

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of March, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Administrative Assistant Angie Sahr. Commissioner Donald Niemi attended via Webex.

Motion made by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all voting yes to approve the March 23, 2021 agenda.

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

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of March 2021, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Anne Marcotte, Don Niemi (VIA WebEx), and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: H&HS Director Cynthia Bennett, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz (VIA WebEx), Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble (VIA WebEx), Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst (VIA WebEx), County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Angie Sahr, Paul Vold, KKIN (VIA WebEx), and Rebecca Fudala, Aitkin Independent Age.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the March 23, 2021 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the February 23, 2021 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary for the bills this month.

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

Director's Update

Cynthia gave an update on the three key issues going to the legislature this session.

1. DHS Billing Error – In 2019 DHS realized they had made 3 significant billing errors one was the miscalculation of the county share of services provided to individuals in residential treatment facilities. In December of 2019 Governor Walz addressed

Call to Order

Approved Agenda

Health & Human Services

the counties saying they should be held harmless for DHS errors. This became a legislative priority in 2020, but due to COVID-19 happening there was not a whole lot done in the legislature besides those things that were directly related to COVID-19. The Governor's 2021 Supplementary Budget proposal does address this and there are bills passing through committees in 2021 legislature to formally resolve this issue. It seems that all involved, the DHS Commissioner, House and Senate Representatives, AMC, MACSSA and the counties are on board with holding the counties harmless in this.

2. Continuation of COVID-19 Waivers into permanent policy/guidelines in regards to using more technology to meet with clients and less face to face meetings due to the cost savings they provided due to less employee travel time and expenses.
3. County Based Purchasing – In county based purchasing counties have the ability to either, by themselves or with other counties, go out and purchase health care services for various populations within their counties for MA, General Assistance Medical Care, and Minnesota Care. DHS is required to conduct a procurement that is done every four years. During procurement, counties are given a long list of survey questions to answer and then DHS takes all of that information and decides who will be providing health care services within each county. The procurement process and evaluation of effectiveness and costs should be conducted in another fashion. Counties who do not choose to implement county based purchasing should have a stronger say in the process of selection. So the issue is not just a county's right to do county based purchasing as allowed in statute, but the process of procurement should be revised to give counties more say in the outcomes.
4. Lastly Cynthia shared that, in preparation of the disbursement of funds from the American Rescue Plan that H&HS was looking into ways to best utilize those funds when they are received. HHS will continue to work closely with Jessica on determining how monies are spent in HHS as well as the county as a whole.

Commissioner Wedel inquired as to when we could expect those funds?

Jessica Seibert responded that we had not yet seen an indication of when they will be making the request process available to us and that once they do our request will be entered and then we will receive our approved funds within 60 days and have until December 31, 2024 to spend those funds.

COVID-19 Update

Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor, went through her presentation to the Commissioners in relation to where Aitkin County is with COVID-19 vaccine disbursement and their plans for future disbursement as more vaccine comes available.

At the time of the meeting she reported 33.8% of the Aitkin County population had received at least one dose of vaccine and 21.9% had completed the series.

67% of those 65+ had received at least one dose and 30.2% of those 50-64 years of age had received at least one dose.

Committee Reports

CARE Report

Commissioner Westerlund reported that CARE is doing great and that Lynne Jacobs continues to do outstanding work over there.

NEMOJT Report

Commissioner Niemi reported that they did meet and that the main topic of discussion was NEMOJT's focus on getting the word out about careers for women in the construction industry and all of the opportunity there is within that industry for them.

Lakes & Pines Report

Commissioner Niemi reported that they had applied for a couple of grants. One was \$306,400 to help people pay rent who have not been able to due to COVID-19 circumstances and how much they hope this will help people and their landlords with getting caught up on past due rent. The other was for \$95,000 through the Live Well at Home Grant to help seniors learn more about what services are available to them along with training them how to use things such as online banking and how to connect with friends and family on various video chat services that are out there and much more.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 27, 2021

There was no Citizens' Public Comment

**Citizens' Public
Comment**

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

Consent Agenda

A) Correspondence File March 8, 2021 to March 22, 2021; B) Approve March 9, 2021 County Board Minutes; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$1,287,140.09; D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers: General Fund \$82,235.51, Reserves Fund \$8,000.00, Road & Bridge \$58,483.78, Special Revenue (Unorg R&B, Fire \$1,845.16, Health & Human Services \$15,872.73, State \$90.00, Trust \$8,888.91, Forest Development \$847.36, Taxes & Penalties \$110.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$157.14, Parks \$16,214.13 for a total of \$192,744.72; E) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Contegrity, Gas Tax: Road & Bridge \$419,080.98, Capital Project \$42,984.13, for a total of \$462,065.11; F) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Mortgage Registry, Deed Tax: General Fund \$0.04, State \$84,168.65, for a total of \$84,168.69; G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims, LLCC Credit Card Fees: General Fund \$926.85, Long Lake Conservation Center \$33.20, for a total of \$960.05; H) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 2/18/21: General Fund -\$4,420.50, Road & Bridge \$180.00, Health & Human Services \$1,199.25, Trust \$55.00, Parks -\$13.75, for a total of \$0.00; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims: General Fund \$1,086.20; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Camping Refunds: Parks \$30.00; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims: General Fund \$640.94; L) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Shelly Spiegelberg; M) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Nicholas Ekelund; N) Approve Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products; O) Approve Fire

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Protection Contracts; P) Approve Equipment Purchase – Pickup Truck; Q) Adopt Resolution: Search & Rescue Donation – Wealthwood Township; R) Adopt Resolution: Award Contract 20215;

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Shelly Spiegelberg.

Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Shelly Spiegelberg

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Nicholas Ekelund.

Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Nicholas Ekelund

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products.

Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Fire Protection Contracts.

Fire Protection Contracts

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Equipment Purchase – Pickup Truck.

Equipment Purchase – Pickup Truck

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Search & Rescue Donation – Wealthwood Township.

Resolution #20210323-040 Search & Rescue Donation – Wealthwood Township

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Wealthwood Township	\$1,000.00
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WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Wealthwood Township	Aitkin County Search & Rescue
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WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

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<p>Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Award Contract No. 20215.</p> <p>WHEREAS, Contract No. 20215 is for the placement of calcium chloride on various county highways and township roads, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, sealed bids were opened for this project at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021 with a total of three bids received, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, EnviroTech Services Inc., Greely, CO was the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$336,000.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that EnviroTech Services Inc. be awarded Contract 20215.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairperson of the Aitkin County Board and the Aitkin County Auditor are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract on behalf of Aitkin County with said low bidder upon presentation of proper contract documents.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voted to approve Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products – Fisherman's Bay, Commissioner Brian Napstad abstained.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Equipment Purchase – Three Tandem Plow Trucks.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voted to approve Purchase and Installation of Dump Box, Hydraulics, and Plow Equipment.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Economic Development Coordinator Job Description & Posting.</p> <p>Jessica Seibert, County Administrator updated the Board on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department Head Meeting• DocuSign Presentation• Policy Fellows• MACA Legislative Call• Blandin Introductory Meeting	<p>Resolution #20210323-041 Award Contract No. 20215</p> <p>Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products – Fisherman's Bay</p> <p>Equipment Purchase – Three Tandem Plow Trucks</p> <p>Purchase and Installation of Dump Box, Hydraulics and Plow Equipment</p> <p>Economic Development Coordinator Job Description & Posting</p> <p>Administrator Updates</p>
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- Economic Development Committee Meeting
- American Rescue Plan Update

The Board discussed: Blandin Introductory Meeting, Economic Development Committee, Joint Powers Natural Resource Board, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), AMC, Planning Commission, MN Rural Caucus, Toward Zero Deaths.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m. until Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

Board Discussion

Adjourn



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



Jessica Seibert
County Administrator