

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015 at 9:02 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Brian Napstad, Anne Marcotte, County Administrator Nathan Burkett, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the October 13, 2015 agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: September 22, 2015 to October 12, 2015; B) Approve County Board Minutes: September 22, 2015; C) Approve Committee of the Whole Minutes: September 29, 2015; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$102,903.12, Road & Bridge \$48,180.13, Health & Human Services \$270.60, Trust \$19,178.73, Forest Development \$16,290.19, Long Lake Conservation Center \$7,260.35, Parks \$25,717.02 for a total of \$219,800.14; E) Approve September Manual Warrants: General Fund \$8,733.24, Road & Bridge \$677,572.40, Health & Human Services \$2,077.29, State \$48,743.56, Forest Development \$530.00, Agency \$138,140.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$2,102.54, Parks \$40.00 for a total of \$877,939.03; F) Adopt Resolution – Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club Form LG230; G) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Municipal Order or Warrant – Treasurer’s Office: Check #60699 for \$680.21 to Sappi; H) Approve Dangerous Dog Animal Control Authority Delegation; I) Approve Equipment Purchase – Highway Department

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club Form LG230:

**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 C R 6 on Lake Minnewawa, McGregor, MN 56431– Shamrock Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – February 13, 2016)

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve General Operations Policy, Article X – Public Safety, Section A. Animal Control Authority, Dangerous Dog Hearing Officer, as presented.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve Highway Department’s budgeted purchase of a 2007 Ford F-150 from Mills Motor in Baxter for \$16,680.00, and to authorize the sale of Unit #442 and a tonneau cover.

John Welle, County Engineer reviewed the Highway Department’s 2016-2020 Capital Road Improvement Plan with the Board. No action was taken at this time. The Board asked that the County Administrator gather data on wheelage tax and sales tax for discussion at a future Board meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVED AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION  
20151013-058  
MINNEWAWA  
SPORTSMEN’S  
CLUB FORM  
LG230**

**DANGEROUS  
DOG ANIMAL  
CONTROL  
AUTHORITY**

**EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASE –  
HIGHWAY DEPT**

**2016-2020  
CAPITAL ROAD  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN**

Matthew Hill, CARE Director, updated the Board on Aitkin County CARE's programs and services, and answered questions.

Nathan Burkett, County Administrator reviewed with the Board the resolution Mille Lacs County passed in an effort to help seasonal commercial properties affected by the MN DNR's early closing of the 2015 walleye fishing season on Mille Lacs Lake. The Board made modifications to create a similar resolution for Aitkin County.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte to adopt resolution – 2015 Tax Penalty Abatement Policy for Commercial Property. Roll call vote. Resolution passed (3-0-1 Westerlund abstained, Wedel opposed).

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes Sec. 279.01 provides that the due date for taxes is May 15 and a penalty accrues thereafter, but also provides that "this penalty does not accrue until June 1 of each year on commercial use real property used for seasonal residential recreational purposes and classified as class 1c or 4c, and on other commercial use real property classified as class 3a, provided that over 60 percent of the gross income earned by the enterprise on the class 3a property is earned during the months of May, June, July, and August. In order for the first half of the tax due on class 3a property to be paid after May 15 and before June 1 without penalty, the owner of the property must attach an affidavit to the payment attesting to compliance with the income provision of this subdivision."; and

**WHEREAS**, Mille Lacs Lake area businesses within Aitkin County have experienced economic loss due to the early closing of the 2015 walleye fishing season on Mille Lacs Lake by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on August 3, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners wishes to extend a payment extension provision for second half payments payable in 2015 as is provided for first half payments for commercial use real property used for seasonal residential recreational purposes and classified as class 1c or 4c, and on other commercial use real property classified as class 3a; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 279.01, Subd. 2 provides that the county board may, with the concurrence of the county treasurer, delegate to the county treasurer the power to abate the penalty provided for late payment of taxes in the current year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Aitkin County Treasurer to accept second half 2015 property tax payments on commercial use real property used for seasonal residential recreational purposes in Hazelton, Wealthwood, Malmo and Lakeside Townships and classified as class 1c or 4c, and on other commercial use real property classified as class 3a.

To qualify, submit sales tax receipts or other documentation demonstrating loss of revenue comparing monthly revenue between August 2014 and August 2015 and/or September 2014 and September 2015

Nathan Burkett, County Administrator discussed with the Board the opportunity for Minnesota counties to choose whether to have annual audits conducted by the State Auditor's Office or by a CPA firm, noting that this option goes into effect August 1, 2016, with 2017 being the first year an annual audit may be conducted by a CPA firm. The Board directed that a contract with

**CARE UPDATE**

**MILLE LACS  
COUNTY TAX  
PENALTY  
ABATEMENT  
RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION  
20151013-059  
2015 TAX  
PENALTY  
ABATEMENT  
POLICY FOR  
COMMERCIAL  
PROPERTY**

**ANNUAL AUDITS  
2017 & BEYOND**

the State Auditor's Office not be signed at this time.

Bobbie Danielson, HR Director and Nathan Burkett, County Administrator updated the Board on 2016 Health Insurance options. John Kelly, Ben Rasmussen, and Andrew Gurbada from NexBen were also in attendance to answer questions about the Hybrid plan being considered. John Welle, County Engineer; Tom Burke, Health & Human Services Director; and Steve Bennett, IT Director voiced their opinions and concerns. The Board consensus was to proceed with gathering more data and to present all documents necessary to transition employee health insurance benefits to the Hybrid plan. A decision will be made at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Marcotte left at 12:36 p.m.

The Board reported on the following: Economic Development, ATV, COTW, McGregor Airport, NEWAC, BSLA, MRCC, ARDC, MACCAC, HRA, Park Tour, Mille Lacs Fisheries Input Group, Historical Society, Aitkin Airport, LMC, Employee Appreciation, and AIS.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (4-0 Marcotte absent), all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. until Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

**HEALTH  
INSURANCE**

**MARCOTTE LEFT**

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

**ADJOURN**

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J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Nathan Burkett, County Administrator