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The Meeker County Board of Commissioners met on April 16, 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.

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Schmitt, second by Tacheny to approve the April 16, 2019 agenda as printed.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Larson to approve County Board minutes for April 2, 2019 as printed.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

- Joshua Case, Deputy, 10 years
- Randy Celander, Communications Specialist, 10 years
- Kristin Cote, Land Records Director, 20 years
- Kim Dendinger-Nelson, Social Worker, 35 years
- Phillip Valiant, Heavy Equipment Operator, 40 years

Motion by Oberg, second by Larson to approve reappointments to the Hospital Board of John Spreiter, with said term expiring December 31, 2020, and Bill Ward, with said term expiring December 31, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Tacheny to approve the hire of Facilities Worker Dennis Cash, Level A12 Step 1, \$16.05 per hour, effective May 1, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Tacheny to acknowledge a \$1,000 donation for the Crime Victim Fund from the Men's Domestic Violence Program/United Community Action Partnership.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Larson to approve an upgrade to the network technology virtual environment via purchase of a server system from Marco at a cost of \$44,452.02 and purchase of a SAN storage system from Marco at a cost of \$54,984.93.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Schmitt to approve hire of Seasonal Water Patrol Deputies Nolan Warren, Dylan Watt, and Jose Santana, Level A12 Step 1, \$16.05 per hour, effective April 22, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt to approve appointment of Chief Deputy Becky Howell, as an alternate, to Central MN NG911 Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Tacheny to approve appointment of Emergency Management Assistant Stephanie Johnson, as a delegate, to the Emergency Managers Advisory Committee (EMAC), and appointment of Chief Deputy Becky Howell, as an alternate, to the Emergency Managers Advisory Committee (EMAC).

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt to approve appointment of Deputy Ho, as an alternate, to the Southwest MN Emergency Medical Services Corporate Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Tacheny to approve the updates to the Emergency Operations Plan as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Tacheny to approve reclassification of the Lead Equipment Operator to Assistant Public Works Superintendent and from DBM Level B31 to B32.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larson, second by Schmitt to approve a \$60,000 loan at 4% interest from the Revenue Fund to the Ditch Fund specifically for Joint Ditch 32.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

General Revenue Fund	\$160,606.42
Road & Bridge Fund	135,282.58
Human Services Fund	125.28
County Parks Fund	20,285.21
Solid Waste Fund	3,050.15
County Nurse Fund	13,241.73
Family Services Bldg. Fund	1,824.50
Economic Development Fund	161.20
Capital Projects Fund	29,920.00
Ditch Fund	8,712.37
State Collections Fund	1,272.50
County Hospital	410,724.66

Credit Cards:

General Revenue Fund	16,468.02
Road & Bridge Fund	680.00
County Nurse Fund	2,399.70
Family Services Bldg. Fund	89.99

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tacheny, second by Schmitt to accept an offer of \$11,000, and approve sale of approximately .17 acres of the Dassel Highway Shop property.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Director Phil Schmalz, and Highway Superintendent Carlen Hansen presented the 2018-2019 Snow and Ice Report to the Commissioners.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Larson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS Minnesota Counties maintain 30,742 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) roads and 14,141 miles of county roads, totaling over 30% of the state’s roadways; and

WHEREAS the total annual need is \$1.084 billion over the next 25 years just to maintain the current CSAH and county road system, not including expansion; and

WHEREAS the annual funding gap for counties has resulted in deferring basic maintenance, delaying expansion projects with resulting safety concerns, mounting congestion, and missed economic growth for businesses and commuters; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive and sustainable transportation solution should include robust funding for roads, bridges, and transit, and address the varying needs in different parts of the state; and

WHEREAS increased funding for Minnesota’s Highway User Tax Distribution Fund would provide additional, stable funds for MnDOT, all 87 counties, all cities with a population of 5,000 or more, and townships across the state;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MEEKER County Board of Commissioners encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign a bill that brings adequate funding to Minnesota’s statewide transportation system.

Commissioners Oberg, Tacheny, Housman, Schmitt and Larson voting “yes”.

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted. #2019-05.

It being 9:32 a.m., Chair Housman recessed the County Board meeting and convened the County Ditch Authority.

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The County Board convened as the Ditch Authority for County Ditch #19.

Present: County Auditor Barb Loch, Ditch Inspector Ed Hoekstra, Public Works Director Phil Schmalz, Attorney Kurt Deter from Rinke Noonan Law Firm, Commissioners Oberg, Tacheny, Housman, Schmitt, and Larson, County Attorney Brandi Schiefelbein, County Administrator Paul Virnig, and Administrative Coordinator Cori Heacock.

Chairman Housman opened the public hearing concerning the petition from the City of Litchfield to transfer the portion of Meeker County Ditch 19 from West Fifth Street to CSAH 1 to the City of Litchfield for future management.

Notice requirements were verified by Auditor Barbara Loch, Bolton & Menk’s Hydraulics Report was presented, and the public comments and questions were heard from landowners Greg Langmo and Keith Fortun.

Motion by Oberg, second by Schmitt to table the public hearing for County Ditch 19 until April 23, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Board Chair Housman recessed the County Ditch Authority Public Hearing at 9:53 a.m. and reconvened as County Board.

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Board Chair Housman reconvened the County Board meeting.

Motion by Oberg, second by Tacheny to approve hire of Social Worker Kenzey Jehoich, Level C41 Step 1, \$25.59 per hour, with an effective date to be determined.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Larson to approve providing \$5,000 in matching funds to Grove City CARE for new entrance doors.

Motion carried unanimously.

Social Services Director Paul Bukovich presented a Substance Abuse Report to the Board of Commissioners.

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

Human Services Fund	\$232,860.90
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Motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Housman called for adjournment at 11:05 a.m. The next meeting of the County Board of Commissioners will be on May 7, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., in the County Board of Meeting Room, Meeker County Courthouse.

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The County Board reconvened as County Ditch Authority for County Ditch #19 at 8:30 a.m. on April 23, 2019.

Present: County Auditor Barb Loch, County Ditch Inspector Ed Hoekstra, Public Works Director Phil Schmalz, Commissioners Beth Oberg, Joe Tacheny, Mike Housman, Steve Schmitt and Bryan Larson, County Attorney Brandi Schiefelbein, County Administrator Paul Virnig and Attorney Kurt Deter from Rinke Noonan Law Firm. Also present: Bolton & Menk Engineer Tony Rotchdal and Litchfield City Engineer Chuck DeWolf.

Chairman Housman reopened the public hearing concerning the petition from the City of Litchfield to transfer the portion of Meeker County Ditch 19 from West Fifth Street to CSAH 1 to the City of Litchfield for future management.

Tony Rotchdal provided an outline of the design for the storm sewer project and its relationship to County Ditch 19. Chuck Dewolf assisted with board and landowner questions presented at the April 16, 2019, meeting.

With no additional questions or comments, on motion by Oberg, second by Tacheny, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Tacheny, second by Oberg, pursuant to MN Statutes 103E.812, Subd 5(d), the Meeker County Board of Commissioners, acting as Drainage Authority, determines that the storm, surface and flood waters along the drainage system from County State Aid Highway #1 to West 5<sup>th</sup> Street could be better managed by the City of Litchfield and directed staff to prepare the Findings of Fact and Order transferring said portion of County Ditch 19 to the City of Litchfield for future management.

Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Board Chair Housman adjourned the County Ditch Authority meeting at 8:50 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted: Cori Heacock, Administrative Coordinator

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Chair of County Board

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of County Board