

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016 at 9:03 a.m. with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Brian Napstad, Anne Marcotte, Interim County Administrator Patrick Wussow and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the October 11, 2016 agenda.

**APPROVED  
AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: September 27, 2016 to October 10, 2016; B) Approve County Board Minutes: September 27, 2016; C) Approve Auditor Warrants - Highway Department Contract Payment: Road & Bridge \$385,240.82; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$90,230.32, Road & Bridge \$32,646.09, Health & Human Services \$1,378.30, Trust \$23,585.30, Forest Development \$1,690.88, Agency \$2,681.72, Long Lake Conservation Center \$11,049.70, Parks \$2,298.16 for a total of \$165,560.47; 2E) Accept \$500 Donation for Veterans Service Van expenses from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post 1721, Palisade; 2F) Accept Donations to Aitkin County STS: \$50 from Jacobson Community Church, \$350 from Minnewawa Sportmen’s Club, Inc., and \$1,200 from Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust; G) Adopt Resolution: Tax-Forfeited Land Repurchase Application – Rutherford; H) Adopt Resolution: County Assessor; I) Adopt Resolution: LG230 Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – Tax-Forfeited Land Repurchase Application - Rutherford:

**WHEREAS**, Mary E. Rutherford of 472 Iglehart Ave St Paul, Mn 55103, the owner at the time of forfeiture, has 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  
20161011-067  
TAX-FORFEITED  
LAND  
REPURCHASE  
APPLICATION -  
RUTHERFORD**

That part of Lot 2 as in Document 328709 Section 3 Twp 43 Rge 24 – Parcel ID 13-0-003903

**And, WHEREAS**, said applicant has set forth in her application that:

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

I have been spending weekends, afternoons and longer sojourns on Bear Lake for 27 years, enjoying the spring-fed lake. I purchased my property on a contract for deed, filing the deed about 8 years ago. It has been my intention to retire there (I am 68), investing in a “tiny home” or other type of dwelling. This land has always been a respite, but recently became even more important, as a place to care for my disabled daughter when I retire. A few years ago, she was diagnosed with a chronic disease. To lose this land would be to take away my future plans for me and my family. I have attached a letter to this application which further explains my situation and

the reasons for my failure to pay the taxes.

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

I am aware of the legacy of this property as a wilderness preserve, and that some of my neighbors along the lake have given their property to the Nature Conservancy in their wills. Their commitment to preserving the land and maintaining a conscientious community surrounding Bear Lake has had a great impression on me. If I am allowed to repurchase this plot, I will continue to avoid using pesticides in my plantings and maintain the wilderness in the proper manner. This maintains the purity of the lake for the fish and plants. I am dedicated to maintaining the broader community's interests concerning the preservation of this land's pristine nature and heritage.

**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 Mary Rutherford 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 Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – County Assessor:

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 273.061, requires that the terms of office as County Assessor shall begin on January 1 of every fourth year after 1973, and

**WHEREAS**, January 1, 2017 will begin a new term of office for county assessors statewide. Statute requires the Commissioner of Revenue to approve the appointment and the reappointment of all county assessors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mike Dangers is hereby reappointed County Assessor of Aitkin County for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2017, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statute, Section 273.061.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – LG230 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 C R 6 on Lake Minnewawa, McGregor, MN 56431– Shamrock Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – February 11, 2017)

**RESOLUTION  
20161011-068  
COUNTY  
ASSESSOR**

**RESOLUTION  
20161011-069  
LG230  
MINNEWAWA  
SPORTSMEN'S  
CLUB**

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

- Catherine Buhlmann, 25 years, Deputy Land Commissioner – Land Department
- Deb Jensen, 25 years, Social Worker – Health and Human Services Department
- Rae Zahn, 25 years, Social Worker – Health and Human Services Department

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to authorize signatures to Minnesota Counties Information Systems (MCIS) Hosting Agreement so planning and implementation of the host environment can proceed.

Patrick Wussow, Interim County Administrator, Steve Bennett, IT Director and Ross Wagner, Economic Development and Forest Industry Coordinator discussed a proposal by CTC to connect the License Center and the Highway Department to the Courthouse. Funding would be provided through the Economic Development Fund.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to authorize CTC to connect the License Center to the Courthouse.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to remand authority to the Facilities Committee on the request for CTC to connect the Highway Department to the Courthouse.

Resolution #20160913-064: Interim County Administrator was adopted on September 13, 2016. At the time the resolution was adopted it was not anticipated that Patrick Wussow, former Aitkin County Administrator would become the Interim Administrator. Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution: Interim County Administrator - Updated:

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator has resigned and Aitkin County wishes to appoint an interim county administrator.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the County Board approves to hire Patrick Wussow at an hourly rate of \$50.00 per hour for 2 – 3 days a week beginning on September 19, 2016 and commencing at such time a permanent County Administrator begins employment, and

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to ratify AFSCME Courthouse and AFSCME Health & Human Services Agreements for 2017 and 2018, and to authorize Administration to make modifications or adjustments to the contracts and/or wages as necessary to finalize.

Patrick Wussow, Interim County Administrator updated the Board on the status of the recruitment process for County Administrator.

**EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION**

**MCIS HOSTING  
AGREEMENT**

**FIBER OPTICS  
PROPOSAL**

**FIBER OPTICS TO  
LICENSE CENTER**

**FIBER OPTICS TO  
HIGHWAY DEPT.**

**RESOLUTION  
20161011-070  
INTERIM COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR  
- UPDATED**

**RATIFY AFSCME  
COURTHOUSE  
AND AFSCME  
H&HS  
AGREEMENTS**

**COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR  
RECRUITMENT**

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

October 11, 2016

The Board discussed the following: McGregor Airport, NCLUCB, Facilities, ARDC, CARE, Library, Personnel, ACLARA, Park Board, Long Lake, and Aitkin Airport.

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

Break: 10:53 a.m to 11:04 a.m.

**BREAK**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to close the meeting at 11:04 a.m. under Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Board's authority.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to reopen the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

**REOPEN  
MEETING**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m. until Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

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J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Patrick Wussow, Interim County Administrator