

<p>The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021 at 9:16 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Donald Niemi, Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Administrative Assistant Angie Sahr.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
<p>Motion made by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all voting yes to approve the February 23, 2021 amended agenda. Added item 6B – “Approve Front Desk Attendant”, Removed item 4A “Approve Recycling Agreement/Contract” and Replaced with “Introduction of Andrew Carlstrom”.</p>	<p><b>Approved Agenda</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>Health &amp; Human Services</b></p>
<p><b>Attendance</b> The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2021, at 9:18 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health &amp; Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Anne Marcotte, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: H&amp;HS Director Cynthia Bennett, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz (VIA WebEx), Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble (VIA WebEx), Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst (VIA WebEx), Aitkin County CARE Director Lynne Jacobs, ANGEL’s of McGregor representative Kathryn Beatty, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Angie Sahr, and Jennifer Eisenbart, Aitkin Independent Age (VIA WebEx).</p>	
<p><b>Agenda</b> Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the February 23, 2021 Health &amp; Human Services Board agenda.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes</b> Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the January 26, 2021 Health and Human Services Board minutes.</p>	
<p><b>Bills</b> Cynthia noted, per Accounting, that there was nothing out of the ordinary for the bills this month.</p>	
<p>Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the bills.</p>	
<p><b>Senior Citizen Services</b> Cynthia introduced the topic of available services for senior citizens who are homebound or isolated. Currently in Aitkin County, several organizations, agencies and groups are offering a plethora of services. In addition, there is the Senior Linkage line and the Crisis and Referral line. However, many seniors may not have connectivity or equipment to participate in some of the offerings. All organizations and agencies in our communities recognize this and are doing their best to provide relief to seniors who are feeling isolated or are homebound</p>	

## **Aitkin County CARE Presentation**

Lynne Jacobs shared a PowerPoint presentation about what CARE has been up to since COVID-19 started and how it has affected their work.

## **McGregor ANGEL's Presentation**

Kathryn Beatty shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing what the services they normally provide along with how COVID-19 has affected their services over this last year.

## **Director's Update**

Cynthia stated that due to time she would provide a more in depth legislative and director update during next month's Board meeting.

## **Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement with Compass Counseling Partners for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement with Lakes & Pines CAC, Inc. for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

## **Committee Reports**

Joint Powers Board Report

Commissioner Westerlund stated that they went over the financials, By-Laws, Joint Power agreements, and had updates regarding COVID-19.

## **AEOA Committee Report**

Commissioner Westerlund said the main topic was discussion of a \$2/hour pay raise for all of the employees of AEOA and Commissioner Marcotte was concerned about how that would affect our budget in the years to come as we provide funding to them and that a \$2 /hour raise seems high. Jessica said she would get the numbers together regarding AEOA funding for review at next month's board meeting.

## **CARE Board Report**

Commissioner Westerlund said they met and the main item was review of the financial report and she added that CARE is in a great position due to the leadership of Lynne.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 23, 2021

There was no Citizens' Public Comment

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

A) Correspondence File February 9, 2021 to February 22, 2021; B) Approve February 9, 2021 County Board Minutes; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$788,815.61; D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers: General Fund \$137,494.04, Road & Bridge

**Citizens' Public  
Comment**

**Consent Agenda**

\$42,031.33, Health & Human Services \$34,400.46, State \$90.00, Trust \$12,177.35, Forest Development \$1,279.31, Taxes & Penalties \$116.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$283.52, Parks \$11,176.15 for a total of \$239,048.16; E) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Contegrity, R&B: Road & Bridge \$71,186.82, Capital Project \$449,284.30, for a total of \$520,471.12; F) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Sales, Use & Diesel Tax January 2021: General Fund \$424.62, Road & Bridge \$1,012.27, Parks \$69.79, for a total of \$1,506.68; G) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Road & Bridge: Road & Bridge \$3,750.30; H) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Land Dept.: Forest Development \$8,540.00; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – LLCC Credit Card Fees: Long Lake Conservation Center \$53.15; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 2/4/21: General Fund \$3,309.95; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections –Mtg. Reg & Deed Tax January 2021: General Fund \$0.05, State \$104,589.25, for a total of \$104,589.30; L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims 2020 & 2021: General Fund \$3,825.99; M) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections –Elan paid 2/4/21 Allocated: General Fund -\$1,453.73, Road & Bridge \$450.00, Health & Human Services, for a total of \$0.00; N) Approve Fire Protection Contract with City of Palisade; O) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrants; P) Adopt Resolution: LG214 Premises Permit / Mille Lacs Trails, Inc; Q) Adopt Resolution: Approve MnDOT Agreement No. 1045717; R) Adopt Resolution: Approve MnDOT Agreement No. 1045718; S) Information Only: Closing of FUND 17

