



**AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 22, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Government Center Board Room

Regular Session Minutes

**1.A CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wedel called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
J. Mark Wedel	District #1	Present
Laurie Westerlund	District #2	Present
Travis Leiviska	District #3	Present
Bret Sample	District #4	Present
Michael Kearney	District #5	Present
Jessica Seibert	County Administrator	Present
Jeff Schmitt	Administrative Assistant	Present

**1.B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**1.C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to: Approve the agenda, as amended.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

**Move agenda item 9A to 10A and add late agenda items 4B, 9A, and 9B.**

**1.D Health & Human Services (see separate HHS Agenda)**

**1.E Citizens Public Comment - None**

**2 CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

**A) Correspondence File-**

August 9, 2023 - August 22, 2023

**B) Approve County Board Minutes-**

August 8, 2023

**C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers**

<b>Total</b>	\$1,204,983.73
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**D) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

General	\$144.65	LLCC	\$43.68				
R&B	\$1,308.25	Parks	\$382.66				
Trust	\$22.19					<b>Total</b>	\$1,901.43

**E) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

Property Tax Overpayments 8-11-2023

Taxes & Penalties	\$4,632.13					<b>Total</b>	\$4,632.13
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**F) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-**

ELAN 8-3-2023

General	\$2,072.11	HHS	\$2,273.36				
Trust	\$334.79					<b>Total</b>	\$4,680.26

**G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-**

Manual Warrants 8-10-2023

General	\$1,560.05	Tax&Pnlty	\$131.04	Parks	\$20.00		
State	\$90,563.92	LLCC	\$347.09			<b>Total</b>	\$92,622.10

**H) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

R&B Contract 8-11-2023

R&B	\$15,434.76						
						<b>Total</b>	\$15,434.76

**I) Approve Commissioner's Vouchers**

Commissioner Warrants 8-18-2023

General	\$1,090,381.06	HHS	\$24,259.82	Forest Dv.	\$10,127.54		
Reserves	\$7,000.00	State	\$6,953.00	LLCC	\$4,754.57		
R&B	\$49,940.56	Trust	\$11,496.46	Parks	\$84,893.49	<b>Total</b>	\$1,289,806.50

**J) Adopt Resolution-**

Approve Large Assemble- White Pine Logging

**K) Approve-**

Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant

**L) Adopt Resolution-**

Set Unorganized Township Levies for 2024

**Regular Agenda**

3A Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

**Motion to:**

Approve Public Hearing Date - Heur Land Exchange

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Travis Leiviska
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
	Public Hearing set for September 26, 2023 10:05 a.m.

3B Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

**Motion to:**

Adopt Resolution - Letter of Support for Outdoor School for All Minnesota

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Bret Sample
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Travis Leiviska

4A Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

**Motion to:**

Approve Expansion of Aitkin Recycling Center

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Michael Kearney
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Bret Sample

4B Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

**Motion to:**

Approve Public Hearing Date Wealthwood EAW

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Travis Leiviska
	Public Hearing set for October 10, 2023 10:30 a.m.

5A Mark Jeffers – Economic Development Coordinator

**Informational Only**

Public Hearing - INH Properties Tax Abatement Request

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>
Economic Development Coordinator, Mark Jeffers, gave an explanation of the tax abatement request for agreement in housing development in the area by INH Properties. 10:30 a.m. Open to public comment: 1. Senior Housing Project: Pat Murphy expressed approval of project; 2. Workforce Housing Project: Stan Gustafson and Tami Jacobs of Growth Innovations, Pat Murphy expressed support for project. James Illies of INH spoke briefly to say thank you for the support. No other online, written, or present public comment was received. 10:42 a.m. Public Hearing closed.	

5B Mark Jeffers – Economic Development Coordinator

**Motion to:**

Adopt Resolution - INH Properties Tax Abatement Senior Housing Units

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

5C Mark Jeffers – Economic Development Coordinator

**Motion to:**

Adopt Resolution - INH Properties Tax Abatement Workforce Housing Units

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

6A John Welle – County Engineer

**Informational Only**

Discussion Only - Presentation of Highway Department 2024 Budget

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

6B John Welle – County Engineer

**Motion to:**

Approve Equipment Purchase - Four Tandem Plow Trucks

**RESULT:** APPROVED (4 TO 1)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample  
Boyer 2024 Western Star 47X Trucks; Commissioner Kearney voted no.

Approve purchase of truck equipment from Berts Truck Equipment

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney

7A Dan Guida – County Sheriff

**Informational Only**

Discussion Only - Presentation of 2024 Sheriff's Office Budget

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Agenda item postponed to next board meeting, September 12, 2023 as County Sheriff was called away for duty.

8A Jessica Seibert – County Administrator

**Informational Only**

Discussion Only - Revitalization Initiative Update

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Dr. Bill Brendel of Transformative Learning Institute provided an update on strategic planning activities.

8B Jessica Seibert – County Administrator

**Motion to:**

Approve Public Hearing Date - Cannabis Public Use Ordinance

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska  
Public Hearing set for September 26, 2023 10:30 a.m.

8C Jessica Seibert – County Administrator

**Informational Only**

Administrator Updates

NaCo - Green Light for Veterans Day, Department Head meeting, Dr. Bill Brendel webinar, HHS Budget Committee, Meet & Confer, Regional MACA, County and City Clerks Administration Luncheon, Facilities, Inter-agency meeting, Aitkin City Council meeting, 1:1's, LLCC Anniversary Celebration, ICMA Credentialing.

9A Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator

**Motion to:**

Approve Use of Fiscal Recovery Funds for Fire Pump Rebuild at LLCC

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)

**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

Approve Proposal Contract to Brothers Fire & Climate Makers for Fire Pump Rebuild at LLCC

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)

**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

9B Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator

**Motion to:**

Approve Use of Fiscal Recovery Funds for Heating System for North Star Lodge at LLCC

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)

**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

Approve Proposal Contract to Climate Makers for Heating System for North Star Lodge at LLCC

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)

**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

10A Board of Commissioners

**Informational Only**

Committee Reports

Facilities, Planning Commission, CARE, ECRL, AEOA, Forestry, Mississippi Grand Rapids 1W1P, Budget Committee, Aitkin Airport, US MN Senator Amy Klobuchar visit.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion made at 12:38 p.m.

**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023

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

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Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator