



2B

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Government Center Board Room

Regular Session Minutes

1.A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wedel called the meeting to order at 8:58 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
David Minke	County Administrator	Present
April Kellerman	Administrative Assistant	Present

1.B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence for Charlie Kirk.

1.C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to: Approve the agenda.

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

1.D Citizens Public Comment - None

2 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda.

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

A) Correspondence File-

September 9, 2025 - September 22, 2025

B) Approve County Board Minutes-

September 9, 2025

C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers

Total	\$2,270,292.69
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D) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - HHS 09.05.25

General	\$30.10	HHS	\$31,834.75			Total	\$31,864.85
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E) Approve Commissioner's Vouchers

Commissioner Warrants 09.12.25

General	\$220,132.46	R&B	\$81,841.83	HHS	\$1,585.71	State	\$9,041.50
Trust	\$9,178.59	Forest	\$37,660.64	Taxes	\$1,143.68	LLCC	\$2,204.67
Parks	\$15,646.12	COVID	\$10,152.00			Total	\$388,587.20

F) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Sales/Use & Diesel Tax 09.12.25

General	\$112.88	R&B	\$2,129.77	Trust	\$47.36	LLCC	\$48.84
Parks	\$504.79					Total	\$2,843.64

G) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - R&B 09.12.25

R&B	\$711,256.78					Total	\$711,256.78
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H) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - HHS 09.12.25

General	\$496.52	HHS	\$92,168.90			Total	\$92,665.42
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I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

ELAN 08.25.25

General	\$5,319.63	LLCC	\$755.45	R&B	\$992.19	HHS	\$252.51
						Total	\$7,319.78

J) Adopt Resolution-

LG220 App for Exempt Gambling - Jacobson Fire & Rescue Org

K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

ELAN 09.15.25

General	\$1,757.62	State	\$113,651.15	LLCC	\$160.33	Parks	\$160.00
						Total	\$115,729.10

L) Adopt Resolution-

Final Contract Payment #20247

M) Information Only

Investment Report

Regular Agenda

3A John Welle – County Engineer

Motion to:

Approve Equipment Purchase - Excavator

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

3B John Welle – County Engineer

Motion to:

Approve 2026 Highway Maintenance/Construction Contract Schedule

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

4A Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

Motion to:

Adopt Resolution - CPL Grant with MDHA for Tree Planting

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney**Resolution #** 20250923-108

5A Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

Motion to:

Set Public Hearing Date - New Off Sale Liquor License-OM Malmo LLC dba Malmo Market

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney**Public Hearing Date:** 10:00 a.m. on October 28, 2025 at Aitkin County Government Center Board Room

5B Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

Discussion Item

2024 Audit Review/Presentation

RESULT: DISCUSSION ITEM**MOVER:****SECONDER:**

Unmodified opinion

5C Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

Motion to:

Adopt Resolution - 2026 Preliminary Levy

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska**Resolution #** 20250923-109

- 6A Arlene Selander – Executive Director of Petals of Peace

Informational Only

Petals of Peace Presentation

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY
MOVER:
SECONDER:

- 7A David Minke – County Administrator
Administrator Updates

Reminder of option to have tour/walk through of the HHS Remodel with Facilities Coordinator

- 8A Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Committeess

Aitkin County Community Corrections, MN Rural Counties, AMC - Public Safety Committee, Lakes and Pines, National Rural Action Caucus, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Snake Rivier 1W1P Policy, AMC Fall Policy Conference, MIA Come Back and Funeral, Planning Commission, Planning Commission Workshop, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Regional Development Committee, Complete Against Elected Officials event, Personnel Committee, County Garage Sale, Meeting with North Memorial Ambulance, Iron Range visit

- 9A Bobbie Danielson – Human Resources Director
Closed Session for Labor Negotiations (MN Stat. 13D.03)

Motion to Close Meeting Under MN Statute 13D.03 Subd.1(b) Labor Negotiations

Motion made at 11:50 a.m.

MOVER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER: Commissioner Bret Sample
Attendance of those present during Closed Session

J. Mark Wedel	District #1
Laurie Westerlund	District #2
Travis Leiviska	District #3
Bret Sample	District #4
Michael Kearney	District #5
David Minke	County Administrator
Bobbie Danielson	Human Resources Director

Motion to Reopen Meeting

Motion made at 12:41 p.m.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Laurie Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Bret Sample to appoint Commissioners Michael Kearney and Travis Leiviska as the primary negotiation Commissioners with Commissioner Bret Sample as the alternative.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 12:44 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska
SECONDER: Commissioner Michael Kearney
Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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

David J. Minke
County Administrator