

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 8th day of October, 2019 at 9:01 a.m., at the Aitkin Public Library, with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Bill Pratt, County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the October 8, 2019 amended agenda. Agenda Item 4.5 – Approve New Building Smart Boards, was added.

APPROVED AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: September 24, 2019 to October 7, 2019; B) Approve County Board Minutes: September 24, 2019; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers: \$1,242,454.00; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$132,282.43, Road & Bridge \$156,349.98, Special Revenue \$2,840.24, Health & Human Services \$8,341.41, Trust \$13,726.20, Forest Development \$670.72, Taxes & Penalties \$99.00, Capital Project \$93,636.52, Long Lake Conservation Center \$6,899.61, Parks \$25,334.68 for a total of \$440,726.79; E) Approve Auditor Warrants – Anderson Brothers Contract Payment: Road & Bridge \$649,379.17; F) Approve Auditor Warrants – Contegrity: Capital Project \$231,197.79; G) Approve Manual Warrants: General Fund \$-116,731.25, Road & Bridge \$134,695.80, State \$89,169.62, Trust \$-7,318.07, Taxes & Penalties \$-99.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$106.60, Parks \$-295.71 for a total of \$99,527.99; H) Approve November 12, 2019 Board Meeting Location; I) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Treasurer: Kevin and DeeAnn Hendricks, Commissioner Warrant #76125 dated October 5, 2018, in the amount of \$500.00; J) Adopt Resolution: Repurchase Application – Von Walter; K) Adopt Resolution: Repurchase Application – Dowdle; L) Approve Application for License to Sell Tobacco Products; M) Adopt Resolution: LG230 Off-Site Gambling – Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club; N) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – HHS: Warrant #106412 issued 1/27/2017 to Kids Club in the amount of \$178.50; O) Approve Lakes Storage Valhalla Plat; P) Adopt Resolution: Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20183; Q) Adopt Resolution: Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20185

CONSENT AGENDA

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to schedule the November 12, 2019 Aitkin County Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Aitkin City Hall.

NOVEMBER 12TH COUNTY BOARD MEETING

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Repurchase Application – Von Walter:

WHEREAS, Thomas and Christine Von Walter (Husband and wife), of 1755 E. Laurie Road, Maplewood, MN 55109, the owners at the time of forfeiture, have made and filed an application with the County Auditor for the repurchase of the hereinafter described parcel of tax forfeited land, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, of amended, which land is situated in the County of Aitkin, Minnesota and described as follows, to-wit:

RESOLUTION 20191008-078 REPURCHASE APPLICATION – VON WALTER

Lot 14 of Sugar Lake Addition according to the plat thereof on file, Section two (2), Township forty-five (45), Range twenty-five (25)

and WHEREAS, said applicant has set forth in his application that:

- a. Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:

My wife paid all the bills and received all the mail. I was unaware of any problems until I intercepted a bill from a collection agency on a credit card. I didn't know about back taxes until I was served by the sheriff. The cause of this situation was my trust in my wife and her addiction to gambling.

The repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest, because:

I will see that the taxes are paid on time to Aitkin County and that I'll keep up the property and use the local businesses as I did before.

and WHEREAS, this board is of the opinion that said application should be granted for such reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the application of Thomas and Christine Von Walter for the purchase of the above described parcel of tax forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Repurchase Application – Dowdle:

WHEREAS, Steven T. Dowdle and Jeffrey R. Dowdle, of 4373 Rosebriar Ave., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 the owners at the time of forfeiture, have made and filed an application with the County Auditor for the repurchase of the hereinafter described parcel of tax forfeited land, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, of amended, which land is situated in the County of Aitkin, Minnesota and described as follows, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION
20191008-079
REPURCHASE
APPLICATION -
DOWDLE**

The East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E ½ of NW ¼) and the Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter (SW ¼ of NW ¼), and the Southwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter (SW ¼ of NE ¼) of Section Seven (7), Township Forty-five (45), Range Twenty-five (25), subject to and together with a non-exclusive roadway easement for ingress and egress over the West 66 feet of the fractional SW ¼ of NW ¼, the fractional NW ¼ of SW ¼ and the fractional SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 7 and the West 66 feet of Sections 18 and 19, all in Township 45, Range 25, lying North of Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 18.

Subject to mineral reservations, easements, zoning ordinances and restrictions of record AND subject to Conservation Reserve Program rights described in Exhibit A...

and WHEREAS, said applicant has set forth in his application that:

Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:

I was under the impression that my taxes were paid through 2018 due to identity theft in 2015 during this time my bank account was drained and a number of credit cards were taken out in my name. As a result my assets were frozen and my wages were under garnishment until the case was settled as a further expense to me as a single parent of a now nine year old daughter. This event has been very stressful – both financially and mentally. Taking 170,000 piece of land without notice seems harsh and unfair under these circumstances – especially without notice.

and WHEREAS, this board is of the opinion that said application should be granted for such reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the application of Steven T. Dowdle and Jeffrey R. Dowdle for the purchase of the above described parcel of tax forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following Application for License to Sell Tobacco Products for the period ending March 31, 2020:

- #28 DG Retail, LLC, d/b/a Dollar General Store #20648 – City of Hill City

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – LG230 Off-Site Gambling – Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling - Form LG230 - of the Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club at the following location – North of McGregor, MN on Hwy 65 and 5 miles East on Goshawk St. on Lake Minnewawa, McGregor, MN 56431– Shamrock Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – February 08, 2020)

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve Lakes Storage Valhalla Plat and to authorize Board Chair’s signature.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20183:

WHEREAS, Contract No. 20183 has in all been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept said completed contract for and on behalf of the County of Aitkin and authorize final payment to Roth Construction in the amount of \$3,400.95.

**LICENSE TO
SELL TOBACCO
PRODUCTS –
DOLLAR
GENERAL
STORE #20648**

**RESOLUTION
20191008-080
LG230 OFF-SITE
GAMBLING –
MINNEWAWA
SPORTSMEN’S
CLUB**

**LAKES
STORAGE
VALHALLA PLAT**

**RESOLUTION
20191008-081
FINAL
CONTRACT
PAYMENT –
CONTRACT NO.
20183**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20185:

WHEREAS, Contract No. 20185 has in all been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept said completed contract for and on behalf of the County of Aitkin and authorize final payment to Anderson Brothers Construction in the amount of \$0.00.

The County Board recognized the following employees for their years of service:

- Pamela Karnowski, 25 years of service, Health and Human Services Dept.
- Daniel Guida, 25 years of service, Sheriff's Department

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Aitkin County Property Tax Payment Variance Policy:

WHEREAS, payments are made to Aitkin County for payment of property taxes, and

WHEREAS, on occasion payments are made incorrectly with a small balance due being owed or a refund being due, and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly more expensive to mail balance due notices and issue refund checks, and

WHEREAS, any overages on first half tax will be applied towards second half tax due and refunds of \$10.00 and under will only be sent if requested in writing by customer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Aitkin County establish a policy of no balance due notice mailed and the amount written off, if the balance due is \$10 or less and no refund given if such remittance is overpaid by \$10.00 or less, unless requested in writing by the customer, both to be handled thru the property tax system. Effective October 9, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve purchase of (4) smart boards for the Aitkin County Government Center at a total cost of \$15,527.28.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Award Contract No. 20197:

WHEREAS, Contract No. 20197 is for construction of S.A.P 001-603-020, and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were opened for this project at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2019 with a total of four bids received, and

**RESOLUTION
20191008-082
FINAL
CONTRACT
PAYMENT –
CONTRACT NO.
20185**

**EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION**

**RESOLUTION
20191008-083
AITKIN COUNTY
PROPERTY TAX
PAYMENT
VARIANCE
POLICY**

**SMART BOARDS
FOR
GOVERNMENT
CENTER**

**RESOLUTION
20191008-084
AWARD
CONTRACT NO.
20197**

WHEREAS, R.C. Habeck Excavating, LLC, Wahcon, MN was the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$243,107.50.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that R.C. Habeck Excavating, LLC. is awarded Contract No. 20197.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairperson of the Aitkin County Board and the Aitkin County Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract on behalf of Aitkin County with said low bidder upon presentation of proper contract documents.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Revert Portion of CSAH 3 to Logan Township:

WHEREAS, a portion of County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 3 in Section 26, Township 49 North, Range 25 West as now located is a relocation and an alteration of the former CSAH 3 alignment through this area, and

WHEREAS, a segment of the former CSAH 3 alignment that is not part of the current CSAH 3 alignment remains as a public road as a connection to a public road maintained by Logan Township (290th Place), and

WHEREAS, this segment should be revoked and reverted to the township as an extension of the existing Logan Township road.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following portion of the old road hereinafter described is hereby revoked and reverted to Logan Township:

That part of Government Lot 2 of Section 26 and that part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 25, both being in Township 49 North, Range 25 West, Aitkin County, Minnesota, which lies within 33 feet on each side of the following described line: Commencing at the northeast corner of said Section 26: thence South 00 degrees 40 minutes 12 seconds West, assumed bearing, 1301.22 feet along the east line of said Section 26; thence South 89 degrees 19 minutes 48 seconds East 7.83 feet to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence North 00 degrees 45 minutes 55 seconds East 466.54 feet; thence 266.16 feet northwesterly along a tangential curve concave to the southwest with a radius of 280.00 feet and a central angle of 57 degrees 09 minutes 18 seconds and there terminating.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve new Aitkin County logo design.

Jessica Seibert, County Administrator updated the Board on the following:

- MACA Conference
- MN Compass Advisory Committee
- Government Center

**RESOLUTION
20191008-085
REVERT
PORTION OF
CSAH 3 TO
LOGAN
TOWNSHIP**

**AITKIN COUNTY
LOGO**

**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR
UPDATES**

The Board discussed: BEACON Mtg., MRC, Lakes & Pines, Economic Development, NRAC, McGregor Airport, HRA, DAC, CARE Finance, Public Health Conference, Historical Society, HHS Advisory, Aitkin Airport, MHB, Facilities, Grand Rapids Mtg., Community Corrections Annual Conference, and Hill City Community Fund.

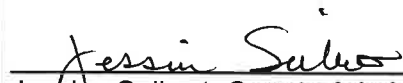
**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. until Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Aitkin Public Library.

ADJOURN



Anne Marcotte, Board Chair
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners



Jessica Seibert, County Administrator