

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:40 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Pavleck, Sjoblom, Skoe, Murray, Adee
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy LaFrance, Janelle Peterson, Nathan Heibel, Dave Reimer

2021/01-14 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

Public Health and Human Services Director provided the most recent COVID-19 numbers for the state and County. Koochiching has 572 positive cases and 533 cases no longer need isolation. There have been 11,049 tests completed in Koochiching County and the current positive test rate is 4.8% which has gone down and is one of the lowest in the state. Vaccine distribution information was provided to the Board noting the Minnesota Department of Health determines the disbursement schedule. Vaccinations are being done in phases and the State is in Phase 1, Priority 1. The priority matrix for allocating COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) website or at this link <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/phase1guide.pdf>. If the County receives a request to vaccinate anyone not in the current phase, special permission is needed from the MDH. The County received 100 doses and will receive another 100 this week for administration of the 2nd dose. Board members commented they are getting a lot of phone calls from constituents about the vaccination process and requested information be provided in the newspaper and on the radio about the process. The Board was informed that a mass saliva testing event is scheduled for January 20th – 23rd at the Union Hall in International Falls and they are working with National Guard and MDH to help coordinate the event. Board member also commented on the vaccine distribution process for the local hospital, clinic, long term care facilities and assisted living facilities. Public Health and Human Services Director responded that some of those entities have received their own vaccine and that distribution is coordinated internally within the organization. There are also pharmacy partnership plans which some of the local facilities participate in and those entities also receive their own vaccines and coordinate the distribution internally. The County is vaccinating all of the other eligible people that are not part of those particular entities. Commissioners inquired if there was any stockpiles building up and the state not getting vaccines out fast enough. LaFrance does not know of any stockpiles of vaccines but knows that in small communities vaccines could be getting them out faster, but the County has to follow guidance from MDH which is trying to balance between sending out initial vaccines and the 2nd dose because it is important to get the 2nd dose at a certain time and they do not want to be short.

2021/01-15 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/01-16 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to ratify 2020 Public Health and Human Services year end claims as presented, approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$51,211.76 and approve Highway claims in the amount of \$13,858.80. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee,

Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/01-17 Motion Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the December summarized payment listing, verifying its review. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Notice of Hire of Keanna Carlson as part-time E911/Correctional Officer effective January 6, 2021.

000 Notice of Hire of Daniel Sweney as part-time E911/Correctional Officer effective January 5, 2021.

000 Notice of Hire of Mikaylah Belanger as part-time E911/Correctional Officer effective January 5, 2021.

000 Notice of employment status change of Joshua Ballejo from part-time to full time E911/Correctional Officer effective January 14, 2021.

000 The Board received notice of temporary hires under the County Temporary Hire Policy: Sheriff's Office Transport Drivers - Milo Christianson, Keith Magler, Dawn Piekarski; Veterans Service Office Veteran Van Drivers - Gary Coran, Daniel Burgess, Mark Wild, James Randolph, Steve Vigoren; Environmental Services - Donald Zaren; Auditor/Treasurers Office – Robert Peterson.

2021/01-18 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to authorize recording of the annual Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of \$50,000, and to further define employee to include the following Koochiching County Officials and any successor of such official: Auditor/Treasurer, Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, County Engineer, Assessor, Public Health and Human Services Director, Veteran Service Officer, Environmental Services Director and Administration Director as required by Minnesota Statute §382.10 and §386.01. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/01-19 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the postponement of the February 3, 2021 timber auction scheduled to be held in Big Falls until a later date due to the current COVID-19 situation and further to reschedule the new auction date for some time in April 2021. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/01-20 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to authorize the County Engineer to accept the bid from Zeigler Cat for the budgeted purchase of a Caterpillar 140M3 Motor Grader in the amount of \$300,000 noting this is not the low quote but the best value for the County. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/01-21 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to appoint Commissioner Murray to all Committees held by former Commissioner McBride, to appoint Commissioners Skoe and Adee as nonvoting representatives on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board, appoint Commissioner Murray and Adee to the Koochiching Aging, eliminate the CARES Act Committee and CARES Act Economic Development Grant Committee and all other committee

assignments remaining the same. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Board Chair called for public comment and there was none.

2021/01-22 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.