

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
WINONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SESSION HELD February 22, 2022  
7:00 PM WINONA COUNTY BOARD ROOM**

The Winona County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners Room on the above date with Commissioner Marie Kovecsi; Commissioner Marcia Ward; Commissioner Steve Jacob; Commissioner Greg Olson; Commissioner Chris Meyer; County Attorney Karin Sonneman; Finance Director Pat Moga; Interim County Administrator Maureen Holte; Assistant County Attorney II Stephanie Nuttall; County Assessor John Conway; County Engineer Dave Kramer; Auditor-Treasurer Sandra Suchla; Health and Human Services Director Karen Sanness; Planning and Environmental Services Director Kay Qualley; Jail Administrator Steve Buswell; Emergency Services Coordinator Ben Klinger; Information Technology Director Chad Lang; Operations Analyst I SamMicheal Long; Executive Assistant Heidi Hund. Chairperson Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public comments were heard by Duane Klein, 156 Sweetwater Dr, Rollingstone, asking for support in approving the CEDA Economic Development Consultancy Services Contract for 2022; Amy Courdry, 26006 County Rd 9, requesting clarification regarding Citizen Advisory Committees; Tim Ahrens, 12969 County Rd 31, Altura, regarding a Citizen Advisory Committee applicant; Doug Nopar, 29440 County Rd 17, regarding Land Stewardship, Travis Peterson, 55 Shady Oak, asking to postpone the tabled Public Health Ordinance indefinitely; Ed Walsh, 45593 Lost Valley Dr., La Crescent, regarding Board of Adjustment appointment.

On motion of Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve the County Board minutes dated February 8, 2022. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to acknowledge the Economic Development Authority minutes dated October 28, 2021. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve the amended agenda by moving Consent Business items 7.1, 7.5, and 7.8 to General Business items 8.0, 8.01, and 8.02 respectively. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the following Consent Business items:

Approve Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application and Match for Stone Point Park.

Approve Modified Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Framework.

Approve Rescinding and Terminating Local State of Emergency.

**RESOLUTION #2022-05**

**Rescind and Terminate COVID-19 State of Local Emergency**

WHEREAS, a State of Local Emergency due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared by Winona County on March 19, 2020 under the powers granted by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 12.29 authorizing the County Board Chair (“Chair”) to declare a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, by the terms of the March 19, 2020 Resolution Declaring a State of Local Emergency, the entire County Board consented to continuation of the declaration of a local emergency until such State of Local Emergency was rescinded and terminated by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, by Executive Order 21-21 issued on May 6, 2021, continued the State’s Peacetime Emergency, but chose not to extend it beyond July 1, 2021, effectively terminating it as of July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, by the terms of the County Board's July 27, 2021 Resolution Rescinding COVID-19 State of Emergency, the County Board consented to the State of Local Emergency being rescinded and terminated effective September 1, 2021. The County Board, however, at that time, recognized that circumstances could change that would require extending the State of Local Emergency beyond September 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the County Board approved a Resolution entitled "Extend COVID-19 State of Local Emergency" on August 24, 2021, further extending the State of Local Emergency beyond September 1, 2021 until such time as it was safe from a public health perspective to rescind and terminate the State of Local Emergency. This extension was due to the emergence of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus in Winona County and much of the State of Minnesota, as well the United States; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the August 24<sup>th</sup> Resolution, the Delta variant continued to be present in Winona County, the State of Minnesota and across the country. The Omicron variant of COVID-19 was also showing its presence in the country with expectations for it to be present in Minnesota. A confirmed case of the Omicron variant was reported in Minnesota on December 2, 2021. In its November 23, 2021 Resolution entitled "Extend COVID-19 State of Local Emergency" the County Board extended the COVID-19 State of Local Emergency until such time as it acted to rescind and terminate the State of Local Emergency, and specifically extended it to February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, due to the intensive community mitigation strategies conducted by the entire Winona County community, and the tireless work of Winona County staff, including the COVID-19 Incident Command Team that has coordinated COVID-19 related operations for over three years now (the Team includes the Winona County Sheriff's Office and its Winona County Emergency Management team; the Winona County Health and Human Department and its Public Health team; the Winona County Attorney's Office; and the Winona County Administration office), the threat posed by COVID-19 has been reduced to the extent that management of the COVID-19 pandemic can be handled without the need for continuing the local state of emergency. Existing testing for COVID-19, ample availability of COVID-19 vaccines, and continued public health services and education on COVID-19 prevention through County Public Health and Emergency Management, as well as community-based medical health services will continue to be provided; and

WHEREAS, the Winona County Board, finds that, barring an unforeseen circumstance such as to call for immediate action to declare a State of Local Emergency, the current State of Local Emergency will be rescinded and terminated effective at 11:59 pm, February 28, 2022. Winona County staff has already begun the transition from state of emergency to normal County operations to continue COVID-19 mitigation measures including making COVID-19 vaccines available, assisting the public with obtaining face masks for those who chose to wear them, and providing education and information on COVID-19, as well as continuing to monitor the status of COVID-19 in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1) The Winona County Board rescinds and terminates the current COVID-19 State of Local Emergency effective at 11:59 PM on February 28, 2022.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

Approve Contract with Tyler Technologies.

Approve LG220 Gambling Application for Exempt Permit- Winona FFA Alumni.

Approve Monthly Resolution.

**RESOLUTION #2022-07**

WHEREAS, the Director of Health and Human Services has advised that all Income Maintenance case actions are in conformance with State, Federal and County laws, rules, regulations and policies.

BE IT RESOLVED, that all Income Maintenance case openings, closings, suspensions, grant changes and any other affecting client eligibility and payments documented in the Department on the State's MAXIS eligibility system through **February 22, 2022** are hereby approved; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Health and Human Services advised that all Social Service case actions are in conformance with State, Federal and County laws, rules, regulations and policies.

BE IT RESOLVED that all Health and Human Services case openings, closings, payments, placements and licensing actions as documented in the Department on agency listings for licensing actions, case records, record of human service plan cards, purchase of service abstract, reports of refunds and cancellations, payment authorizations and computer printouts through **February 22, 2022** are hereby approved; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Health and Human Services has advised that all Social Service and Welfare claims against the County submitted for payment **February 22, 2022** have been reviewed and are eligible for payment pursuant to all applicable rules, regulations, laws and policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all bills as listed on listing of warrants and claims against the Community Social Service Act and Welfare funds and Warrant registers shall be approved as valid claims against the County and are hereby approved for payment.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22nd day of February, 2022.

Approve 2022-2023 State of MN County Child Support Program Interagency Cooperative Agreement Covering Administration of Child Support, Establishment of Paternity, and Medical Support Liability Programs.

Accept Certificate of Performance and Authorize Final Payment for SAPs 085-609-019, 085-612-031, 085-615-022, & 085-617-027.

Approve Resolutions and Agreements for State Local Bridge Replacement Program Grants for CSAH 7 and CSAH 27 Bridges.

**RESOLUTION #2022-08**

CSAH 7 Bridge – Grant Agreement

WHEREAS, Winona County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 85579; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$760,679.60 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Winona County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22nd day of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #2022-09**

CSAH 27 Bridge – Grant Agreement

WHEREAS, Winona County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge No. 85578; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$345,748.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Winona County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22nd day of February, 2022.

Approve Resolution and Agreement for Co Rd 129 Traffic Signal Replacement Project.

**RESOLUTION #2022-10**

IT IS RESOLVED that Winona County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1048663 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the costs of the turn lane and signal construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 61 at County Road No. 129 within the limits of the City of Goodview under State Project No. 8506-74 (T.H. 61=003).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair and Interim County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

Award Bid for CSAH 7 and CSAH 27 Bridge Replacements to ICON Constructors.

Approve Proposals with Marco Technologies for Network Refresh.

