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# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

November 24, 2020

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020 at 9:01 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair William Pratt, Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Administrative Assistant Angie Sahr. The following members attended via Webex: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund. Commissioner Donald Niemi arrived at 9:05 a.m. Commissioner Anne Marcotte was absent.

**Call to Order**

**Approved Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all voting yes to approve the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 amended agenda. Agenda Item 2.5 – Cancellation of Forfeiture, 5.5 NE MN Office of Job Training Update – Carrie Paulson, & 6C – Approve CARES Expenditures were added.

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING**

**Health & Human  
Services Board**

**Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020, at 9:05 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Bill Pratt, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund (Via WebEx). Others present included: H&HS Director Cynthia Bennett, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Riverwood Healthcare Center Dr. David Taylor (Via WebEx), County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Angie Sahr, and Jennifer Eisenbart, Aitkin Independent Age (Via Webex).

**Agenda**

Cynthia asked to make two changes to the agenda.

1. To add item V.B. Approve Community Support Program funding Grant.
2. Remove item VI, Janet Watson WARP program presentation entirely, reschedule for January's board agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the amended November 24, 2020 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

**Directors Update:**

Erin Melz and Dr. Taylor discussion of COVID-19

Due to time constraints for Dr. Taylor item IV.B was moved up on the agenda.

Cynthia started by remarking that the COVID-19 numbers within Aitkin County are rising and how it has a tremendous impact on our healthcare providers. There continues to be public controversy over following the guidelines given by the governor, the CDC, and MDH. As such Dr. Taylor was invited to help us understand what is happening in our community and what we can do to help in this situation.

Erin thanked Dr. Taylor for joining the Board meeting again and asked him first to give a quick situational update for our area and what he is seeing here.

Dr. Taylor began by stating that we are in the midst of a surge and that 30-50% of the inpatients at Riverwood are there due to COVID-19. An example, he gave, was that on Sunday they had 15 inpatients, of which 8 were there due to COVID-19. Even though the capacity is around 20 inpatients, the COVID ratio has not historically been that high. He also added that the larger hospitals, such as St. Cloud or Abbott in the Twin Cities, have not been able to take transfer patients from Riverwood due to being full themselves. This is not only a problem for COVID-19 patients but more so for the other critical care illnesses such as stroke or heart attack.

Commissioner Wedel inquired as to how many beds maximum the hospital has.

Dr. Taylor said that as a critical access hospital they are licensed for 25 beds maximum. With their COVID-19 surge planning they have been able to push that up to a maximum of 40 beds, although due to staffing concerns it would be hard to handle that many patients at once. As such they have been seeing a normal number of inpatients around the low 20's.

Erin asked several questions that PH has been hearing from community members and DR Taylor answered the questions as posed.

Lastly Dr. Taylor talked about the COVID -19 vaccines. There are three vaccines in development right now and there is intense pressure and competition to be the first to put one out to the public, this leads to many questions about production, data tracking and monitoring. The assurance though, is that the company that gets it done first and right is going to make billions of dollars whereas the company that gets it wrong could be done for. The vaccines all look very effective in comparison to the seasonal flu vaccines we normally get, but he does see a huge challenge with getting the vaccine out to everyone initially. Commissioner Westerlund asked about the cost of the vaccine and what the plan was for who would pay for it, whether it be the insurance companies, federal, state, or local government?

Dr. Taylor responded that as far as he understands it, insurance companies will be covering the costs for their patients, he was unsure about those without medical coverage.

#### Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the October 27, 2020 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

#### Bills

Carli Goble, H&HS Accounting Supervisor noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary for the bills this month.

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

Directors Update Cont.:

Cynthia mentioned that there would be an upcoming mask campaign through Public Health that will feature our leaders in masks. It will be posted on the Public Health Facebook page and possibly in the newspaper.

She added that most of the AMC groups have met and so AMC will be packaging their legislative platform in preparation for next month's meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Children's Mental Health Screening Grant for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Community Support Program Grant for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

**Committee Reports**

**HHS Advisory Committee Report**

Commissioner Wedel talked that the group reviewed their work with Suicide Prevention with Brea Hamdorf, Public Health Nurse, from the last year and then heard an update from Lynne Jacobs, Aitkin County CARE Director on what is happening with CARE.

**CARE Board Update**

Commissioner Westerlund stated that they had a finance meeting, all of their grants are showing up, and she is hoping to have Lynne come, in the future, to give the Board an update.

**NEMOJT Update**

Commissioner Niemi said that they had a meeting and the main concern addressed was some internal issues and that he felt that it was all under control.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Next Meeting – December 22, 2020

There was no Citizens' Public Comment

**Citizens' Public  
Comment**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

**Consent Agenda**

- A) Correspondence File November 10, 2020 to November 23, 2020;
- B) Approve November 10, 2020 County Board Minutes;
- C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$1,460,491.87;
- D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers: General Fund \$132,309.50, Road & Bridge \$112,511.51, Health & Human Services \$17,690.41, Trust \$41,096.64, Forest

Development \$17,159.68, Parks \$3,304.22 for a total of \$324,071.96; E) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – R&B Contract Payment: Road & Bridge \$17,207.40; F) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – CARES Grants, Round 2: Coronavirus Relief Fund \$174,621.00; G) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – October Sales & Diesel Tax: General Fund \$387.73, Road & Bridge \$1,040.63, Trust \$4.44, Forest Development \$143.63, Parks \$200.55, for a total of \$1,776.98; H) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – October Tax Settlements: Agency \$3,306,979.11, Taxes & Penalties \$64,720.42, for a total of \$3,371.699.53; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – LLCC Credit Card Fees: Long Lake Conservation Center \$53.15; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims: General Fund \$1,241.36; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – October Mtg. Reg & Deed Tax: State \$116,275.37; L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 10/29/20 - Allocated: General Fund -\$2,924.21, Road & Bridge \$1,681.01, Health & Human Services \$1,256.29, Forest Development \$21.91, Capital Project \$35.00, for a total of \$0.00; M) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 11/13/20, State General Tax, Camping Refund, Returned Payment – NSF - Taxes: General Fund \$5,767.41, State \$51,491.62, Taxes & Penalties \$1,341.36, Parks \$20.00, for a total of \$58,620.39; N) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Medical FSA Claims: General Fund \$590.90; O) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Returned Payment – Wrong County Taxes: Agency \$155.44; P) Approve Fire Protection Contract with the City of Aitkin; Q) Approve Fire Protection Contract with the City of McGrath; R) Approve Genetec Advantage Contract; S) Approve Medical Examiner Agreement 2021; T) Approve 2021 Newspaper Bid Specifications;

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Fire Protection Contract with the City of Aitkin.

**Fire Protection Contract with the City of Aitkin**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Fire Protection Contract with the City of McGrath.

**Fire Protection Contract with the City of McGrath**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Genetec Advantage Contract.

**Genetec Advantage Contract**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Medical Examiner Agreement 2021.

**Medical Examiner Agreement 2021**

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – 2021 Newspaper Bid Specifications.

**2021 Newspaper Bid Specifications**

Agenda Item 2.5 – Cancellation of Forfeiture was pulled from the Agenda.

**Cancellation of Forfeiture**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members present voted to approve Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan.

**Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all

members present voted to approve Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members present voted to approve Joint Powers Agreement for Regional Solid Waste Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Designate Pipeline Inspector;

**WHEREAS**, M.S 216G.07 relates to Protecting Public Facilities and Agriculture Land during the construction of pipelines, and

**WHEREAS**, M.S. 216G.07 Subd. 7 requires each county to designate a county inspector who shall conduct on-site inspections of the pipeline crossings of public roadways and drainage facilities and to keep record of comments and complaints concerning the pipeline construction made by owners and lessees of land crossed by the pipeline and by local officials, and

**WHEREAS**, the statute regulates that all buried pipe (except interstate natural gas pipelines) crossing a county highway or public drainage facility must be buried with a minimum cover 4-1/2 feet, and

**WHEREAS**, the statute requires the person proposing the pipeline construction to pay an the treasurer of the county which the pipeline crosses an inspection fee of \$500 for each mile or fraction of a mile of pipeline; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Aitkin County does hereby designate the County Engineer as the county inspector as required by M.S. 216G.07.

Jessica Seibert, County Administrator presented Kari Paulson to give a NE MN Office of Job Training Update.

Jessica Seibert, County Administrator gave a CARES Update and asked for Board direction/approval to distribute remaining funds.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voted to approve CARES Expenditures.

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

- AMC General Government Meeting
- Recycling Meeting
- Department Head Meeting
- License Center Meeting
- MACA Meeting
- Inter-Agency Meeting
- Pathways Meeting
- Building Update
- COVID Update

The Board discussed: 4H, Planning & Zoning, AMC, CARE, ATV, Economic

**Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Joint Powers Agreement for Regional Solid Waste Plan**

**Resolution #20201124-096 Designate Pipeline Inspector**

**NE MN Office of Job Training Update**

**CARES Update**

**CARES Expenditures**

**Administrator Updates**

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

November 24, 2020

Development, Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Regional Development Council, AMC Transportation.

**Board Discussion**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 p.m. until Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

**Adjourn**

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William Pratt, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator