October 11, 2022

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 11th day of October, 2022at 9:01 Call to Order a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Donald Niemi (arrived at 9:05 a.m.), Ann Marcotte (arrived at 9:20 a.m.), Brian Napstad, Laurie Westerlund, and Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle. Motion made by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and **Approved Agenda** carried, all voting yes to approve the October 11, 2022 agenda as amended removing 3A - Talon Metals Updated and Adding 3A - Deanna Pomije presenting Snake River Watershed Comprehensive Plan. Citizens' Public There was no Citizens' Public Comment Comment Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, **Consent Agenda** all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows. A) Correspondence File September 27, 2022 to October 10, 2022 B) Approve September 27, 2022 County Board Minutes C) Approve September 13, 2022 Amended County Board Minutes D) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers E) Approve Commissioner Vouchers F) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Auditor Warrants Paid 09.30.2022 G) Approve Manual Warrants – ELAN Paid 09.15.2022 H) Approve Manual Warrants – FSA Claims – September 2022 I) Approve Manual Warrants – LLCC Credit Card Fees – September 2022 J) Adopt Resolution: SR Donation – Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust K) Adopt Resolution: SR Donation - Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club L) Adopt Resolution: SR Donation - VFW Post 2747 - McGregor M) Adopt Resolution: SR Donation - Roberts-Glad VFW Post 1727 N) Adopt Resolution: LG230 Off-Site Gambling - Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club O) Adopt Resolution: Utility Easement P) Adopt Resolution: Set Time and Date of 2023 Timber Auctions Q) Adopt Resolution: Nikko Repurchase Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Resolution Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: SR #20221011-123 SR Donation - Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust **Donation Mille** Lacs Energy

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust \$2000.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows: Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust Aitkin County Search and Rescue **Community Trust**

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WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: SR Donation – Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club \$5000.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club Aitkin County Search and Rescue

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: VFW Post 2747 – McGregor

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

VFW Post 2747- McGregor \$1000.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

VFW Post 2747- McGregor Aitkin County Search and Rescue

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

Resolution #20221011-124 SR Donation Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

Resolution #20221011-125 SR Donation VFW Post 2747 McGregor

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Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: SR Donation Roberts Glad VFW 1727

Resolution #20221011-126 SR Donation Roberts-Glad VFW 1727

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Roberts-Glad VFW Post 1727-Aitkin

\$500.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Roberts-Glad VFW Post 1727-Aitkin

Aitkin County Search and Rescue

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted 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 4, 2023)

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Nikko Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property

WHEREAS, Earl Nikko, Owner at the time of forfeiture. (Applicant)

WHERAS, the Applicant 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:

Parcel # 10-0-059402

N 1/4 of the SE NE

Sect: 36

Twp: 49

Rge: 22

and WHEREAS, said Applicants 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:

Resolution #20221011-127 LG230 Off-Site Gambling – Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

Resolution #20221011-128 Nikko Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property We harvest fuelwood off the back land, and after so long we harvest the front while that regrows. It would be a financial hardship because without our back property our heating gas bill would increase to over \$3,000 dollars in a heating year. Because of how much firewood we use in a heating season, we cannot afford firewood from suppliers.

and WHEREAS, the Applicants have made payment of all delinquent taxes of properties

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the application of Earl Nikko 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 Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Set Time and Date of 2023 Timber Auctions

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on public auction, without the sale of land at 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2023 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on a sealed bid auction, without the sale of land at 2:00 p.m. on August 16, 2023 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on public auction, without the sale of land at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2023 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Utility Easement

Pursuant to the authority given to the undersigned County Auditor of Aitkin County, by the County Board of said County of Aitkin, as set forth in their resolution adopted by the County on October 11, 2022 to Lake Country Power of 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, a perpetual easement to construct and maintain a single-phase overhead powerline utility easement across the following Aitkin County managed lands:

The easement is described as follows:

A 40 foot wide easement for utility purposes over, under and across the following described parcels situated in Aitkin County, Minnesota:

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The South Half (S1/2) of Section Eight (8), Township Fifty-two (52) North, Range Twenty-six (26) West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian

AND

The North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N1/2 of NE1/4), Section Seventeen (17), Township Fifty-two (52) North, Range Twenty-six (26) West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian

The centerline of said easement is described as follows:

COMMENCING at the northeast corner of the South Half (S1/2) of Section Eight (8), Township Fifty-two (52) North, Range Twenty-six (26) West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian, and assuming the east line of said South Half to bear south 0 degrees 18 minutes 29 seconds East; thence North 88 degrees 55 minutes 16 seconds West, along the north line of said South Half, a distance of 29.30 feet to the point of beginning of the centerline to be described; thence South 0 degrees 07 minutes 26 seconds West a distance of 3979.22 feet to the south line of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N1/2 of NE1/4), Section Seventeen (17), Township Fifty-two (52) North, Range Twenty-six (26) West, of the Fourth Principal Meridian, and said centerline there terminating.

and,

WHEREAS, said applicant will be charged \$7,346 for the easement and timber charges as appraised by the County Land Commissioner, and

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Land Commissioner, after making an investigation of such application, has advised that he finds no objection to granting such permit and easement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 282.04, Subdivision 4, the County Auditor be and is hereby authorized to issue to Lake Country Power of 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, a perpetual easement to use said strips of land, if consistent with the law, as in the special conditions set forth herein,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said easement be granted, subject to the following terms, and conditions:

- The communication infrastructure shall be constructed and maintained by the grantee or permittee without any cost to the County of Aitkin and the land area shall be open for public use, as long as said easement is in force.
- 2. Any timber cut or destroyed shall be paid for at the usual rate as soon as determined by the Land Commissioner (timber within ROW has been included in the easement costs).

- 3. Aitkin County manages County owned and tax-forfeited lands to produce direct and indirect revenue for the taxing districts. This management includes the harvesting and extraction of timber, gravel, minerals, and other resources. The issuing and use of this easement shall not adversely affect the management and harvesting of timber and other resources on County owned and tax forfeited land. If for any reason, including township or county road construction or reconstruction, the easement needs to be relocated, the county and township will not be responsible for any relocation costs.
- 4. Any such easement may be canceled by resolution of the County Board for any substantial breach of its terms or if at any time its continuance will conflict with public use of the land, or any part thereof, on which it is granted, after ninety (90) days written notice, addressed to the record owner of the easement at the last known address.
- 5. Land affected by this easement may be sold or leased for any legal purpose, but such sale or lease shall be subject to this easement and excepted from the conveyance or lease, while such easement remains in force.
- 6. Failure to use the right of way described in this document for the purpose for which this easement is granted for a period of five (5) years, shall result in the cancellation of this easement and any rights granted to the grantee by this easement shall cease to exist and shall revert to the grantor.
- 7. Aitkin County manages the old railroad right of way for many purposes such as a motorized and non-motorized recreation trail, access to county managed and other lands for resource management purposes, including the harvesting of timber, extraction of gravel, peat, fill dirt, etc., and the mining and extraction of minerals. The issuing and use of this easement shall not adversely affect any other Aitkin County authorized uses of this strip of land.
- 8. During construction and/or laying of the fiber optics line, the lessee shall keep the traveled area of the old railroad grade clear of slash, trees, and dirt mounds. The lessee shall post and sign the area where constructing so that other users of this trail on the old railroad right of way are notified and aware of the construction work.
- 9. After construction, the lessee shall mark the location of the fiber optics line and shall return the land to the same condition as prior to issuing of the easement.

If the County shall make any improvements or changes on all or any part of its property upon which utilities have been placed by this permit, the utility owner

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shall, after notice from the County, change vacate, or remove from County property said works necessary to conform with said changes without cost whatsoever to the County

Deanna Pomije presented Snake River Watershed Comprehensive Plan.

Snake River Watershed Plan

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to approve – Summer Camp Stipend.

Summer Camp Stipend

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Job Description: Election Support Specialist (Auditor's Office).

Job Desc: Election Support Specialist

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Recommendation from Consultant (Assessment Tech – Assessor's Office)

Recommendation from Consultant: Assessment Tech - Assessors Office

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt Resolution – Submission of LATCF Grant Applicant.

Resolution #20221011-131 Submission of LATCF Grant Application

WHEREAS, Section 605 of the Social Security Act (the Act), added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), established the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), which provides for Treasury to pay \$2 billion to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible Tribal governments across fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for use on any governmental purpose except for a lobbying activity, and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is defined as an eligible revenue sharing county and is eligible to receive \$50,000 for FY 2022 and \$50,000 for FY 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, Kathleen Ryan, Aitkin County CFO/Chief Deputy Auditor, is authorized to request payment through the Treasury Submission Portal on behalf of Aitkin County.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voted to approve – FRF Request – Warrant Processing – ApplicationXtender – Workflow Manager

FRF Request – Warrant Processing – AppXtender

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Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried. **Letter of Support** all members voted to approve – Letter of Support for Huber Engineered Woods, LLC. for Huber **Engineered** Woods, LLC **Board Discussion** The Board discussed: NE Waste Advisory, Budget, Economic Development, NE Area Transportation, NCLUB, McGregor Airport, Lakes and Pines, MN Rural Counties, NRAC, Community Corrections Advisory, Aitkin Airport, HHS Advisory. Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, **Close Meeting** all members voted to close the meeting under MN Statute 13D.03 Subd.1(b) Negotiations **Under MN Statute** 13D.03 Subd.1(b) at 10:57 a.m. Labor **Negotiations** Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, **Reopen Meeting** all members voted to reopen the meeting at 11:56 a.m. Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all Adjourn members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m. until Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at the Aitkin County Government Center. Jessua Subort Smary below J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair Jessica Seibert Aitkin County Board of Commissioners County Administrator