

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

April 12, 2022

<p>The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 12th day of April, 2022 at 9:01 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Donald Niemi, Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, and Laurie Westerlund, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>Motion made by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all voting yes to approve the April 12th, 2022 agenda.</p>	<p>Approved Agenda</p>
<p>There was no Citizens' Public Comment</p>	<p>Citizens' Public Comment</p>
<p>Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.</p>	<p>Consent Agenda</p>
<p>A) Correspondence File March 22, 2022 to April 11, 2022; B) Approve March 22, 2022 County Board Minutes; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$899,359.71; D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers Paid 03/25/2022: General Fund \$277.50, Road & Bridge \$75,447.50 for a total of \$75,725.00; E) Approve Commissioner Vouchers Paid 04/01/2022: General Fund \$215,536.39, Road & Bridge \$89,966.29, Health & Human Services \$2,542.01, Trust \$9,196.25, Forest Development \$9,352.11, Long Lake Conservation Center \$10,923.02, Parks \$2,865.71 for a total of \$340,381.78; F) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – Sales/Use Tax and Diesel Tax, March 2022: General Fund \$167.92, Road & Bridge \$770.98, Long Lake Conservation Center \$82.27, Parks \$141.84 for a total of \$1,163.01; G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Returned e-check, Unable to Locate: Taxes & Penalties \$631.10, for a total of \$631.10; H) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims and Participant Fees: General Fund \$975.57, for a total of \$975.57; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Camping Refund: Parks \$50.00, for a total of \$50.00; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan Paid 03/17/2022: General Fund \$-1,854.09, Reserves Fund \$400.00, Road & Bridge \$39.30, Health & Human Services \$975.26, Trust \$282.28, Long Lake Conservation Center \$157.25 for a total of \$0.00; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims #40174234: General Fund \$713.17, for a total of \$713.17; L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan Paid 03/31/2022: General Fund \$-501.05, Health & Human Services \$490.86, Trust \$16.45, Long Lake Conservation Center \$-6.26 for a total of \$0.00; M) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Camping Refund: Parks \$30.00, for a total of \$30.00; N) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – LLCC Credit Card Fees: Parks \$292.42, for a total of \$292.42; O) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims: General Fund \$836.34, for a total of \$836.34; P) Approve VFW Annual Brat Sale; Q) Approve Township Approval for 3.2% License Application; R) Approve 3.2% Malt Liquor Licenses; S) Adopt Resolution: 2021 MN Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant; T) Adopt Resolution: Search and Rescue Donation; U) Adopt Resolution: Search and Rescue Donation: Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club; V) Adopt Resolution: Search and Rescue Donation: Pliny Township; W) Adopt Resolution: LLCC Donation: Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club X) Adopt Resolution: Bakk-Ecklund PILT Bills Support</p>	
<p>Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – VFW Annual Brat Sale.</p>	<p>VFW Annual Brat Sale</p>

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Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Township Approval for 3.2% License Application;

Township Approval for 3.2% License Application

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – 2021 MN Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant.

**Resolution #20220412-046
2021 MN Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Equipment Grant**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners approve the 2021 Boat & Water Federal Boating Supplemental Equipment Grant on file in the Office of the County Auditor and authorize the Aitkin County Sheriff, County Board Chair to sign the agreement in the amount of \$3,289.00 for the term of February 1, 2022 through August 1, 2022.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Search and Rescue Donation;

**Resolution #20220412-047
Search and Rescue Donation-Haugen 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:

Haugen Township \$150.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Haugen Township Aitkin County Search and Rescue

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.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Search and Rescue Donation-Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club;

**Resolution #20220412-048
Search and Rescue Donation-Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club**

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:

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Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club \$500.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club Aitkin County Search and Rescue

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.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Search and Rescue Donation-Pliny 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:

Pliny Township \$100.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Pliny Township Aitkin County Search and Rescue

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.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – LLCC Donation-Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club;

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:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lake Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club	\$500

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

**Resolution
#20220412-
049
Search and
Rescue
Donation-
Pliny
Township**

**Resolution
#20220412-
050
LLCC
Donation-
Minnewawa
Sportsmen's
Club**

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<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Terms or Conditions</u>	
Lake Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club	Toward the purchase of a five-gun training set to be used in Forkhorn Firearm Safety training courses at Long Lake	
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.		
Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to approve – Bakk-Ecklund PILT Bills Support;		
WHEREAS , the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program passed into Minnesota law in 1979 with the statutory purpose “to address the disproportionate impact of state land ownership on local units of government with a large proportion of state land;” and		Resolution #20220412-051 Bakk-Ecklund PILT Bills Support
WHEREAS , 95% of all PILT acreage is located in the northern-half of Minnesota; and		
WHEREAS , since 1995, nearly all PILT payment increases have gone to southern Minnesota and metro area counties; and		
WHEREAS , in 1979 when PILT payments began, the biggest disparity between the highest PILT compensated county to the lowest compensated county was 8:1 or, <i>8 times higher</i> , yet today that disparity has grown to a whopping 170:1 or, <i>170 times higher</i> , and		
WHEREAS , the principal cause PILT payments are so inequitable across MN, is because in 1995, the Acquired Acres category of PILT Payments switched from a flat rate to instead, a land value basis, yet all other major PILT Payment categories remained at a flat rate; and WHEREAS , the Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB) recently completed a Comprehensive Study re: State PILT and Payments to Counties which verifies all of the above-mentioned inequities; and		
WHEREAS , SF 2793 (Bakk) & HF 3073 (Ecklund) have been introduced to help rectify these huge inequities in PILT Payments by substantially increasing PILT payments to Northern MN counties, including a 50% increase in Aitkin County; and		
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , that Aitkin County hereby urges the 2022 Legislature to pass the respective Bakk-Ecklund PILT Bills through the necessary committees and include them in their final Omnibus Tax Bill.		
Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Liquor and Beer License Expiration Date December 31;		
WHEREAS , MN STATUTE CHAPTER 340A regulates the licensing and regulation of intoxicating liquors within the State of Minnesota; and		Resolution #20220412-052 Liquor and Beer License Expiration Date December 31
WHEREAS , Aitkin County is a liquor license issuing authority under MN STATUTE CHAPTER 340A; and		

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners hereby has the authority to set the license renewal dates for all intoxicating liquors including 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners hereby sets the licensing period for all intoxicating liquors including 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor to be January 1 until December 31 of each year.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Award Contract 20223;

WHEREAS, Contract No. 20223 is for construction of S.A.P 001-617-004, C.P. 001-076-002, C.P. 001-77W-001, C.P. 001-090-038, and Fleming Twp 018594-000, and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were opened for this project at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022 with a total of five bids received, and

WHEREAS, KGM Contractors Inc., Angora, MN was the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$2,616,365.04.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that KGM Contractors Inc. is awarded Contract No. 20223.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairperson of the Aitkin County Board and the Aitkin County Administrator 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.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voted to submit Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application.

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

- Policy Fellows Washington D.C. Update

At 10:00 a.m. Dennis Thompson, Land Commissioner, held a public hearing to discuss Tax-Forfeited Land. No comments were received. Commissioner J. Mark Wedel closed the hearing at 10:05 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Land Classification;

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on April 12, 2022 at 10:00 am at the regular county board meeting and that prior to meeting for the purpose of classifying or reclassifying tax-forfeited lands, the county board gave notice of its intent to meet for that purpose in postings, on the web site, and in the local newspaper, in addition to sending letters to any township, city, and school district in which the properties were located, and

WHEREAS, at the meeting, no objections were raised on any of the attached parcels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County tax forfeited parcels be classified as per below.

Commissioner Niemi left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**Resolution
#20220412-
053 Award
Contract
20223**

**CDS Grant
Application**

**Administrator
Updates**

**Tax-Forfeited
Land
Classification**

**Resolution
#20220412-
054 Land
Classification**

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At 10:30 a.m. Kirk Peysar, County Auditor, held a public hearing to discuss Redistricting of Commissioner Districts. Kirk shared the Minnesota Redistricting Maps and the potential maps for Aitkin County. There were no comments received. Commissioner J. Mark Wedel closed the public hearing at 10:38.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voted to approve Final Redistricting Plan for Aitkin County Commissioner Districts.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Aitkin County Commissioner Districts and Set Election Terms;

WHEREAS, upon the filing of the certified results of the 2020 Federal Census, it was found that Aitkin County Commissioner Districts 1 and 5 varied by more than 10 percent of the average population of all Commissioner Districts, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes provide that the County shall be redistricted when such a variance occurs, and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County published a notice of a public hearing on redistricting; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County conducted a public meeting on redistricting on April 12th, 2022:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the current plan of Aitkin County Commissioner Districts be hereby adopted and ordered filed in the Office of the County Auditor, and

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Town of Aitkin	Town of Farm Island	Town of Beaver	Town of Balsm	Town of Ball Bluff
City of Aitkin	Town of Hazelton	Town of Glen	Town of Clark	Town of Fleming
	Town of Malmo	Town of Idun	Town of Cornish	Town of Hill Lake
	Town of Nordland	Town of Kimberly	Town of Haugen	Town of Logan
	Town of Wealthwood	Town of Lakeside	Town of Jevne	Town of Macville
		Town of Lee	Town of Libby	Town of Morrison
		Town of Millward	Town of McGregor	Town of Waukenabo
		Town of Pliny	Town of Shamrock	Town of Unorg 52-24
		Town of Rice River	Town of Turner	Town of Unorg 50-25
		Town of Salo	Town of Verdon	Town of Unorg 51-25
		Town of Seavey	Town of Workman	Town of Unorg 52-25
		Town of Spalding	Town of Unorg 51-22	Town of Unorg 50-26
		Town of Spencer	Town of Unorg 52-22	Town of Unorg 48-27
		Town of Wagner	City of McGregor	Town of Unorg 49-27
		Town of White Pine	City of Tamarack	Town of Unorg 50-27
		Town of Williams		Town of Unorg 51-27
		Town of Unorg 45-24		Town of Unorg 52-27
		Town of Unorg 47-24		City of Hilly City
		City of McGrath		City of Palisade

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reestablishes the length of terms as follows: District 1 (2022 Election 4-year term); District 2 (continuation of current term, 2024 election); District 3 (2022 Election 4-year term); District 4 (2-year term, 2022 Election), and District 5 (2022 Election 4-year term);

Redistricting Public Hearing

Final Redistricting Plan for Commissioner Districts

Resolution 20220412-055 Aitkin County Commissioner Districts and Set Election Terms

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said redistricting plan shall become effective on the 31st day following the filling of this plan for the 2022 primary and general election and be published in the Aitkin Independent Age, as provided by law.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the districts are, for illustrative purposes, identified in a map of the county attached hereto and marked Exhibit A which by reference is hereby made a part hereof.

Commissioner Marcotte left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The Board discussed: ECRL, NEWAC, ATV Alliance, Budget Committee, AIS, NRAC, Facilities, Extension, CAPS, Sobriety Court, Aitkin Airport, HHS Advisory and Mississippi One Watershed One Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to close meeting under statute 13D.03 Subd. 1(b) Labor Negotiations at 11:25 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried all members voting yes to reopen the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:46 p.m. until Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

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

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

**Board
Discussion**

**Close meeting
Under Statute
13D.03 Subd.
1(b)**

**Reopen
Meeting**

Adjourn