

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

January 7, 2020

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020 at 9:02 a.m. at the Aitkin Public Library with the following members present: Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Donald Niemi, Bill Pratt, Anne Marcotte, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Temporary Administrative Assistant Lynn Cox

Motion made by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all voting yes to approve the January 7, 2020 amended agenda. Consent Agenda item 5P moved to #5.1 in the Agenda. Addition of #7F – Appointment of Pat Houser to the HHS Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A) Correspondence File December 17, 2019 – January 6, 2020.
- B) Approve December 17, 2019 County Board Minutes.
- C) Acknowledge County Administrator's Year-end Matters
  - 1. Adopt Resolution #20191218-117 – On Sale Wine-Strong Beer License – The Red Door Resort.

Motion made by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Wedel to adjourn this meeting at 9:04 a.m.

County Administrator, Jessica Seibert, called the 2020 Board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioner Westerlund nominated Commissioner Pratt for Board Chair for the year 2020. Commissioner Wedel nominated Commissioner Marcotte for Board Chair. There were no further nominations. Wedel, Marcotte motion to close nominations. Nominations closed. Discussion by Commissioner Wedel stating after speaking to County Attorney, Jim Ratz, he believed proper procedure was to hold a roll call vote to ensure Open Meeting Laws were being followed. The Board Chair proceeded with the ballot vote as previously discussed. Vote was Commissioner Niemi, Pratt and Westerlund in support of Commissioner Pratt; and Commissioner Marcotte and Wedel in support of Commissioner Marcotte.

Commissioner Westerlund nominated Commissioner Niemi for Board Vice-Chair for the year 2020. Commissioner Wedel made a motion to close nominations with a unanimous vote in support of Commissioner Niemi to fill the Vice-Chair position, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pratt called for a break at 9:12.  
Meeting resumed again at 9:15

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows with the removal of item 5P.

- A) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers: \$989,861.33;
- B) Approve Commissioner Warrants: 1. December 23, 2019: General Fund \$253,141.00, Road & Bridge \$202,222.28, Health & Human Services \$46,072.61, State \$90.00, Trust

**CALL TO ORDER**

**NOMINATION OF BOARD CHAIR**

**NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIR**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- \$36,795.60, Forest Development \$45,246.05, Capital Project \$3,088.99, Long Lake Conservation Center \$7,973.35, Parks \$396.80 for a total of \$595,026.68,
- C) Approve Period 2 Overpays
- D) Approve Auditor Warrants – Highway Dept. \$133,263.62,
- E) Approve Auditor Manual Warrants - Elan 12/13/19– General Fund \$3,153.85; Road and Bridge \$375.00; Health and Human Services \$940.78; Trust \$617.99; Capital Project \$644.93; Long Lake Conservation Center \$1,074.66 for a total of \$6,789.21.
- F) Approve Auditor Warrants 12/27/19 – General Fund \$1,005.00; Taxes & Penalties \$153,839.68 for a total of \$154,844.68.
- G. Approve Manual Warrants – December 2019
- H) Approve the LTD Policy Update as Proposed, effective 1/1/20.
- I) Reaffirm Annual Code of Ethics and Travel Policy.
- J) Approve the appointment of Kevin Stromberg, District 3, as an alternate member to the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission.
- K) Approve Request to fill Committee Appointments - Aitkin County Housing Authority Board, reappoint Ed Anderson to the At Large position.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to appoint Ed Anderson, as At Large representative for Aitkin County Housing Authority Board (HRA) for a five year term.

**HRA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

- L) Adopt Resolution: Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property – Jabas.

*Under the consent agenda, motion for a Resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property-Jabas:*

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-001  
TAX-FORFEITED  
PROPERTY -  
JABAS**

**WHEREAS**, Jeffery J. Jabas and Jennifer L. Jabas, Husband and wife, of 2231 Liberty Street, Mora, MN 55051, 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:

W ½ of @1/2 of SE SE of Section Five (5), Township Forty-four (44), Range Twenty-three (23)

**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:  
The Jabas have had ongoing financial and time challenges due to the intestinal medical issue with their daughter, and they have had financial challenges due to an economic downturn in the industry of their family owned business.

**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 Jeffery J. Jabas and

Jennifer L. Jabas 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.

M) Adopt Resolution: Set Minimum Salaries for Elected Officials.

*Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – Set Minimum Salaries for Elected Officials.*

N) Accept Request for Corridor Access Permit for ATV's on County Roads.

O) Adopt Resolution – Liquor License for Round Lake Resort and Bar.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the following liquor license for a period from February 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020:

**"ON", "OFF" and "SUNDAY" Sale:**

Round Lake Resort and Bar LLC, d/b/a **Round Lake Resort and Bar** – Shamrock Township

This establishment has an address of 16469 Goshawk Street, McGregor, MN.

5.1 Award Bid & Approve Snow Plowing Contract.- Jessica Seibert shared information related to current practice and recent discussions regarding options available. Only one bid was received by the County for this contract. Motion was approved by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi to approve the Snow Plowing Contract for the Courthouse.

6A) Adopt Resolution: Proposed State Conservation Acquisition.

Presentation done on Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project by Tim Terrill and Will Cooksey. Motion made by Commissioner Marcotte in support of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Pratt. Motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Wedel and Westerlund voting no. Motion carried.

**WHEREAS**, The Trust for Public Land and the Mississippi River Headwaters Board requests County Board approval to purchase a 440 acres of hardwood forest in Turner Township to transfer to DNR management. The Land acquisition is an in-holding within the Savanna State Forest and is described as follows:

Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 4, Township 50 North, Range 23 West

Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 4, Township 50 North, Range 23 West

Northeast ¼ of Section 9, Township 50 North, Range 23 West and the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ and the Northwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 9, Township 50 North, Range 23 West

Northwest and Southeast ¼ 's of the Southwest ¼ and the Southwest ¼ of the

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-002  
SET MIN  
SALARIES FOR  
ELECTED  
OFFICIALS**

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-003  
LIQUOR LICENSE  
– ROUND LAKE  
RESORT & BAR**

**MOTION TO  
APPROVE SNOW-  
FLOW BID**

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-004  
PROPOSED  
STATE  
CONSERVATION  
ACQUISITION**

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Southeast ¼ of Section 9, Township 50 North, Range 23 West

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Aitkin County on January 7, 2020 that the proposed acquisition of the described property be:

Approved

Disapproved. If so, state reason(s) for disapproval:

7A) Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting to set the 2020 County Board meeting schedule for the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with the exception of December. In December the Board will meet on the first and third Tuesdays.

7B) The County Board reviewed the bids submitted for the "Official Newspaper." Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting to adopt resolution – 2020 Official County Newspaper:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the *Aitkin Independent Age* is hereby designated by the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners as the official county newspaper in which all official business shall be published.

7C) Motion for a Resolution by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to approve resolution - 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures & Rules of Business:

**WHEREAS**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners sees it prudent and necessary to review and adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of County Board Meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aitkin County Board has adopted and utilized rules of business, board procedures, and Robert's Rules of Order; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners believes it is important to annually reaffirm the rules; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the "Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures and Rules of Business" is hereby amended and reaffirmed.

7D) Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – 2020 Committee Appointments:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners makes the following committee appointments for the year 2020:

Aitkin Airport Commission (2)

J. Mark Wedel  
John Welle

**2020 BOARD  
MEETING  
SCHEDULE**

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-005  
2020 OFFICIAL  
COUNTY  
NEWSPAPER**

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-006  
2020 BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING  
PROCEDURES &  
RULES OF  
BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION  
20200107-007  
2020 COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS**

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Aitkin County Care Board	Laurie Westerlund
Aitkin County Community Corrections Advisory Board (2)	J. Mark Wedel Anne Marcotte
Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force	J. Mark Wedel
Aitkin Economic Development Administration (AEDA)	J. Mark Wedel
AMC Delegates (8)	Commissioner District 2 Commissioner District 3 Commissioner District 4 Commissioner District 5 County Administrator County Engineer Environmental Svcs. Dir. HHS Director
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	J. Mark Wedel Bill Pratt
Arrowhead Counties Association (2)	Don Niemi Laurie Westerlund
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Laurie Westerlund Don Niemi, Alt.
Arrowhead Regional Development Center (ARDC)	Don Niemi Laurie Westerlund, Alt.
Assessor for Unorganized Townships	Mike Dangers
ATV Committee (2)	Bill Pratt Laurie Westerlund
Big Sandy Lake Management Plan (1+Alternate)	Bill Pratt Anne Marcotte, Alt.
Budget Committee 2020 (2)	J. Mark Wedel Bill Pratt
Development Achievement Center (Liaison) (1+Alternate)	Laurie Westerlund Don Niemi, Alt.
East Central Regional Library Board	Don Niemi Bill Pratt, Alt.
Economic Development (2)	Bill Pratt Don Niemi
Emergency Management	J. Mark Wedel
Environmental Assessment Worksheet (2)	Anne Marcotte Bill Pratt
Extension Committee (1 + Alternate)	Anne Marcotte Laurie Westerlund, Alt.

