

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 12-28-12

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures & Rules of Business

Requested Meeting Date: 1-8-13 Estimated Presentation Time: _____

Presenter: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion only with possible future action
- Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
- Approve/adopt proposal by motion
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) _____

Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)

- Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes _____ No _____ (attach explanation)
- What type of expenditure is this? Operating Capital Other (attach explanation)
- Revenue line account # that funds this item is: _____
- Expenditure line account # for this item is: _____

Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

- Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected. Yes No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision. Yes No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy. Yes No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level. Yes No



Supporting Attachment(s)

- Memorandum Summary of Item
- Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
- Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
- Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
- Bid/quote comparison worksheet
- Draft County Board resolution
- Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
- Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) _____

Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Wussow, Aitkin County Administrator

RE: 2013 Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures & Rules of Business

DATE: December 28, 2012

Each year the County Board adopts a resolution for the Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures & Rules of Business.

"The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures and Rules of Business" has been modified to reflect the schedule set for 2013, and to note that the Health & Human Services Board meetings are now included within the regular County Board meetings (highlighted in yellow). It also shows modifications which will clarify information that is currently found in two places, by putting all information into one place and providing consistency (red and red-line).

Staff has also prepared the attached flier for Board review. The intent of the document is to better educate residents who have never attended a Board meeting. The format comes from Washington County who found it be useful.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED January 8, 2013

By Commissioner: xx

010813-0xx

2013 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.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 8th day of January A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 8th day of January A.D., 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING PROCEDURES and
RULES OF BUSINESS**

Revised January 8, 2013

Welcome to this meeting of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners. We are extremely pleased that you have shown your interest in Aitkin County affairs by attending this meeting. It is the wish of the Board of Commissioners that interested citizens participate in the deliberations of its meetings and that residents of the county become aware of the procedures to be followed.

This pamphlet has been prepared to familiarize you with the function and the organization of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners and to outline for you the procedures that must be followed if you wish to actively participate in the meeting. We are pleased that you have decided to attend a meeting and we wish to invite you to attend our future meetings.

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Board Members

Your Board of Commissioners is composed of five members elected to serve over-lapping terms. The County Administrator serves as the recording clerk to the Board and prepares the agendas for consideration. The election of the Board members takes place on the first Tuesday in November of even numbered years and all members are elected by district. New Board members take office on the first Monday in January.

Your Board members this year are:

District I	J. Mark Wedel	(218) 927-6500
District II	Laurie Westerlund	(320) 684-2652
District III	Donald Niemi	(218) 927-9947
District IV	Brian Napstad	(218) 426-3008
District V	Anne Marcotte	(218) 256-0277

Board Meeting

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

Each Tuesday meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise posted, in the Commissioners Boardroom in the West Annex of the Aitkin County Courthouse, Aitkin, MN. The Health & Human Services Board meets the fourth Tuesday each month, except December when the meeting will be held on December 17th. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, the Health & Human Services Board meeting will convene following approval of the regular agenda.

The Chair or three members of the County Board may call special meetings. Such meetings shall be called with a twelve-hour advance notice to all available County Board members and members of the news media. If time will allow, published notice in the official newspaper shall also be given to the public. Notwithstanding any other requirements, notice shall be posted on bulletin boards located in the Courthouse lobby and outside the County Administrator's office, along with the County's website, www.co.aitkin.mn.us. Notices shall specify 1) the specific item or items to be considered at the special meeting, and (2) the date, times, and places of the meeting. Special meetings of the County Board shall be held in the Courthouse unless the County Board has determined that other facilities are to be used. All special meetings of the County Board shall be limited to the specific item or items set forth in the notice.

In the event that an emergency meeting is needed, the Board will make a good faith effort to provide notice of the meeting to the media, as required by M.S. 13D.04, Subd. 3.

All meetings of the full Board (regular, special, emergency and adjourned) are open to the public. In fact, the public is urged to attend.

Board Actions

A majority of the members of the County Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chair shall be a member of the County Board and shall have the right to vote on all matters coming before it, but shall have no veto power. If the vote of the Chair creates a tie, the motion shall fail.

The Board of Commissioners has complete and final control over County matters subject only to the limitation imposed by law, and of course, ultimately the will of the local residents.

