

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of September, 2017 at 9:02 a.m. with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Commissioner Anne Marcotte was absent, as she was attending a NACO conference. County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried (4-0) to approve the September 26, 2017 agenda.

**APPROVED
AGENDA**

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2017**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of September, 2017 at 9:03 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Financial Services Technician Carli Goble, Social Services Supervisor-Children's Services Jessi Schultz, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services Kim Larson, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Carole Holten/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age, and Bob Harwarth/Citizen.

**HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES BOARD**

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the September 26, 2017 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the August 22, 2017 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble, Financial Services Technician, was introduced by Cynthia Bennett as the HHS Representative that will be presenting the bills and financial reports to the Board in the absence of a Financial Services Supervisor.

Was mentioned that there was a payment to McGregor Schools for \$15,000.00 to help pay for a guidance counselor from the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS). We act as fiscal agent for the LCTS and these dollars are pass through monies for this program.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the bills.

Health & Human Services Director Reports

Legislative Updates – Cynthia Bennett, H&HS Director reported that there has

been some momentum around paying for people in Regional Treatment Centers (RTC) and all of the Commissioners have been very supportive of the changes that need to be addressed on a state level with this issue. AMC is getting behind the necessary changes and there will be more discussions regarding this in the upcoming development of legislative platforms for 2018.

The Mental Health Initiative is working on hiring an individual to focus on community resource development and utilization. This person will assist with discharge planning and coordinate efforts for Region 5 counties to help facilitate discharges from the RTC to a community placement.

The Director developed pamphlet for Commissioner Marcotte, who is currently in Washington D.C., Commissioner Marcotte will relay the information that outlines how the proposed changes to the Affordable Healthcare Act will impact the state of MN and ultimately counties. If the proposed changes are made and the Prevention and Public Health fund is eliminated there will be no funding for the Local Public Health Grant that currently provides ACH&HS with \$57,986.00.

DHS Child Safety & Permanency Report Update – Cynthia reported getting a call from DHS complimenting H&HS on the great job the Child Welfare team has done on meeting these indicators. Congratulations were expressed to Supervisor Jessi Schultz and the entire Child Welfare team.

Redesign Committee Update – Cynthia reported that the committee had decided on a color palette for the offices and lobby. Funding for the lobby remake project is coming from incentive dollars from DHS. The usage of these dollars are restricted and must be used to enhance services for the individuals on the SNAP program. That the committee is looking at creating a more calming and relaxed environment in our lobby through the use of color choices, furniture styles, and possibly adding an aquarium. HHS has received a donation of a computer stand for clients to have access to a computer that might be utilized to email their worker or to fill out required forms.

– In addition to the physical environment Cynthia reported that HHS continues to work on building a positive work culture. Staff morale, attitudes and engagement are key to a healthy and productive setting. This includes finding ways to build leadership capacity and provide the tools necessary for staff to be successful in their positions. Outside resources for staff development are cost prohibitive so efforts have been made to find other ways to accomplish this. Cynthia reported that she has found a leadership development train the trainer course. She would complete the training and through this venue would be able to conduct staff development training within the HHS agency. These resources would also be available for all county departments if they were interested. In addition this could be offered as a service to our community partners such as CARE, or ANGELS. This is a good opportunity for the county and will put us in a nice position to offer further support to our partners in the community. Cynthia reported she is working with Administrator Jessica S. to develop a more detailed plan to move forward with this option.

Financial Reports

Carli Goble reviewed the financial statement for the board-

- 1) We are on budget overall.
- 2) Foster Care still a high cost.
- 3) Fund Balance has been decreasing over the course of the last few years.

4) We are where we should be for this time of year.

Contracts

- WIC Agreement between McGregor School District and ACH&HS- Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement.
- WIC Agreement between Hill City Assembly of God Church and ACH&HS- Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the bills.

Committee Reports

H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioner Westerlund and/or Pratt

- 1) Committee member Carole Holten and Roberta Elvecrog provided details of their last meeting, held September 6, 2017.
 - a. Explained that they were given a briefing by Jessi Goble, Financial Services Supervisor, about the cost of Medical Assistance when going into a nursing home or assisted living complex. Was a very informative briefing and Jessi has agreed to work with the Advisory Board to present it to more community members.
 - b. McGregor will be having a Health Fair on the evening of September 27th in their Community Center that involved a lot of collaboration between McGregor, ACH&HS, and Riverwood.
 - c. Cynthia mentioned that Riverwood Health Care Center applauded Brea Hamdorf and Hannah Colby from Public Health for their great work and noted how outstanding they had been to work with on the McGregor Health Fair.
 - d. Looking at setting up a community meal in the McGrath area possibly once a quarter.

NEMOJT Update – Commissioner Niemi

- 1) Discussion on meeting with employers in your area and finding out what skills are needed with the aim of some of our young adults staying and working here instead of leaving the area. Looking at meeting with schools to provide more job skill training.
- 2) Workforce Center may have a few less computers due to lack of funding.

Lakes and Pines – Commissioner Niemi

- 1) Funding for Fuel Assistance looks to be in good shape. Meeting in October to determine how it stands.
- 2) Ross is looking into working with them to do a windshield survey for the Small Cities Development Grant.

BEACON Meeting – Commissioner Westerlund

- 1) Was held at Long Lake Conservation Center September 19, 2017.
- 2) Stands for Building Effective and Collaborative Organizational Networks.
- 3) Meeting of all area agencies that provide community services to network and provide each other with information about what each other does.
- 4) Was very informative and well attended.

Next Meeting – October 24, 2017

Break: 9:40 a.m. to 10:03 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: September

**HHS BOARD
ADJOURNS**

BREAK

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

12, 2017 to September 25, 2017; B) Approve County Board Minutes: September 12, 2017; C) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$78,482.15, Road & Bridge \$48,192.31, Debt Service \$17,488.88, State \$750.00, Trust \$10,386.89, Forest Development \$1,382.27, Agency \$1,036.58, Long Lake Conservation Center \$11,938.51, Parks \$11,135.35 for a total of \$180,792.94; D) Approve Auditor Warrants – August Sales & Use Tax: General Fund \$616.42, Road & Bridge \$1,685.41, State \$9,647.00, Trust \$28.76, Forest Development \$-0.31, Long Lake Conservation Center \$21.40, Parks \$304.85 for a total of \$12,303.53; E) Approve 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant; F) Adopt Resolution: Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Grant 2018-2019; G) Adopt Resolution: Application for Repurchase of Tax Forfeited Property – Westphal

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0) to approve 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant and authorize signatures.

2017 EMPG GRANT

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0) to adopt resolution – Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Grant 2018-2019:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners approve the Fiscal Years 2018-2019 Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Grant Agreement on file in the Office of the County Auditor and authorize the Aitkin County Sheriff, County Board Chair and County Administrator to sign the agreement in the amount of \$24,462.00, amount being \$12,231.00 for each biennium, for the term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

**RESOLUTION
20170926-070
OFF-HIGHWAY
VEHICLE SAFETY
ENFORCEMENT
GRANT 2018-2019**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0) to adopt resolution – Application for Repurchase of Tax Forfeited Property - Westphal:

WHEREAS, Cynthia Westphal, a former owner 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
20170926-071
APPLICATION
FOR
REPURCHASE OF
TAX FORFEITED
PROPERTY -
WESTPHAL**

NE ¼ of NE ¼ less part in document 355255 Section 17 Township 45 Range 26

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

- a) a 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 for 2013 and 2015 were paid. Due to lack of employment my funds were scattered in earnings I was just starting to do work on my easement to gain access to the said property. This event has been very stressful and don't feel that it's fair to take a \$50,000.00 piece of land without full notice.
- b) that the repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest, because

I believe in keeping it as natural as possible. I don't do any construction during hunting season and am very mindful of the environmental footprint this land provides. I will never do any major development of this property, for it is prime hunting land that is conjoined with others property and will remain current on my taxes; promise.

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 Cynthia Westphal for the repurchase of the above described parcel of tax forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241 as amended.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (4-0) to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to accept the job evaluation consultant's recommendation of Grade 6 for the Assistant VSO position, with pay of \$20.24/hour effective September 26, 2017.