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Facilities/Technology Committee (2)	J. Mark Wedel Laurie Westerlund
Fairgrounds Custodian	Kirk Peysar
H&HS Advisory Committee (Liaison) (2)	J. Mark Wedel Laurie Westerlund
Historical Society (Liaison)	J. Mark Wedel
Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Aitkin County (HRA) (Liaison)	Laurie Westerlund
Investment Committee	County Board
Joint Powers Natural Resources Board (2)	Bill Pratt /Ann Marcotte,Alt Rich Courtemanche
Labor Management Committee (1+Alternate)	J. Mark Wedel Laurie Westerlund, Alt.
Lakes & Pines (1+Alternate)	Don Niemi Anne Marcotte, Alt.
Law Library	Ann Marcotte, Don Niemi, Alt
McGregor Airport Commission (2)	Bill Pratt William Bedor
MCIT Representative (1 + Alternate)	Laurie Westerlund Jessica Seibert, Alt.
Mille Lacs Fisheries Input Group	Laurie Westerlund
Mille Lacs Watershed (1 + Alternate)	Laurie Westerlund Don Niemi, Alt.
Mississippi Headwaters Board (1+Alternate)	Anne Marcotte Bill Pratt, Alt.
MN Rural Counties (1+Alternate)	Don Niemi Laurie Westerlund
Natural Resources Advisory Committee (2)	Anne Marcotte Bill Pratt
NE MN Office Job Training	Don Niemi
Northeast MN ATP (2)	Bill Pratt John Welle Don Niemi, Alt.
Northeast MN Emergency Communications Board (ECB)	Bill Pratt Dan Guida, Alt.
Northeast MN Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	Patrice Erickson Dan Guida, Alt.

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Northeast Waste Advisory Committee (NEWAC) (1+Alternate)	Bill Pratt Laurie Westerlund, Alt.	
Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB) (1+Alternate)	Anne Marcotte Bill Pratt, Alt.	
Ordinance Committee (2)	Bill Pratt Anne Marcotte	
Personnel/Insurance Committee (2)	J. Mark Wedel Anne Marcotte	
Planning Commission	Laurie Westerlund Anne Marcotte, Alt	
Rum 1W1P Policy Committee	Laurie Westerlund Don Niemi, Alt.	
Snake River Watershed Management Board	Bill Pratt	
Sobriety Court	J. Mark Wedel	
Solid Waste Task Force (2)	Laurie Westerlund Bill Pratt	
Toward Zero Deaths	J. Mark Wedel	
Tri-County Community Health Services Board	Laurie Westerlund	
Break called at 10:15. Meeting resumed at 10:23		
7E. County Administrator, Jessica Seibert, updated the Board on Courthouse construction.		<b>CONSTRUCTION UPDATE</b>
7F. H&HS recommends appointing Pastor Dawn Houser as the District 1 representative on the Health and Human Services Advisory Board.		<b>HHS DISTRICT 1 ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT</b>
8. Discussion on MOA between US Army Corps and State Historic Preservation Office – John Welle, County Engineer presented the draft agreement. A Resolution will be brought back to a future Board meeting for approval.		<b>US ARMY CORPS MOA</b>
9. The Board discussed the following: the HRA Committee, the DAC Committee, the Arrowhead Commissions Association, the Census Committee, the Airport Commission, the NCLUCB Committee, the Community Corrections Committee, the MRC Committee, and the Transportation Committee.		<b>BOARD DISCUSSION</b>
Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. until Tuesday January 28th 2020 at the Aitkin Public Library.		<b>ADJOURN</b>
<hr/> Anne Marcotte, Board Chair Aitkin County Board of Commissioners	<hr/> Jessica Seibert County Administrat	