Public Participation at Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners will follow a standard agenda. Items not placed on the agenda may be considered at the meeting upon agreement of the members of the Board present. To place an item on the agenda, the following procedures should be used:

The applicant should file a written request with the **County Administrator's Office** at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting. The request should include the name, address and telephone number of the person or persons making the request; a statement describing the action the applicant wishes the Board to take and background information outlining the reasons for the request. **The County Administrator shall enter the item on the County Board agenda in a work summary adequate to alert the public as to the nature of the matter to be discussed. If the County Administrator is unable to prepare a summary from the information received, the County Administrator may refuse to place the matter on the agenda.**

The Board of Commissioners desires public participation at its meetings but at the same time has the responsibility for conducting its business in an orderly fashion. The Chairperson will provide the audience with an opportunity to provide their comments or propose an agenda item for future consideration. This will be done at the beginning of the meeting.

After presentation of the comments, the Board may discuss the comments. After Board discussion, members of the audience shall have an opportunity to be heard prior to Board action.

Each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes for his/her presentation unless the time limit is waived by a majority of the Board members present. When there are a large number of speakers to be heard, the Board of Commissioners may shorten this time. Interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of Board of Commissioners' business cannot be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. The presiding officer (Chairperson) may terminate the speaker's privilege of address, if after being called to order, he/she persists in improper conduct or remarks.

At a public meeting of the Board, no person shall orally initiate charges or complaints against individual employees of the County (due to laws governing data practices) or debate any subjects under jurisdiction of the courts. All such charges, if presented to the Board directly, shall be referred to the County Administrator's Office for investigation and report.

No action will be taken on any item not considered a part of the agenda on the same day it is presented unless action is considered necessary by a majority of the Board.

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD RULES OF BUSINESS

Rule 1. Presiding Officer. Roll Call.

The Chair, or in the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair of the County Board shall take the chair at the time appointed for the meeting and call the County Board to order.

Rule 2. Quorum.

A majority of the members of the County Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Rule 3. Minutes.

The County Administrator shall prepare written copies of the minutes of the preceding session or sessions of the County Board and distribute them to its members no later than the start of its current session, unless otherwise notified. One or more copies of the minutes shall be available in the Office of the County Administrator for examination by members of the public. Upon the appearance of a quorum at a County Board meeting, the Chair shall inquire of the County Board whether they wish to approve, disapprove, or amend the minutes of the previous session or sessions of the County Board as prepared by the County Administrator. Any mistake or omission in the minutes may then be corrected by the County Board. In addition, all meetings will be recorded and kept securely by the office of the County Administrator.

Rule 4. Order of Business.

The Chair or presiding officer of the County Board shall preserve order and decorum. Upon the appearance of a quorum at a County Board meeting, the Chair shall inquire of the County Board whether they wish to approve, disapprove, or amend the agenda as prepared by the County Administrator.

Agenda Preparation: The County Administrator shall prepare a written agenda in advance of all regular County Board meetings in consultation with the Board Chairperson and shall place Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures, Approval of Agenda, and Citizens' Public Comment as the first five items; thereafter, other items of business ~~in~~ shall be presented in the order deemed best by the County Administrator or as directed by the County Board.

~~Request for Board Action: Members of the public wishing to place an item of business on the agenda shall advise the County Administrator of the particular item of business no later than Noon of the Wednesday immediately preceding the County Board meeting. The person making the request shall furnish sufficient details on the nature of the item to be discussed. The County Administrator shall enter the item on the County Board agenda in a work summary adequate to alert the public as to the nature of the matter to be discussed. If the County Administrator is unable to prepare a summary from the information received, the County Administrator may refuse to place the matter on the agenda.~~

Rule 5. Recognition by Chair.

Every County Board member or member of the public shall respectfully address the Chair by the appellation of "Chair" followed by the Chair's surname, and shall not speak further until recognized by the Chair. Once a member of the audience has been recognized by the Chair as requesting to address the County Board, the Chair shall require the individual to identify themselves by stating their name and address.

Rule 6. Designation by Chair.

When two or more members request to speak, the Chair or presiding officer shall designate who is first to speak, but in all cases the member who shall first address the Chair shall speak first.

Rule 7. Presentment of Petitions and Communication.

Petitions and communications on the agenda may be presented by a member of the County Board or by either the Secretary or County Administrator.

Rule 8. Voting. Excuse. Failure.

When a question is put by the Chair, every member present shall vote; unless the County Board, for special reason, shall excuse a member prior to the calling of the roll or a legal conflict of interest prohibits a member from voting. Any member, who being present when his or her name is called, fails to vote upon any then pending proposition, unless previously excused by the County Board, shall be counted as having voted in the positive. The Chair will conduct a roll call vote at the request of any member of the Board.

Rule 9. Calling Vote.

The ayes and nays shall be called upon the passage of ordinances. Unless a member requests, or is designated by Statute, other items will be by voice vote. When a vote is called for and a County Board member is silent, the County Board will be recorded as voting in the affirmative on the question. A member may demand a roll call vote at any time prior to the assumption of other business.

Rule 10. Public Hearing Procedure.

Prior to any public hearing, the Chair or presiding officer shall establish the following rules as part of their introduction to the hearing:

- 1) The Chair will remind all parties of the County Board Rules of Business.
- 2) The presenter of the issue/item/proposal will present the entire issue/item/proposal and any proposed amendments prior to taking any testimony by the citizens or the County Board.
- 3) The County Board shall have the opportunity to discuss the issue/item/proposal and ask any questions they may have of the presenter immediately after the presentation of the issue/item/proposal.
- 4) There will be a public comment period where the audience will have the opportunity to provide comments or questions on the issue/item/proposal after the County Board has discussed the issue/item/proposal. Time limits may be set as to allow for appropriate public comment. Repetitive comments will be discouraged.
- 5) After the public comment period the County Board will discuss the issue/item/proposal and select the appropriate action for the issue/item/proposal.

Rule 11. Ordinances. Procedure.

Every proposed ordinance shall be considered at two separate regular sessions of the County Board. Amendments may be offered at either meeting when the ordinance is under consideration. Amendment to any section may be made and acted upon at any time up to the final passage. If amendments are made, the sections of the ordinance amended shall be read as amended before the question of its passage is taken. Approval of the

second reading of the ordinance shall constitute final adoption of said ordinance. When a proposed ordinance fails to pass, a motion to reconsider the same may be made, but such motion must be made at the session at which the same failed to pass and action thereupon shall be postponed to the next regular session.

Rule 12. Absent Member.

Every member of the County Board about to leave the County during which period a County Board meeting is scheduled to be held shall notify the County Administrator.

Rule 13. Journal.

It shall be the duty of the County Administrator to keep the journal of the proceedings of the County Board and perform such duties as may be required by Minnesota Statutes. The County Administrator shall not allow the official journal of the County to be taken from the custody of the County Administrator without the knowledge and consent of the County Board. The approved minutes will be the official record of the County Board meetings. In addition, recorded copies of the proceeding will be securely kept by the Office of the County Administrator for a period of four years.

Rule 14. Robert's Rules of Order.

The rules of parliamentary practice, embraced in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the County Board in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Standing Rules of the County Board.

Rule 15. Conduct.

Any County Board member, employee, or citizen may be asked to cease their comments, sit down, leave the premises, leave by law enforcement escort, or get arrested for not following the County's policies of mutual respect,

harassment, and violence in the workplace. The Chair, or presiding officer shall enforce the conduct policy. Any member of the County Board, or the County Administrator can ask for the enforcement of this policy or recess in the meeting when it becomes apparent that the policies are not being followed. Some general things for which the policy may be enforced include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Being in attendance under the influence of intoxicant or non-prescription illegal drugs, or using such substances while on County property.
- 2) Conduct which violated the common decency or morality of individuals.
- 3) Commission of a felony or gross misdemeanor.
- 4) Violating safety rules and regulations.
- 5) Speaking or making derogatory or false accusations so as to discredit other individuals.
- 6) The use of profanity or abusive language towards any individual.
- 7) Harassment or discrimination.
- 8) Speaking without being recognized by the Chair.

Rule 16. Suspension or Amendment of Rules.

No rule of the County Board shall be suspended, altered, or rescinded except upon the affirmation vote of a quorum of the County Board, unless notice of such change shall have been given at a previous meeting in which case only a majority shall be required.

Rule 17. Notice of Agenda.

The regular County Board meeting agendas shall be provided to the official County newspaper, posted on bulletin boards outside the County Administrator's office ~~and in the Courthouse lobby~~, and posted on the County's website, www.co.aitkin.mn.us to provide the public with timely and accurate notice of regular County Board meetings.

THESE RULES SHALL TAKE EFFECT and be in force from and after their adoption by the County Board, and any and all prior rules are hereby rescinded.