Bobbie Danielson, Human Resources Director reviewed the 2018 supplemental insurance bids with the Board. Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried (4-0) to accept the bids of Minnesota Life (life insurance), Dearborn National (short-term disability), Madison National (LTD), and EyeMed (vision plan), effective January 1, 2018, with the expectation that Minnesota Life extends the new guarantee issue from \$100k to \$200k for all employees, not just new hires.

Jessica Seibert, County Administrator discussed the following with the Board:

- 2018 MRC Dues Increase
- 2018 Preliminary Levy
- 2018 Public Budget Hearing
- Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project

Action taken:

2018 MRC Dues Increase

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried (4-0) to approve 2018 MRC dues of \$2,300.

2018 Preliminary Levy

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0) to adopt resolution – 2018 Preliminary Levy:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the preliminary Aitkin County tax levy for payable 2018 be set at \$13,503,444.00.

2018 Public Budget Hearing

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried (4-0) to schedule the 2018 Public Budget Hearing for 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December

**ASSISTANT VSO
JOB
CLASSIFICATION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INSURANCE BIDS**

**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR
REPORTS**

2018 MRC DUES

**RESOLUTION
20170926-072
2018
PRELIMINARY
LEVY**

**2018 PUBLIC
BUDGET
HEARING**

5, 2017.

Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi to adopt resolution – In Support of the Line 3 Replacement Project and Enbridge’s Proposed Route. Roll call vote, (3-1 Pratt). Resolution adopted:

WHEREAS, Enbridge has been operating safely and successfully in our state for more than 65 years, with hundreds of employees and contractors that live, work and raise their families here in Minnesota;

WHEREAS, significant improvements to the nation’s energy infrastructure are desperately needed in order to increase national security and energy independence and to ensure safe energy transportation;

WHEREAS, Enbridge places safety and environmental protection at the forefront of all its daily operations and major projects, and constantly improves procedures, technologies and training to reduce the potential for spills as well as improve results from remediation;

WHEREAS, Enbridge is currently investing more than \$2 billion in the Line 3 Replacement Project in Minnesota;

WHEREAS, the Line 3 Replacement Project will bring an additional tax revenue to the county, which will ease the burden for property owners;

WHEREAS, as a pump station community, the existing Enbridge infrastructure in our area provides good jobs, a strong tax base, and a good corporate neighbor;

WHEREAS, Line 3 Replacement will create approximately 1,500 family-sustaining jobs in Minnesota; about 50 percent hired from local union halls;

WHEREAS, any delay in the Line 3 Replacement Project, or any significant reroute, will prevent Aitkin County from benefiting from the significant positive economic impact that will result from this project;

WHEREAS, construction delays will limit the availability of employment for skilled craft workers;

WHEREAS, Enbridge has worked with all state and local authorities to determine the proposed route of the Line 3 Replacement across the state of Minnesota, respecting all impacts to people and the environment while fulfilling all applicable regulatory requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Aitkin County extends its support for Enbridge’s proposed Line 3 Replacement Project, their Preferred Route and their plan for deactivating the existing Line 3 and urges the Public Utilities Commission to adhere to an efficient permitting process for the Line 3 Replacement and to approve Enbridge’s proposed route;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Enbridge be recognized for its longstanding performance and continual efforts to protect the environment, wildlife and habitats, as well as the people who live in the communities in which it operates.

**RESOLUTION
20170926-073
IN SUPPORT OF
THE LINE 3
REPLACEMENT
PROJECT AND
ENBRIDGE’S
PROPOSED
ROUTE**

FISCAL NOTE: There is no direct cost to Aitkin County resulting from the adoption of this resolution.

The Board discussed: AMC Policy Meeting, ATV Public Input Meeting – Wagner Township, Budget Committee, MACCA, Mille Lacs Watershed, Watershed Mgmt. Group, BSLWMP, AIS, Public Land Mgmt. Workgroup, JCNRB, Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, and TZD.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m. until Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**BOARD
DISCUSSION**

ADJOURN



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



Jessica Seibert, County Administrator