

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

May 10, 2022

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| <p>The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 10th day of May, 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, County Administrator Jessica Seibert (VIA Webex) and Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle.</p> | <p>Call to Order</p> |
| <p>Motion made by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all voting yes to approve the May 10th, 2022.</p> | <p>Approved Agenda</p> |
| <p>There was no Citizens' Public Comment</p> | <p>Citizens' Public Comment</p> |
| <p>Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.</p> | <p>Consent Agenda</p> |
| <p>A) Correspondence File April 22, 2022 to May 9, 2022; B) Approve April 26, 2022 County Board Minutes; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$807,534.26; D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers: General Fund \$233,410.10, Reserves Fund \$251.00, Road & Bridge \$38,306.88, Unorganized Townships \$5,707.89, HHS \$8,766.11, Trust \$19,994.76, Forest Development \$31,513.79, LLCC \$10,417.14, Parks \$39,020.47, Coronavirus Relief Fund \$32,928.00, for a total of \$420,316.14. E) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims and Electronic Chargeback: General Fund \$1,167.76, Taxes & Penalties \$150.00, for a total of \$1,317.76; F) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Fees April 2022: General Fund \$671.10, for a total of \$671.10; G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – ELAN Paid 04.14.2022: General Fund \$-1,150.71, HHS \$402.36, Trust \$604.75, LLCC \$143.60 for a total of \$0.00; H) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Camping Refund: Parks \$60.00, for a total of \$60.00; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – LLCC Credit Card Fees: LLCC \$259.95, for a total of \$259.95; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Returned Tax Payment, MTG Reg and Deed Tax, FSA Claims: General Fund \$495.53, State \$67,990.30, Taxes & Penalties \$2,218.00 for a total of \$2,218.00; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – MN Care Tax and FSA Claims: General Fund \$1,853.43, Health & Human Services \$111.05 for a total of \$1,964.48; L) Approve AIM VCET Agreement Update; M) Approve Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Permit Renewal; O) Adopt Resolution: LLCC Donation-Long Lake Conservation Foundation; P) Adopt Resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Beaver Township; Q) Adopt Resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Macville Township; R) Adopt Resolution: Final Contract Payment-Contract No. 20204; S) Adopt Resolution: MnDOT Master Partnership Contract No. 1050299;</p> | |
| <p>Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – AIM VCET Agreement Update.</p> | <p>AIM VCET Agreement Update</p> |
| <p>Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to approve – Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Permit Renewal.</p> | <p>Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Permit Renewal</p> |

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Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: LLCC Donation-Long Lake Conservation Foundation;

**Resolution
#20220510-060
LLCC Donation-
Long Lake
Conservation
Foundation**

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> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Long Lake Conservation Foundation | \$26,500 |

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

| <u>Name of Donor</u> | <u>Terms or Conditions</u> |
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| Long Lake Conservation Foundation purchase of | \$25,000 is to be used for the Technology for the creation of environmental education programming, including virtual content. \$1,500 is payment for the Ojibwe Storyteller event held on Feb. 26, 2022 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 Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Search & Rescue Donation-Beaver Township;

**Resolution
#20220510-061
Search & Rescue
Donation- Beaver
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:

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| Beaver Township | \$250.00 |
|-----------------|----------|

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

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| Beaver Township | Aitkin County Search and 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.

Whereas: the parties wish to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to such opportunities for collaboration, and have determined that having the ability to write “work orders” against a master contract would provide the greatest speed and flexibility in responding to identified needs.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That Aitkin County enter into a Master Partnership Contract No. 1050299 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, a copy of which was before the Board.

That the proper county officers are authorized to execute such contract, and any amendments thereto.

That the Aitkin County Engineer is authorized to negotiate work order contracts pursuant to the Master Contract, which work order contracts may provide for payment to or from MnDOT, and that the Aitkin County Engineer may execute such work order contracts on behalf of Aitkin County without further approval by this Board.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Award Bid for Communication Project;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County requested proposals for the purpose of selecting a qualified firm to serve as communications consultant for the Economic Development Tourism and Recreation marketing plan.
AND

WHEREAS, four proposals were submitted. Companies submitting bids were Strateligent, Small Small Business, the Golden Shovel Agency and Global Investment Attraction Group. AND

WHEREAS, The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee (ACEDC) reviewed and interviewed candidates and recommend awarding Strateligent the bid for communications consulting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Aitkin County awards Strateligent to be the communications consultant for the Economic Development Tourism and Recreation marketing plan at a cost no higher than \$45,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County certifies authorization to Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator, to facilitate this project.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – MnDOT Cooperative Construction Agreement No. 1049576;

WHEREAS, US Highway 169 in Aitkin County is part of the National Highway System (NHS) and is an important regional, statewide and national freight corridor serving the agricultural, forestry, mining, manufacturing, retail, and tourism industries, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 does not meet geometric safety standards for shoulder width and slopes within the recovery area, and

**Resolution
#20220510-065
Award Bid for
Communication
Project**

**Resolution
#20220510-066
Support for RSTG
Grant Application**

WHEREAS, the lack of paved standard-width shoulders on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 represents a severe freight safety gap in the US Highway 169 corridor, as the entire remainder of this NHS corridor has wide paved shoulders in place, or is programmed to receive such improvements, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200, based on available crash and traffic data, has a fatal crash rate of over 2.1 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled over the past ten years, which is one of the highest rates of any NHS highway segment in the northern region of Minnesota and over 250 percent above the median crash rate for NHS routes in the northern region of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 2019 District 1 Freight Plan as one of only four segments in District 1 with an overlap between stakeholder-identified safety needs and data-identified safety needs, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 was identified in the 1998 Trunk Highway 169/210 Corridor Study prepared by MnDOT District 3 as needing wider shoulders to address freight movement and safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 is currently scheduled to be programmed for resurfacing and shoulder widening improvements in 2027, and

WHEREAS, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant (RSTG) Program within the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity exists to provide funding to construction projects with significant national or regional impact or to improve or expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas, and

WHEREAS, an application for the RSTG Program is being submitted by MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 for resurfacing and shoulder widening on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the RSTG application being submitted for the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that the RSTG application is not successful, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the continuing efforts of MnDOT Districts 1 and 3 to construct the long overdue shoulder widening improvements on the 24-mile segment of US Highway 169 from the Mississippi River bridge to Minnesota Trunk Highway 200 in 2027.

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| <p>Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – MnDOT Cooperative Construction Agreement;</p> <p>Whereas, Aitkin County has requested improvements to the intersection of Aitkin County Road 54/56 and US Highway 169/TH 210 as part of State Project No. 0119-30 (TH 210=002) and State Project No. 0116-49 (TH 69=035), and</p> <p>Whereas, MnDOT has agreed to include requested intersection improvements through a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the 50% of the costs of the improvements being paid by Aitkin County.</p> <p>Therefore, be it Resolved that Aitkin County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1049576 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:</p> <p>To provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the cost of the grading, paving, and seeding construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent of Trunk Highway 210 from Ripple River to the Truck Highway No. 169 north junction under State Project NO. 0019-30 210=002.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voted to approve County Ditch 5 Repair.</p> | <p>Resolution #20220510-067 MnDOT Cooperative Construction Agreement</p> <p>County Ditch 5 Repair</p> |
| <p>Luke Wehseler, Steve Voss, and Bryan Anderson – MnDOT shared updates for District 1 and District 3.</p> <p>Andy Hubley and Paige Melius – ARDC presented a brief update to the board.</p> <p>Holly Kostrzewski, MnDOT and Amy Dotzler, Aitkin Police Department– presented an update on the Toward Zero Death program.</p> | <p>Area Transportation Partnership Presentation</p> |
| <p>Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voted to approve Personnel Policy Update (Open Range Scale Modification).</p> | <p>Personnel Policy Update (Open Range Scale Modification)</p> |
| <p>Jessica Seibert – County Administrator presented 2023 Budget Preparation.</p> | <p>2023 Budget Presentation</p> |
| <p>Jessica Seibert, County Administrator updated the Board on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCMA Conference• Budget Meeting• AMC Research MTG• Economic Development• Talon Metals Meeting• StrengthFinders Workshop | <p>Administrator Updates</p> |

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The Board discussed: Rum River Watershed, Community Corrections, ECRL, Talon Metals, Budget Committee, Northern Counties, Brainerd Mississippi 1W1P, HHS Advisory, EDA.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m. until Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

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

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

Board Discussion

Adjourn