Aitkin County Department Heads

Administrator	Patrick Wussow	927-7276
Assessor	Mike Dangers	927-7327
Attorney	Jim Ratz	927-7347
Auditor	Kirk Peysar	927-7354
Engineer	John Welle	927-3741
Environmental Services	Terry Neff	927-7342
Health & Human Services	Tom Burke	927-7200
Human Resources	Bobbie Danielson	927-7306
Land Commissioner	Mark Jacobs	927-7364
Long Lake Conservation Center Exec. Director	(Vacant)	768-4653
MN Extension Service		
Information Technology	Steve Bennett	927-7345
Recorder	Diane Lafferty	927-7336
Sheriff	Scott Turner	927-7400
Treasurer	Lori Grams	927-7325

Send Inquiries to:

Aitkin County Administrator's Office
Attn: Patrick Wussow
217 2nd St. NW – Room 134
Aitkin, MN 56431

2013 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1: J. Mark Wedel

515 6th Ave SE

Aitkin, MN 56431

Home: 218-927-6500

mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us

Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund

30517 270th Lane

Aitkin, MN 56431

Home: 320-684-2652

laurie.westerlund@co.aitkin.mn.us

Term: 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi

32340 State Hwy 47

Aitkin, MN 56431

Home: 218-927-9947

don.niemi@co.aitkin.mn.us

Term: 2011-2014

District 4: Brian Napstad

51227 Long Point Place

McGregor, MN 55760

Home: 218-426-3008

brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us

Term: 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte

P.O. Box 192

Hill City, MN 55748

Home: 218-256-0277

anne.marcotte@co.aitkin.mn.us

Term: 2011-2014

The Aitkin County Boardroom has WiFi to make it easier for the public to follow along with the Board meeting. Passwords are posted in the Boardroom.



Board Meeting Guide

Questions?

Contact:

Patrick Wussow

Aitkin County Administrator

217 2nd Street NW, Rm. 134

Aitkin, MN 56431

218-927-7276

About the Meetings

The public is invited to attend and participate in Aitkin County Board meetings. See the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Meeting schedule for meeting dates. The Aitkin County Boardroom is disability accessible, and assisted-listening devices are available to the public.

Meeting Format

During Board meetings, the commissioners develop policy, make decisions, and make or amend laws for governing the county. The agenda and Board packets of upcoming and previous meetings may be viewed online. The order of events are as follows:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures**
4. **Approval of Agenda**
5. **Citizens' Public Comments** – The Board Chair invites residents in the audience to share their concerns about subjects not on the meeting agenda. Comments must be respectful, informational in nature and not exceed five (5) minutes per person. The Board may ask the County Administrator to prepare a response to any questions or concerns raised.
6. **Consent Agenda** – The Consent Agenda covers routine administrative subjects. These

items are reviewed by the commissioners and the County Administrator prior to each meeting. An item may be pulled by a commissioner for discussion at a later time.

7. **Departmental or Program Items** – County departments and community organizations report items to the Board, present awards, or ask for Board approval or direction on a county action.
8. **Board Reports** – Each commissioner reports on his or her recent activities and asks questions of county staff. Any resulting required action is scheduled for a future Board meeting.
9. **Adjournment** – Following the meeting, a workshop may be scheduled for the Board, county staff, and others to discuss pending projects and programs and to receive updates.

Public Hearings/Hearings

Public Hearings, which are separate items of business on the agenda, give residents the opportunity to express their opinions and solutions to the Board on county issues. Notice of the public hearings is published in the official county newspaper, at least 10 days before the public hearing.

Public Hearing procedures are as follows:

- County staff introduces the public hearing subject
- Board Chair opens the hearing to the public
- Speakers from the public make presentations
- Board Chair closes public hearing
- Commissioners discuss the public hearing subject
- Commissioners take action or schedule a public hearing continuation date; the date and time is published in the county's legal newspaper

Hearings are different from Public Hearings and do not require public notification (i.e. dog hearings).

Closed Sessions

Closed Sessions are meetings that are closed to the public. State law allows such meetings on a limited range of subjects, such as actual or threatened litigation or labor negotiation strategy.

Respectful Behavior

Aitkin County is committed to respectful behavior in the Boardroom. No name-calling or abusive language is permitted. Disrespectful behavior may result in being asked to leave the Boardroom. Comments from speakers may be curtailed by the Board Chair if the speaker is overly argumentative, redundant, or repetitive.