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Fire Protection Contract with City of Palisade.

**Fire Protection Contract with City of Palisade**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Aitkin County Abstract (2), Reinhart Foodservice.

**Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Aitkin County Abstract (2), Reinhart Foodservice**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: LG214 Premises Permit – Mille Lacs Trails, Inc.

**Resolution #20210223-020 LG214 Premises Permit – Mille Lacs Trails, Inc**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the following Premises Permit Application - Form LG214, of the Mille Lacs Trails, Inc., at TJ's Liquor – Malmo Township. This establishment has an address of 22039 321<sup>st</sup> Ave., Isle, MN 56342.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Approve MnDOT Agreement No. 1045717.

**Resolution #20210223-021 Approve MnDOT Agreement No. 1045717**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Aitkin has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a Grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of SAP 001-598-014, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this local road improvement project is available, and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of the Grant has been determined to be \$546,417.74.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Aitkin does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.52 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 road project, but not required.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Engineer is authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Approve MnDOT Agreement No. 1045718.

**WHEREAS**, the County of Aitkin has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a Grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of SAP 001-612-023, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this local road improvement project is available, and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of the Grant has been determined to be \$327,155.68.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the County of Aitkin does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.52 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 road project, but not required.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Aitkin County Engineer is authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Jessica Seibert – County Administrator presented Peggy Jones from American Peat Technology & Brother Justus Whiskey Company who gave a presentation on the American Peat Technology & Brother Justus Whiskey Company Presentation.

Jessica Seibert – County Administrator presented Jessica Johnson from Talon Metals who gave a presentation to Talon Metals activities.

Terry Neff – Environmental Services Director Introduced Andrew Carlstrom to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – On, Off & Sunday Liquor License – Sheryl Ruhnke, dba Prairie River Retreat;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the following liquor license for a period ending December 31, 2021:

**Resolution  
#20210223-022  
Approve MnDOT  
Agreement No.  
1045718**

**APT & Brother  
Justus Whiskey  
Company  
Presentation**

**Talon Metals  
Presentation**

**Introduction of  
Andrew Carlstrom**

**Resolution  
#20210223-023  
On, Off & Sunday  
Liquor License –  
Sheryl Ruhnke,  
dba Prairie River  
Retreat**

“ON”, “OFF” and “SUNDAY” Sale:

Sheryl Marie Ruhnke, d/b/a **Prairie River Retreat** – Shamrock Township  
 This establishment has an address of 51272 Lake Ave, McGregor, MN 55760

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Personal Committee Recommendation – Approve Hiring a Full-Time LLCC Manager.

**Approve Hiring a Full-Time LLCC Manager**

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Personal Committee Recommendation – Approve Front Desk Attendant.

**Approve Front Desk Attendant**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution –LRIP Grant Application – S.A.P. 001-617-004;

**Resolution #20210223-024 LRIP Grant Application - S.A.P. 001-617-004**

**WHEREAS**, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

**WHEREAS**, State Aid Project (SAP) No. 001-617-004 is an eligible resurfacing project on Aitkin County State-Aid Highway No. 17.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County hereby supports the application of SAP 001-617-004 for the Local Road Improvement Program.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution –LRIP Grant Application – S.A. 001-611-003;

**Resolution #20210223-025 LRIP Grant Application - S.P. 001-617-004**

**WHEREAS**, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

**WHEREAS**, State Project (SP) No. 001-611-003 is an eligible reconstruction project on Aitkin County State-Aid Highway No. 11.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County hereby supports the application of SP 001-611-003 for the Local Road Improvement Program.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – LRIP Grant Application – City of Aitkin – Bunker Hill Drive Project;

