputy, Level D62 Step 8, \$41.73 per hour, effective February 20, 2019 and approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt to award the courthouse exterior repair proposal to BM Stucco, Inc. of Sauk Rapids for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Larson to promote IT Technician Rob Oster to Network Administrator, B25 Step 6, \$27.94 per hour, effective March 1, 2019, and with his anniversary date remaining June 1.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt to appoint Probation Agent Denise Olson as Interim Probation Supervisor with a \$200 monthly salary increase, until the position is filled.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tacheny, second by Oberg to appoint Commissioner Housman as the Housing & Redevelopment Authority Commissioner Liaison.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners will continue to seek candidates for the Pioneerland Library Board vacancy.

The board recessed at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of meeting with township officials.

The meeting reconvened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions of Township Officers and County Commissioners were conducted.

Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission Community Planning and Development Director Matthew Johnson presented information regarding the Meeker County Trails Plan.

Luke Johnson from Meeker Cooperative Light and Power shared information regarding the Broadband Initiative in Meeker County.

Economic Development Director David Krueger spoke about the Broadband Initiative as it relates to economics and the “trickle down” effect on area businesses in terms of finding a qualified work force, and shortages of housing and day care in the area.

County Auditor Barb Loch discussed election topics and shared 2018 gravel tax information.

County Assessor Lee Schroeder shared 2019 property assessments for taxes payable in 2020, and reviewed procedures for Boards of Review.

County Highway Engineer Phil Schmalz and Maintenance Superintendent Carlen Hansen shared information regarding the following: dead-end turnarounds; gravel shoulder maintenance; 2019 projects; snow and ice observations and ideas for improving efficiency during snow and ice events.

On motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt, Board Chair Housman called for adjournment at 3:18 p.m. The next meeting of the County Board of Commissioners will be on March 5, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., in the County Board of Meeting Room, Meeker County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted: Cori Heacock, Executive Secretary.

Chair of County Board

Attest: _____
Clerk of County Board