

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2019 at 9:01 a.m., at the Aitkin Public Library, with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Bill Pratt, County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham. Commissioner Laurie Westerlund was absent.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the October 22, 2019 amended agenda. Agenda Items 4.5 – Teen Driver Safety Grant Agreement, and 4.6 – Hillyard Lease Agreement, were added.

**APPROVED  
AGENDA**

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 22, 2019**

**HEALTH &  
HUMAN  
SERVICES  
BOARD**

**Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2019, at 9:02 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Commissioner Westerlund was absent. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Kim Larson Adult Social Services Supervisor, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, H&HS Executive Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Carole Holten/HHS Advisory Board Member, Terri Mathis/HHS Advisory Board Member, and /Aitkin Independent Age.

**Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the October 22, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

**Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the September 24, 2019 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

**Bills**

Carli noted that there was nothing notable on the bills this month.

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

**Health & Human Services Director Report, Cynthia Bennett, ACH&HS Director**

Cynthia began by giving an update on her attendance of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) district meeting and relayed there was a presentation on "Bridging the Divide" which was about reaching consensus when there are opposing opinions, values, or beliefs. This preceded a conversation on the Transportation funding gap and how we might to come to consensus over how to close the \$200 million gap between what the state pays to the counties and what it actually costs the counties for transportation

The format utilized was a new approach and the attending Commissioners worked in small groups to do some brainstorming, problem solving, and then reach consensus about how

we move forward to develop a plan to fill the funding gap for transportation. Commissioners commented that this was very valuable to listen to varying opinions and solutions and work together to find consensus.

The group also voted on the proposed legislative platform issues. The group selected three priorities which were:

1. To promote legislation that preserves the tax base in response to increased property tax appeals, utility tax refunds, and potential dark store assessing practices. This priority relates to our county by the impact of the Enbridge Utility Company refund that we could have to pay.
2. To promote a sustainable approach to payment of PILP funds that includes proposals to address instability in PILP payments and acquired acres land. Payments to PILP have been stagnant in recent years and have not had any increases along with the cost of living and inflation and counties have lost tax base because of that. AMC's proposal asks for an increase in revenues to figure out a way to make it consistent so we are not losing money in that area.
3. AMC supports a comprehensive and sustainable transportation funding package that includes new revenues for roads, bridges, and transit. This involves asking for sustainable investment options from the legislature to help counties plan for future projects and address the growing needs at the local level.

Commissioner Marcotte remarked that she thought the conversation was very open and the willingness to participate was beyond what she had expected.

Commissioner Pratt added that the meeting showed that if you are willing to listen to others viewpoints it will greatly increase the probability of coming to a consensus.

Commissioner Marcotte added that conversations at the AMC board meeting the HHS Policy Committee Chair indicated that there are a great deal of hot issues to discuss within HHS that have not necessarily been settled yet. AMC is including the Sunday night before the conference in December for extra time for that group to meet and further discuss.

Lastly Commissioner Marcotte talked about her discussion with the Minnesota Attorney General about the prices of Insulin and that he was making it one of his top priorities to work on but there is a potential for legislation or a special session relating to the Insulin prices specifically. She state that AMC supports anything that can be done related to this issue.

#### **Approval of Out-of-State Travel**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the travel of Nick Anderson for the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC) Conference in Ponte??? Or Point Verde Beach, Florida November 10-13, 2019.

#### **Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies**

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Aitkin County and Nystrom and Associates to provide onsite substance use disorder assessments.

#### **Financial Update, Carli Goble, Accounting Supervisor**

Carli started by talking about the five year trend in HHS's fund balance and that it has gone down for the last five years as we have been using it to reduce the levy costs that we have asked for each year.

Commissioner Marcotte inquired about at how much of a percentage does HHS have to keep their fund balance and Carli responded that the State Auditor recommends anywhere from 35-50% be kept in fund balance but that the County Fund Balance policy indicates between 40-50% for HHS. Right now we are slightly above 50%, but foster care costs can fluctuate \$100-200 thousand in a matter of a month so it is nice to keep a safe amount in there.

Carli noted that foster care costs, this year, are still below what they have traditionally been.

Out-of-Home placement costs are right around \$64,000 below where they were at the same time last year.

Carli continued her report by going through the 2019 Q3 Financial Reports, which are included.

There was a discussion about the cost differences between a State Regional Treatment Center and a State operated Community Behavioral Health Hospital  
Commissioner Wedel inquired what percentage of the total cost per day we are paying for the clients in St. Peter and Cynthia responded that she would get that information and forward it onto the Board members.

Commissioner Wedel then added that he would like to see what services we are getting for our costs at any of the facilities. There was also discussion about transparency and accountability with costs associated with these placements.

Carli ended her budget with letting the Board members know where we were, budget wise, right now. At the end of the third quarter we should be at around 75% of our expenditures and we are at 70-71% and revenues are at 68%, revenues are typically posted twice a year in June and November so those November numbers will be coming soon.

**Committee Reports**

**Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS) Update**

Cynthia briefed the Board that The CHS board of directors voted that the Tri-County alliance would submit a separate grant application for the SHIP Grant. Previously the Tri-County applied jointly with the Quad-Counties (Carlton, Cook, Lake and St Louis) and were listed as a sub-contractor to the Quad-Counties. This created some restrictions on decision making within the Tri-county and to create more autonomy and flexibility it was determined to be in the best interest of the Tri-County to apply for the SHIP grant separately. For that grant and they did not feel that was a fair representation of the merging of the seven counties and that they were having to ask the Quad-Counties for permission to do things.

**HHS Advisory Committee Update**

Carole Holten, Advisory Committee Chairperson, was in attendance and briefed the Board members on the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Minutes from that meeting were included in the Board packet given to the members prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Wedel encouraged the other Board members to pay particular attention to Item V of the minutes for the committee and to see that there is a lot involved in giving the elevator speeches about Suicide Awareness.

**NEMOJT Update**

Commissioner Niemi briefed that they had a phone conference instead of meeting and the primary conversation was that the NEMOJT director who was leaving to take another job at a school is being allowed to do both duties.

Commissioner Wedel added that he wanted to applaud the Career Force Center in Aitkin with helping a few people, who had contacted him, with finding employment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Next Meeting – November 26, 2019

Break: 10:01 a.m. to 10:13 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: October 8, 2019 to October 21, 2019; B) Approve County Board Minutes: October 8, 2019; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers: \$738,107.84; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants – 10-15-19: General Fund \$187,120.13, Road & Bridge \$118,688.74, Health & Human Services \$53,764.35, State \$12,157.50, Trust \$23,073.25, Forest Development \$16,579.71, Taxes & Penalties \$86,246.53, Long Lake Conservation Center \$14,147.62, Parks \$9,032.15 for a total of \$520,809.98; E) September Sales & Diesel Tax: General Fund \$305.86, Road & Bridge \$1,500.07, Health & Human Services \$0.06, Trust \$9.01, Forest Development \$146.60, Long Lake Conservation Center \$55.84, Parks \$217.54 for a total of \$2,234.98; F) Approve (3) Manual Warrants – Elan: Elan #1. General Fund \$6,948.04, Road & Bridge \$-801.34, Health & Human Services \$2,202.06, Trust \$279.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$682.56 for a total of \$9,310.32; Elan #2. General Fund \$5,422.26, Road & Bridge \$6.40, Health & Human Services \$920.10, Trust \$360.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$453.03 for a total of \$7,161.79; Elan #3. General Fund \$4,653.56, Road & Bridge \$6.40, Health & Human Services \$2,532.26, Forest Development \$74.99, Capital Project \$4,630.92, Long Lake Conservation Center \$639.90 for a total of \$12,538.03; G) Approve Auditor Warrants – 10-10-19: Road & Bridge \$3,400.95; H) Approve Auditor Warrants – 10-15-19: Road & Bridge \$58,597.14, Trust \$80.00 for a total of \$58,677.14; I) Adopt Resolution: Mail Balloting; J) Approve Purchase of Election Equipment

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to adopt resolution – Mail Balloting:

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 204B.45 requires the designation of local polling places for elections annually; Two townships that supported unorganized township elections are no longer available for that support.

Ball Bluff Township, which supported the NE Unorganized Towns of (51-22, 52-22, and 52-24) has adopted mail balloting; Aitkin Township has chosen to discontinue that support for Unorganized Town 48-27 (Blind Lake).

**HHS BOARD  
ADJOURNS**

**BREAK**

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION  
20191022-086  
MAIL  
BALLOTING**

The County Board has the authority to designate mail balloting for these unorganized towns under MN Statute 204B.45 for federal, state, county, and local elections.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, acting on behalf of the unorganized townships in Aitkin County designate Mail Balloting for the precincts of NE Unorganized Towns and Unorganized Town 48-27 (Blind Lake).

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to approve purchase of election equipment by Dominion Voting Systems, as presented, at a cost of \$144,885.00 under the MN State Contract pricing.

The County Board of Commissioners recognized and congratulated Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director on receiving the prestigious Tina Rosenstein Award.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve draft Isedor Iverson Airport Safety Ordinance to be published for public hearing and comment.

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting to deny the City of Aitkin's request to designate the County Auditor as the fiscal agent for the Teen Driver Safety Grant Agreement, on behalf of the City of Aitkin. The County Board feels it would be more fitting to designate a fiscal agent from those directly involved, such as the City of Aitkin or the Aitkin School District.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to approve entering into a 3-year zero interest, lease-to-own program for floor cleaning equipment with Hillyard, in the amount of \$26,184.00.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve updated Aitkin County Transportation Employee Drug and Alcohol Policy under the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve updated Employee Wellness and Recognition Policy, with changes at 25, 30, and 35 years, as discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve AFSCME HHS Unit MOA: MSRS HCSP, as presented.

**ELECTION  
EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASE**

**TERRY NEFF  
RECOGNITION**

**DRAFT SAFETY  
ORDINANCE -  
MCGREGOR  
AIRPORT**

**TEEN DRIVER  
SAFETY GRANT  
AGREEMENT**

**HILLYARD  
LEASE  
AGREEMENT**

**DRUG &  
ALCOHOL  
TESTING  
POLICY**

**WELLNESS &  
RECOGNITION  
POLICY**

**AFSCME HHS  
UNIT MOA:  
MSRS HCSP**

<p>Kristen Houle from CliftonLarsonAllen reviewed the 2018 Audit with the Board and answered questions.</p> <p>Jessica Seibert, County Administrator discussed the following with the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 1<sup>st</sup> Open House: There will be a Quorum of County Commissioners</li> <li>• November 12<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting will be at Aitkin City Hall</li> <li>• November 1<sup>st</sup> MHB meeting in Walker: Possible Quorum of County Commissioners</li> <li>• Government Center Building Updates</li> <li>• Quarterly Association of Township Meeting</li> </ul> <p>John Welle, County Engineer reviewed the Aitkin County Highway Department 2018 Annual Report with the Board. Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the report.</p> <p>The Board discussed: AMC District Mtg., AMC Board Mtg., ECRL, NE MN Transportation, BSLWMP, NRAC, Association of Townships, TZD and EDA.</p> <p>Break: 12:12 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting to close the meeting at 12:20 p.m. under MN Statute 13D.05 Attorney Client Privilege – Class Action Notice To All Counties, Cities, and Local Governments as listed at <a href="http://www.OpioidsNegotiationClass.info">www.OpioidsNegotiationClass.info</a>.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members present voting to reopen the meeting at 12:25 p.m.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. until Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Aitkin City Hall.</p> <hr/> <p>Anne Marcotte, Board Chair Aitkin County Board of Commissioners</p> <hr/> <p>Jessica Seibert, County Administrator</p>	<p><b>2018 AUDIT</b></p> <p><b>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES</b></p> <p><b>HIGHWAY DEPT. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT</b></p> <p><b>BOARD DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>BREAK</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED MEETING</b></p> <p><b>REOPEN MEETING</b></p> <p><b>ADJOURN</b></p>
--	--