

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 25th day of April, 2017 at 9:03 a.m. with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Bill Pratt, Anne Marcotte, County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

**CALL TO ORDER**

A moment of silence was held for Dick Siemers, former Aitkin County Commissioner, who proudly served as Commissioner for two years.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the April 25, 2017 agenda.

**APPROVED AGENDA**

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 25, 2017**

**HEALTH &  
HUMAN  
SERVICES  
BOARD**

**Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 25th day of April, 2017 at 9:05 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, Bill Pratt, and Anne Marcotte. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Fiscal Supervisor Kathleen Ryan, Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Social Service Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Child Support Supervisor Ruth Sundermeyer, Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham, and Guests: Bob Marcum and Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Members, Adam Hoogenakker/Aitkin Independent Age, and Citizen Georgia Johnson.

**Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the April 25, 2017 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

**Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the March 28, 2017 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

**Bills**

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

**Director Reports**

Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director updated the Board on the following:

**1. AMC Leadership Summit**

Cynthia gave a brief summary on the benefits of this training. The summit was informative and focused on action. Attendees were encouraged to actively work on improving their leadership qualities. In addition, leaders were given tools that would assist with developing a plan to build a culture of leadership within their organization.

**2. Legislative Updates**

No significant legislative decisions at this time. The legislature reconvened last week and conference committee members will be identifying target spending goals and will then proceed to reconcile the house and senate proposals.

**3. 1:1 Meetings with Employees**

Cynthia reported that she has conducted around 50 1:1 meetings with HHS employees. These were very positive and informative sessions. Her conversations confirmed that all the employees are fully dedicated and committed to the services they provide and the individuals they serve. This commitment and dedication is a positive for our communities and wanted this to be known to our commissioners.

**METS Video**

Jessi Goble, Financial Services Supervisor showed the Board a video on METS - Minnesota Eligibility Technical System - System of Record.

**Contract**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve contract with Presbyterian Family Foundation for Guardianship Services.

**Financial Reports**

Kathleen Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor reviewed the Health & Human Services 5-Year Trend, Financial Report, and Foster Care Report with the Board.

**Joint Powers Board Reports**

- Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS)

**Committee Reports**

- H&HS Advisory Committee
- CJI (Children's Justice Initiative)

**Next Meeting – May 23, 2017**

Break: 10:12 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

Robert Harwarth, Aitkin County resident, voiced his concerns about the proposed building project, and stated he will be presenting a petition for a reverse referendum.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: April 11, 2017 to April 24, 2017; B) Approve County Board Minutes: April 11, 2017; C) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$92,267.75, Road & Bridge \$26,812.71, State \$270.00, Trust \$42,826.07, Forest Development \$16,950.41, Long Lake Conservation Center \$8,665.88, Parks \$35,619.26 for a total of \$223,412.08; D) Approve Auditor Warrants - March Sales & Use Tax: General Fund \$732.84, Road & Bridge \$411.10, State \$7,283.00, Trust \$1.29, Long Lake Conservation Center \$39.69, Parks \$113.53 for a total of \$8,581.45; E) Adopt Resolution: 2017 State Boat & Water Agreement Grant; F) Accept Resignation - Elizabeth DeRuyck, Community Corrections Director; G) Approve Consumption & Display Permit - Larson's Barn; 2H) Approve 3.2

**HHS BOARD  
ADJOURNS**

**BREAK**

**CITIZENS PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Malt Liquor Licenses; I) Adopt Resolution: Form LG220 - The Hennepin Health Foundation; J) Accept \$250 Donation to STS from Logan Township; K) Adopt Resolution: Project Sponsor - City of Aitkin; L) Adopt Resolution: Snowmobile / Ski Trail Funding; M) Adopt Resolution: Repurchase Application Tax Forfeited Land - Becker; N) Approve Request to Use Courthouse Property

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - 2017 State Boat & Water Agreement Grant:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners approve the 2017 State of Minnesota Federal Supplemental Boating Safety Patrol 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 \$6,375.00 for the term of May 12, 2017, through September 4, 2017.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following Application for Consumption & Display (Set Up) Permit:

Larson, Leonard and Kathy, d/b/a Larson's Barn - Workman Township

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following 3.2 Malt Liquor Licenses for a period ending April 30, 2018:

**OFF Sale:**

- KRIM15, LLC, d/b/a **(The) Junction** – Hazelton Township

**ON Sale:**

- Danny J. Volk, d/b/a **Hidden Meadows** – Unorg 48-27 Township
- Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club Inc., d/b/a **Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club** – Shamrock Township

**ON & OFF Sale:**

- Dean H. Hanson, d/b/a **Agate Bay Resort** – Lakeside Township
- Kulifaj Resorts Inc., d/b/a **The Red Door Resort & Motel** – Wealthwood Township

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - Form LG220 - The Hennepin Health Foundation:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application for Exempt Permit – Form LG220 – of the Hennepin Health Foundation, at the following location – VFW, which has an address of 36558 410th Avenue – Aitkin Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – June 24, 2017)

**RESOLUTION  
20170425-029  
2017 STATE BOAT  
& WATER  
AGREEMENT  
GRANT**

**CONSUMPTION &  
DISPLAY PERMIT  
LARSON'S BARN**

**3.2 MALT LIQUOR  
LICENSES**

**RESOLUTION  
20170425-030  
FORM LG220 -  
THE HENNEPIN  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - Project Sponsor - City of Aitkin:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Aitkin desires to submit a grant application for the Local Road Improvement Program for the 1st Street NW- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW reconstruction project, and

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

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the 1st Street NW- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW reconstruction 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.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - Snowmobile / Ski Trail Funding:

**WHEREAS**, Local units of government can apply for State aide for trail development, maintenance, grooming and administration from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at the rate of 65% reimbursement of the cost of trail maintenance and 90% reimbursement of costs of grooming, and

**WHEREAS**, Aitkin County does not have the facilities to maintain the entire trail system in Aitkin County, and

**WHEREAS**, Snowmobile clubs have maintained these trails in the past, and wish to contract with the County for maintaining trails during the 2017-2018 winter season, and

**WHEREAS**, these trails benefit the winter recreation, resort, industry, and economy of Aitkin County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Trail Administrator be authorized to apply for Grants in Aide assistance funds for snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming, and ski trail maintenance and grooming for the following trails.

Aitkin Sno-Drifters Trails
McGrath/Finlayson Trails
Tamarack Trails
Haypoint Trails
Palisade Trails
Mille Lacs Trails

**RESOLUTION  
20170425-031  
PROJECT  
SPONSOR - CITY  
OF AITKIN**

**RESOLUTION  
20170425-032  
SNOWMOBILE /  
SKI TRAIL  
FUNDING**

No Achen / LLCC ski trails

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Trail Administrator be authorized to contract for the 2017-2018 winter season for the development, maintenance, and grooming of the aforementioned trails with each of the corresponding interested clubs.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution - Repurchase Application Tax Forfeited Land - Becker:

**WHEREAS**, William J. Becker and Terri L. Becker the former owners have 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:

West 330 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE-NW) less r/w Section Fourteen (14) Township Fifty-two (52) Range Twenty-six (26)

And **WHEREAS**, said applicant has set forth in their application, that

- a) *Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:* Unfortunately it was a miscommunication between three parties when paying off the mortgage. We would never intentionally not paid our taxes. We are law abiding citizens of Aitkin County and have made this our home for 23 years. The lawyer dropped the ball in this snowball effect and we are deeply sorry for this. We have made our roots here and would appreciate if you please let us stay.
- b) *That the repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest, because:* My husband and I take pride in our community. Being involved in Hill City Chamber, Lion's Club and being the Commander of the American Legion Post of Hill City and Past President of the Auxillary. Our children went to the school here. We have done a lot for Hill City and plan to do so in coming years. We have kept our property almost like a park like setting. And we get a lot of compliments on this. Please consider this in making your decision. Thank you.

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 William J Becker and Terri L. Becker 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 Statues 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

Tom Whiteside with Representative Nolan's Office updated the Board on current legislation and answered questions.

Mike Dangers, County Assessor reviewed the 2017 Assessment Summary with the Board.

**RESOLUTION  
20170425-033  
REPURCHASE  
APPLICATION  
TAX FORFEITED  
LAND - BECKER**

**FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE  
UPDATE**

**ASSESSMENT  
SUMMARY**

Bobbie Danielson, Human Resources Director presented Personnel Committee Recommendations:

**1. Interview Panel for Community Corrections Director**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to authorize Community Corrections Director interview panel as proposed.

**2. Restructure of Community Corrections**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to authorize restructuring within the Community Corrections as proposed.

**3. Land Department Office Support**

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to hire a new FT Land Department Office Support position.

It was noted that this authorization includes submitting three positions for re-evaluations.

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

- Goal Setting/Strategic Planning
- 1st Quarter Financial Report
- 2018 Budget Schedule & Process
- Quotes for Cleaning Jail Duct Work

The Board expressed an interest in Strategic Planning, but felt the timing isn't right due to the proposed building project. Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting to table the topic of Strategic Planning.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve quote from Dust Busters Furnace & Duct Cleaning, Inc. for cleaning jail duct work at a cost of \$24,994.00.

The Board discussed: Arrowhead Counties, Mississippi Headwaters Board, ARDC, AMC Leadership Meeting, Association of Townships, Big Sandy Lake Watershed, AIS, TZD, Facilities, Aitkin County Community Corrections, and Sobriety Court.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 p.m. until Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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 Jessica Seibert, County Administrator

**PERSONNEL  
 COMMITTEE**

**COUNTY  
 ADMINISTRATOR  
 UPDATES**

**STRATEGIC  
 PLANNING  
 PROPOSAL**

**JAIL DUCT WORK**

**BOARD  
 DISCUSSION**

**ADJOURN**