Adopt Minnesota Merit System Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Guidelines.

Approve Renewal of State of Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant for 2022-2023.

Approve 2021 Restricted and Assigned Reserves.

Confirm Payment of Disbursements.

02/02/22 - 02/15/22		
Fund		
1	Revenue	\$ 582,265.11
2	Recycling & Solid Waste Fund	\$ 66.76
3	Road and Bridge	\$ 574,625.96
4	Transportation Sales Tax	\$ 8,252.50
5	Health & Human Services	\$ 347,696.29
27	CLFRF (Coronavirus) #21.027	\$ 18,498.57
33	2020A Bond	\$ 2,800.00

37	<b>Jail Expenses Fund</b>	<b>\$ 526,627.29</b>
71	<b>H.C. Garvin Fund</b>	<b>\$ 22.56</b>
76	<b>Employee Benefit</b>	<b>\$ 4,576.37</b>
81	<b>Settlement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 6,735.57</b>
82	<b>Misc Taxes Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,800.00</b>
83	<b>State Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$ 185,304.81</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,259,271.79</b>

137 Vendors Paid Less Than \$2000  
totaling \$84,914.51

Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to Approve CEDA Economic Development Consultancy Services Contract for only 2022. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to Approve Interim Administrator Employment Agreement. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Jacob and seconded by Commissioner Ward, to Approve Resolution to Submit Application for Help America Vote Act Grant, striking the words “or security of elections” from the resolution. Vote: Yes – 2; No – 3 (Kovecsi, Olson, Meyer).

On motion of Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to Approve Resolution to Submit Application for Help America Vote Act Grant. Vote: Yes – 3; No – 2 (Jacob, Ward).

#### **RESOLUTION #2022-11**

WHEREAS, Winona County is responsible for administering elections, which includes the purchase and maintenance of supplies and election equipment, including accessible voting equipment; and

WHEREAS, during its 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, the Minnesota Legislature, via Chapter 11, Article 1, Sec. 41, authorized the distribution of \$3 million from federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) appropriations as grants to political subdivisions. Per statute, these funds must be used to improve accessibility, implement security improvements for election systems, and/or fund other activities to improve the security of elections; and

WHEREAS, to receive funding from the Help America Vote Act grant, counties must submit an application to the Minnesota Secretary of State.

BE IT RESOLVED, Winona County approves submitting its application for funding from the Minnesota Help America Vote Act grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County certifies that any funds awarded from the Help America Vote Grant will only be used to improve or enhance accessibility or security of elections.

Adopted at Winona, Minnesota this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2022.

On motion of Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, to appoint John Wirt to Board of Adjustments. Vote: Yes – 2; No – 3 (Olson, Kovecsi, Meyer).

On motion of Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to appoint Edward Walsh to Board of Adjustments. Vote: Yes – 4; No – 1 (Jacob).

On motion of Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to appoint Amber Hamernik to Economic Development Authority. Vote: Yes – 5.

On motion of Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to hold a Working Session to discuss unpredictable factors in Health and Human Services, and points for lobbying such as the top 5 budget concerns. Vote: Yes – 1; No – 4 (Olson, Kovecsi, Meyer, Jacob).

On motion of Commissioner Kovecsi and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to Approve Lease Agreement with Port Authority of Winona for 165 W. 2nd Street.

Commissioner Kovecsi withdrew motion.


On motion of Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Kovecsi, to table the lease agreement with Port Authority of Winona for 165 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, to gather more information and separating the lease on the building and parking lot. Vote: Yes – 5.

Received Monthly Finance and Budget Update for December 2021 from Finance Director Pat Moga.

Received Monthly Finance and Budget Update for January 2022 from Finance Director Pat Moga.

On motion of Commissioner Kovecsi and seconded by Commissioner Olson, to adjourn the County Board meeting at 9:01 p.m. Vote: Yes – 5.

**WINONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Chris M. Meyer  
Board Chair

Attest:

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Maureen L. Holte, Interim County Administrator