



AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 10, 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 9:04 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 Bret Sample
SECONDER:	Commissioner Travis Leiviska
	Remove item 9B from agenda.

1.D Citizens Public Comment by:

Richard Anderson - Ditch clearing along Soo Line boundary.

2 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Bret Sample
SECONDER:	Commissioner Michael Kearney

A) Correspondence File-

September 27, 2023 - October 10, 2023

B) Approve County Board Minutes-

September 26, 2023

C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers

Total	\$2,516,513.51
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D) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

Elan 9-14-2023

General	\$2,490.17	LLCC	\$186.46	HHS	\$428.45	Total	\$3,105.08
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E) Approve Commissioner's Vouchers

Commissioner Warrants 9-29-2023

General	\$1,083,595.23	State	\$15,622.00	LLCC	\$8,341.77		
R&B	\$117,592.81	Trust	\$12,277.58	Parks	\$22,446.60		
HHS	\$32,630.70	Forest Dv.	\$8,273.11	Covid R.F.	\$12,922.00	Total	\$1,313,701.80

F) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

R&B Warrants 9-29-2023

General	\$10,544.56	R&B	\$654,758.94	Tax&Pnlty	\$2,159.52	Total	\$667,463.02
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G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

Manual Warrants 9-29-2023

General	\$1,950.77	Parks	\$210.00			Total	\$2,160.77
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H) Adopt Resolution-

Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property

I) Approve-

2024 Medical Examiner Contract

Regular Agenda

3A Erin Melz – Public Health Supervisor

Motion to:

Approve 2023 Updated Public Health Nuisance Policy

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

4A Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

Motion to:

Approve Renewal of Enterprise Version of ESRI GIS Software

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

4B Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

Informational Only

Discussion Only – Proposed Camping Rate Increase for 2024

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

5A John Welle – County Engineer

Informational Only

Discussion Only – 2024 Budget Capital Road Improvement Plan Presentation

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

6A Jessica Seibert – County Administrator

Informational Only

Administrator Updates

MACA Conference (elected to Executive Board), Dave Baker Presentation, 2023 AMC/LMC Salary Survey, Regional MACA Call

6B Jessica Seibert – County Administrator

Informational Only

Discussion Only - Bill Brendel Revitalization Initiative Update

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

7A Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Motion to:

Adopt Resolution Amendment to Zoning Ordinance - Solar Energy Systems

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

8A Dan Guida – County Sheriff

Motion to:

Approve Search and Rescue Purchase of drones

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

9A Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Informational Only

Public Hearing – Wealthwood RV Resort Expansion EAW

RESULT: PUBLIC HEARING:
10:39 a.m. Open for public comment. Ann Hennessey commented with concerns regarding Wealthwood RV Resort Expansion. Mike Peterson of Widseth spoke on the purpose and intent of completing an EAW. Public hearing closed at 10:51 a.m.

10A Board of Commissioners

Informational Only

Committee Reports

Opioid Crisis Presentation, Planning Commission, Land Department Tour, Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Sub-committee, State Capitol visit, JET, Lakes & Pines, H&HS Advisory, ECRL, Beacon, MN Rural Counties, Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board, Rum River 1W1P, Economic Development, Brainerd 1W1P, Aitkin Airport, AIS

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 11:26 a.m.

MOVER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska
Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

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

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED October 10, 2023

By Commissioner: Sample

20231010-097

Approve Sheryl Ruhnke Repurchase Tax-Forfeited Property

WHEREAS, Sheryl Ruhnke, was the owner at the time of forfeiture. (Applicant) and,

WHEREAS, the Applicant has made and filed an application with the County Auditor for the repurchase of the hereinafter described parcel of tax-forfeited land, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, of amended, which land is situated in the County of Aitkin, Minnesota and described as follows, to-wit:

Parcel #29-1-370300 Lot 204 Big Sandy Lake Highlands Sect: 3 Twp: 49 Rge: 23

WHEREAS, said Applicant has set forth in his application that:

A. Hardship and injustice has resulted because of forfeiture of said land, for the following reasons, to-wit:

Address change – also confusion at county with taxes paid on other lot – said I was good.

B. That the repurchase of said land by me will promote and best serve the public interest because:

Lot is adjacent to other lot I own and my camper is parked there. I live there during summer months as I own the bar/restaurant on connecting lots.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has made payment of all delinquent taxes of properties.

WHEREAS, this board is of the opinion that said application should be granted for such reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the application of Sheryl Ruhnke for the purchase of the above-described parcel of tax-forfeited land be and the same is hereby granted and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to permit such repurchase according to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 282.241, as amended.

Commissioner Kearney seconded the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

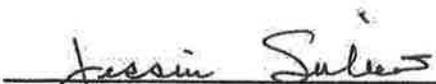
FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting YES

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 10th day of October 2023, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of October 2023



Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

By Commissioner: Leiviska

20231010-098

Approve Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance Amendment of Solar Energy Systems

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance currently does not individually address solar energy systems, and Aitkin County finds it is in the public interest to encourage the use and development of renewable energy systems that enhance conservation efforts, but result in limited adverse impact on nearby properties; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County also finds that the development of solar energy systems should be balanced with the protection of the public health, safety and welfare and resolves that standards shall be adopted to ensure that solar energy systems and solar energy farms can be constructed within Aitkin County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is experiencing a marked increase in solar energy systems statewide, which meets the intent of the 2040 carbon-free energy bill goal; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Aitkin County Comprehensive Land Use Plan it is the intent of the County, by adding solar energy systems, to create standards for the reasonable capture and use, by households, businesses and property owners; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the addition of Section 18.0 "Solar Energy Systems" of the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance

Commissioner Sample seconded the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting YES

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 10th day of October 2023, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of October 2023



Jessica Seibert
County Administrator