**Resolution #20210223-026 LRIP Grant Application – City of Aitkin – Bunker Hill Drive Project**

**WHEREAS**, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Aitkin desires to submit a grant application for the Local Road Improvement Program for their Bunker Hill Drive project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program requires that Aitkin County act as the sponsor for this project.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the Bunker Hill Drive project to accept, on behalf of the City of Aitkin, the Local

Road Improvement Program grant and to ensure that the project is performed in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution –LRIP Grant Application – Fleming Township – 328<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project;

**WHEREAS**, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

**WHEREAS**, Fleming Township desires to submit a grant application for the Local Road Improvement Program for a bituminous resurfacing project on 328<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program requires that Aitkin County act as the sponsor for this project.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the 328<sup>th</sup> Avenue project to accept, on behalf of Fleming Township, the Local Road Improvement Program grant and to ensure that the project is performed in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution –LRIP Grant Application – Shamrock Township – Long Point Place / Bridge Road Project;

**WHEREAS**, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

**WHEREAS**, Shamrock Township desires to submit a grant application for the Local Road Improvement Program for an improvement project on Long Point Place/Bridge Road, and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program requires that Aitkin County act as the sponsor for this project.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the Long Point Place/Bridge Road project to accept, on behalf of Shamrock Township, the Local Road Improvement Program grant and to ensure that the project is performed in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Letter of Support – City of Aitkin – Bunker Hill Project.

**Resolution  
#20210223-027  
LRIP Grant  
Application –  
Fleming  
Township – 328<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue Project**

**Resolution  
#20210223-028  
LRIP Grant  
Application –  
Shamrock  
Township – Long  
Point Place /  
Bridge Road  
Project**

**Approve Letter of  
Support – City of  
Aitkin – Bunker  
Hill Project**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Letter of Support – Fleming Township – 328<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project.

**Approve Letter of Support – Fleming Township – 328<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Letter of Support – Shamrock Township – Long Point Place / Bridge Road Project.

**Approve Letter of Support – Shamrock Township – Long Point Place / Bridge Road Project**

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voted to approve Aitkin Co. COVID Business Relief Grant Awards. Commissioner Brian Napstad Abstained.

**Approve Aitkin Co. COVID Business Relief Grant Awards**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members present voted to approve County Participation in Blandin Broadband Program.

**Approve County Participation in Blandin Broadband Program**

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

**Administrator Updates**

- Economic Development Meeting
- Aitkin Growth
- Union Negotiations
- Blandin Broadband Meeting
- House Property Tax Committee Meeting
- FEMA Flood Risk Review Meeting
- Policy Fellows Meeting
- Brownsfield Advisory Committee
- AMC Transportation & General Government
- Review of Bills to Watch
- NACO Update

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, (3-2 Westerlund, Marcotte) to adopt resolution – Clean Car Resolution;

**Resolution #20210223-029 Clean Car Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, Aitkin County is responsible for providing essential government services such as transportation infrastructure and solid waste management that promote a vibrant community;

**WHEREAS** Aitkin County works tirelessly to be good stewards of tax dollars and provide these programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner;

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of adopting California’s Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV)

mandates;

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of these rules is being conducted by rulemaking, which limits the scope of the discussion to a narrow set of issues, precluding a broader policy debate on the economic development, transportation, energy, and waste disposal impacts of the policy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Aitkin County supports legislative review of all regulations/laws/proposals of consequence that would bring harm to the culture and/or economy of rural Minnesota Counties.

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Aitkin County opposes the adoption of the proposed Minnesota Clean Car rule without including legislative review and encourages the Walz Administration to withdraw the proposed rule and submit the proposal to the Minnesota Legislature for review.

The Board discussed: AMC, Economic Development, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Facilities, Toward Zero Deaths.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to close the meeting at 1:14 p.m. under MN Statute 13D.03 Subd. 1(b) Labor Negotiations

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to reopen the meeting at 1:49 p.m.


Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 p.m. until Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Aitkin County Government Center.


**Board Discussion**

**Closed Meeting**

**Reopen Meeting**

**Adjourn**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator