

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023**

The Board of County Commissioners of Chippewa County, Minnesota, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse in Montevideo, Minnesota. Commissioners present were Matt Gilbertson, David Nordaune, Bill Pauling, Candice Jaenisch, and David Lieser.

Commissioner Gilbertson called the meeting to order and requested any changes to the agenda. Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Michelle May requested to add Assessor Bonnie Crosby and Emergency Manager Stephanie Weick to the Regular Agenda, and CMRWP Allocation Request and Glacial Plains Warrant for \$271.68 to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bill Pauling requested to add discussion on Lake Snoopy Trail to the Regular Agenda. Commissioner Jaenisch moved, second by Commissioner Nordaune to approve the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Emergency Manager Stephanie Weick presented a resolution declaring a State of Emergency for the Spring flooding occurring throughout the County. Motion by Commissioner Pauling, second by Commissioner Lieser to adopt the resolution declaring a state of emergency in Chippewa County for 2023 Spring Flooding. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Jaenisch moved, second by Commissioner Nordaune to approve the following items on the consent agenda.

Approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 regular meeting

Approve C&S Country Store Tobacco License

Approve hiring Land Resource Summer Assistant

Approve \$15,000 allocation to the CMRWP

Approve payment of \$271.68 to Glacial Plains

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 375.12 vendors receiving payments in excess of \$2,000 are listed individually below:

Anoka County Human Services	2,475.00
Brookside Senior Living	4,092.00
Business Impact Group	2,697.90
Cenex	25,986.56
Chippewa River Watershed Association	4,200.00
Clara City Herald	3,497.75
Countryside Public Health Service	3,791.25
Donner's Svc Inc	2,617.72
Emergency Services Marketing Corp., Inc	3,640.00
Farmers Coop Oil Company	9,738.05
Marco Technologies	3,027.81
Midwest Machinery Co	5,000.00
Mn Counties Information System	26,331.00
Motorola Solutions Inc	2,600.00
Ratwik Roszak & Maloney Pa	3,086.90
Regents Of University Of Mn	19,670.25
Tostenson Inc	20,280.53
Twin City Hardware	3,156.96
Vendor payments less than \$2,000	16,819.98
Final Total:	\$ 162,709.66

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Commissioner Pauling updated the Board on a discussion with the Montevideo City Council regarding a proposed Lake Snoopy Trail in Montevideo.

Montevideo City Manager Robert Wolfington presented a lease approved by the City Council with a private individual for the Montevideo Airport. EDA Jack Gottfried gave an update on economic development activities going on in Montevideo for the last year. The Board discussed contribution towards the City's economic development activities. Motion by Commissioner Lieser, second by Commissioner Pauling to approve a \$2.00 per capita economic development appropriation for 2023 and request a review of the per capita rate for 2024 budget. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

County Engineer Jeremy Gilb presented bids for 2023 asphalt oil products for seal coating. The low bid was from Flint Hills Resources for a total of \$600,735 for both Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties, with the Chippewa portion as \$225,075.00. Motion passed by Commissioner Lieser, second by Commissioner Jaenisch to award the bid to Flint Hill resources. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gilb presented bids for the asbestos removal and demolition of the old junior high school in Clara City. The low bid was from DRC, Inc. for a total cost of \$255,000.00. Motion by Commissioner Jaenisch, second by Commissioner Nordaune to award the contract to DRC, Inc. for \$255,000. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gilb presented bids for SAP 012-599-099 to replace Bridge 12506 and 12507. The low bidder was Structural Specialties, Inc at a price of \$628,421.19. Motion by Commissioner Nordaune, second by Commissioner Lieser to approve the low bid from Structural Specialties. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gilb presented bids for SAP 012-599-100 and 012-599-101. The low bidder was John Riley Construction Inc at \$472,616.25. Motion by Commissioner Nordaune, second by Commissioner Pauling to award the project to John Riley Construction. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ag./Drainage Inspector Josh Macziewski and the Board discussed animal grazing on county drainage system buffers. The Board discussed concerns about protecting the ditch systems while also working with landowners. The Board directed Mr. Macziewski to work with Rinke Noonan and gather more information on proposed grazing.

The Board and Mr. Macziewski then discussed hydraulic analysis for township road crossings on drainage systems. The Board and Mr. Macziewski agreed a hydraulic analysis at township road crossings should be encouraged.

Family Services Director Lisa Schultz presented an Interactive Video Policy for the unit to provide services. Motion by Commissioner Lieser, second by Commissioner Nordaune to approve the policy. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Income Maintenance Supervisor Michelle Trulock updated the Board on the post-COVID emergency unraveling and impact on applications and renewals of income maintenance benefits.

Kati Leach, representative for U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, met with the Board to update them on the Congresswoman's activities at the U.S. Capitol.

Ms. Schultz and the Board discussed opioid settlement dollars and the County's plans to utilize the funds towards opioid use prevention, education, and response.

ATC Michelle May and Ms. Schultz presented proposals from architect and engineering firms for building assessments of the MinnWest Bank Building. The Board discussed the proposals at length and needs for the County. Motion by Commissioner Jaenisch to award the work to J&D Construction. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Lieser, second by Commissioner Nordaune to award the proposal to Klein McCarthy Architects for a maximum cost of \$13,900. Motion passed with Commissioner Lieser, Nordaune, and Gilbertson voting in favor, and Commissioners Jaenisch and Pauling voting against.

Motion by Commissioner Pauling, second by Commissioner Jaenisch to enter a closed session to discuss union negotiations. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Commissioner Lieser, second by Commissioner Jaenisch to open the public meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Commissioner Jaenisch, second by Commissioner Nordaune to approve a 3% COLA effective January 1, 2023 for all non-union employees and an insurance contribution change to \$960/month for single coverage and \$1900/month for family coverage effective July 1, 2023. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Board and ATC May discussed county department restructure as noted in the County's strategic plan. The Board directed Ms. May to bring back more information.

ATC May presented a request to restructure the Sr. Deputy Auditor/Treasurer-Accountant position to a Finance Manager with additional responsibilities and authority under the Auditor/Treasurer's Office at Grade 13 and request to advertise the position. Motion by Commissioner Nordaune, second by Commissioner Lieser to approve the restructured position and advertise for hiring. Motion passed with Commissioner Pauling, Lieser, and Nordaune voting in favor and Commissioner Jaenisch voting against.

Assessor Bonnie Crosby presented city and township assessment rates for Chippewa jurisdictions. Ms. Crosby recommended the assessment rates for townships at \$13.00 per parcel and the city rates as \$13.40 in Watson for 2024 and \$13.63 for 2025, \$14.00 in Milan, \$16.50 in Clara City, and \$18.00 in Montevideo. Motion by Commissioner Jaenisch, second by Commissioner Pauling to approve the assessment rates for 2024 and 2025. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Michelle May  
Aud/Treas & Clerk of the Board

/s/ Matt Gilbertson  
Chairman of the Board

(Auditor's Seal)