

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Sjoblom, Hell & Roche

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Crystelle Clance, Nathan Heibel, Dave Reimer, Trent Nicholson, Matt Gouin, Justin O'Bert, Tom West, Jim Yount, Jaci Nagle, Paul Nevanen, Alysa Hackenmueller, Jeremiah Olson, KCCTV reporter Darcy Sullivan

000 Board Chair Sjoblom observed the passing of Commissioner Wayne Skoe and honored his many years of service to the residents of Koochiching County noting he enjoyed being a Commissioner and wished he would have started serving earlier.

2023/02-01 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, and Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-02 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2023 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, and Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-03 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the January summarized vendor payment list, approve January payroll and payroll ACH payments in the amount of \$1,249,948.80, approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$233,659.67, and approve Highway claims in the amount of \$181,565.72. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-04 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to ratify MCIT annual insurance claim in the amount of \$306,221. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-05 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche approving Sheriff warrant void of \$44.25 and Treasurer warrant void of \$64. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-06 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche approving the promotion from part-time to full-time of Samuel Richter, E911 Dispatcher/Correction Officer effective January 20, 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-07 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the separation of two part-time Deputy Sheriff's effective February 5, 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-08 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the separation of Eligibility Worker effective February 24, 2023 and authorize the filling of the vacant position within the assigned wage scale. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-09 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the separation of County Engineer, Dave Reimer effective March 20, 2023 and authorize filling the vacant position. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-10 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve the Ash River-Kabetogama Snowdrifters MN Lawful Off-Site Gambling LG230 permit application to conduct an excluded raffle on June 25, 2023 with prizes under \$1,500 at Boondocks Bar & Grill; 4660 Hwy 53; Ray, MN 56669 and also approve the Ranier Recreation Club MN Lawful Off-Site Gambling LG230 permit application to conduct a raffle for Koochiching County Museums at Thunderbird Lodge; 2170 County Road 1139; International Falls, MN 56649 on June 1, 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-11 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to adopt a resolution endorsing the efforts of the Community Supervision Workgroup and urging the legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

WHEREAS, community supervision is a fundamental part of the criminal justice system in Minnesota and funding sufficient to ensure effective services is vital to public safety in all communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, community supervision includes services such as probation, supervised release, and intensive supervised release; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties provide essential community supervision services both as mandated by M.S. Chapter 244.19 and also as delegated by the Department of Corrections under M.S. Chapter 401; and

WHEREAS, when the Legislature decided that community supervision was best delivered through a state-county partnership, it stated a clear intent that the state would provide significant funding to the counties for the operation of local programs; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Minnesota has become the state with the lowest level of corrections funding in the nation because the Legislature has not upheld its promise to provide adequate state resources to support community supervision; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature's failure to adequately fund community supervision has increased local property taxes on residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, a revised community supervision funding formula is necessary to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have enough state funding to provide a consistent standard for effective, evidence-based community supervision services, regardless of local capacity to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the Community Supervision Work Group including county leaders and experts in community supervision from all three supervision delivery systems to study the needs of community supervision departments statewide and develop a single funding formula that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Supervision Workgroup has taken up its charge to convene stakeholders across the three probation delivery systems to oversee a study to create a unified recommendation for an equitable and adequate funding formula and appropriation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support a new funding formula that provides counties with the resources needed to keep communities safe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners endorses the efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-12 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving the Lake of the Woods Memorandum of Understanding to enter into an agreement with Koochiching County to participate in a long-term lease agreement for housing inmates in a new jail facility. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-13 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve revisions to the 2023 Committee List replacing the ARDC temporary appointment of Commissioner Roche with Destry Hell and appoint Kevin Adee as the "No Township" representative, remove County Board Alternates from Arrowhead Regional Corrections Board, delete ATP Committee from list, which is a duplicate of NEMNATP; remove 2nd representative from Koochiching Aging Options as the County has one non-voting representative on their Board; appointed Commissioner Sjoblom as the alternate on the JET Northeast MN Office of Jobs and Training, and finally replace Ricky Roche with Destry Hell on the Jail POC Committee. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-14 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell authorizing Administration Director to go out for Request for Proposal for Lobbying Service to obtain State Funding for facilities improvement needs. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-15 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche authorizing the Administration Director to go out for Request for Proposal for county wide ambulance services per current International Falls Ambulance service areas and any unserved areas. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

000 Alys Hackenmueller of JET Northeast MN Office of Jobs and Training and Jeremiah Olson of Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency updated the Board that their offices have moved to a new public location at the International Falls Public Library and by appointment only at Ballan's iSpace. Support is always available through the CareerForce Information & Assistance Line 651-259-7500. "In an effort to adapt our physical footprint and service delivery model to meet the needs of our region, we made the decision to broaden our reach by releasing our lease space on the Minnesota North – Rainy River campus, allowing us to continue to meet and serve individuals on that campus with also expanding opportunities to meet and serve individual's at other accessible and convenient locations throughout Koochiching County", said Executive Director of JET, Marie Domiano.

2023/02-16 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to execute the nondisclosure agreement from Frontier which has expressed interest in expanding their services to include fiber-based service in

Koochiching County. Frontier would like to provide the county with proprietary information that would prove beneficial in collaborating with the county to expand their services. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-17 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving the 2023-2024 AmeriCorps Host Site Agreement for their Lead For America temporary one-year position that will be focused on expanding broadband access to underserved locations in Koochiching County. Koochiching County is submitting the application and the intent is Koochiching Technology Initiative would continue to play an active role including seeking out additional funding support to cover operational costs to support the fellows' activities. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-18 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving a broadband project that will bring reliable, affordable broadband access to the businesses and economic development sites located along the Highway 332 S and County Road 155 corridor developed by Koochiching Technology Initiative (KTI). This area is currently unserved, creating a barrier to existing businesses and future economic development. Further, a proposal was received from Midco to complete the project at a cost of \$193,248 with Midco providing 30% of the funding equal to \$57,974, the County approves that Jaci Nagle submit a Border to Border Broadband Grant application as well as request that the City of International Falls participate as a public partner equal to the County's monetary participation in the project as the area includes properties within the City, including their economic development parcels. Finally, the County adopts the following resolution that must be submitted as part of the Border to Border Broadband grant application:

BE IT RESOLVED that Koochiching County act as the legal sponsor for projects(s) contained in the Broadband Development Grant Program to be submitted on or before 3/1/2023 and that Jaci Nagle, AmeriCorps Fellow is hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of Koochiching County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Koochiching County has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure adequate project administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sources and amounts of the local match identified in the application are committed to the project identified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Koochiching County has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, Koochiching County may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced projects(s), and that Koochiching County certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulation as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the undersigned is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant.

The above resolution was adopted by the County Board of Koochiching County on February 14, 2023. This motion is contingent upon the City of International Falls contributing the same monetary commitment as the County of \$28,987.40 and is also contingent upon receiving the Border to Border Grant valued at \$77,299.20. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-19 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche adopting a resolution supporting a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources by the Polar Poler's Ski Club:

WHEREAS, Koochiching County supports the 2023 grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program. The application is to purchase a snowmobile for grooming the trail.

WHEREAS, Koochiching County recognizes the twenty-five (25) percent match requirement for the Federal Recreational grant program, and that the Polar Polers Ski Club will secure the matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if the Polar Poler's Ski Club is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Koochiching County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. Koochiching County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners names Koochiching County Auditor/Treasurer, Thomas West at 715 4th Street as the fiscal agent for Koochiching County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polar Poler's Ski Club hereby assures the Tilson Recreational Trail will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-20 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche awarding the bid for the purchase of a wide format printer to Loffler at a cost of \$11,342.74. The Recorder's office will use their technology funds for the purchase. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-21 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to award the bid to Wherley Motors for a 2023 Ram 1500 for the Land and Forestry Department at a cost of \$39,300 minus a trade-in of \$7,000. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-22 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving the Board Chair's signature to a letter of support for the MN DNR Heritage Forest Project as MN DNR seeks funding sources to acquire some lands from the Conservation Fund and to further request that MN DNR includes Koochiching County in any funding sources they seek so the County may possibly acquire lands that are strategically important to it. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-23 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving the repurchase by a former owner's estate of tax-forfeited property described as NW ¼ NE ¼ of Section 31; Township 69 North, Range 22 West. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-24 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving the repurchase by a former owner's estate of tax-forfeited property described as SW ¼ SE ¼ less the north 10 acres of Section 30; Township 69 North, Range 22 West. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

000 The Land Commissioner provided the results from the February 1, 2023 timber auction noting that 22,504 cords were sold for a total auction sale value of \$784,058.75 with two tracts remaining unsold.

2023/02-25 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell authorizing the Highway Department to solicit quotes for (3) ½ ton pickups, (1) Pressure Washer/Culvert Steamer, (1) Diagnostic Scanner Tool, (1) Trimble TSC7 Controller. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/02-26 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche authorizing the Environmental Services Director to enter in a MPCA SSTS Program grant agreement with the State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for \$52,018 for 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

The Board Chair called for Public Comment and Crystelle Clance asked when an election will be held to fill District 5 commissioner seat. Board Chair informed Ms. Clance it will be decided upon at the February 28, 2023 Board meeting.

2023/02-27 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.