

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHIING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:30 a.m.

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jaci Nagle, Nathan Heibel, Essa Eide, Trent Nicholson, Matt Gouin, Barb Lusardi, Emily Bauer, Paul Putzier.

2021/02-14 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-15 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-16 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$53,317.02, approve Highway claims in the amount of \$24,426.47, approve Public Health and Human Services claims as presented and approve payment of Burial Case #1763508 in the amount of \$800.61. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-17 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the Koochiching County Interfund Loan Policy. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-18 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to adopt the following resolution approving Interfund Loans:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY INTERFUND LOANS

WHEREAS the Koochiching County Island View Sewer Capital Improvement Project Fund has a December 31, 2020 temporary cash shortage in the amount of \$1,181,420.85; and

WHEREAS the Koochiching County Northland Counseling Capital Improvement Project Fund has a December 31, 2020 temporary cash shortage in the amount of \$13,913.50; and

WHEREAS the Koochiching County Jackfish Bay Debt Service Fund has a December 31, 2020 temporary cash shortage in the amount of \$42,565.29; and

WHEREAS General Revenue will provide a Temporary Interfund Loan to these funds; and

WHEREAS repayment for the Temporary Interfund Loan to the Island View Sewer Capital Improvement Project Fun will be made using supplemental bond funds after the total project costs have been determined: and

WHEREAS repayment for the Temporary Interfund Loan to the Northland Counseling Capital Improvement Project Fund will be paid through reimbursement from State General Obligation Grant Funds; and

WHEREAS repayment for the Temporary Interfund Loan to the Jackfish Bay Debt Service Fund will be made from special assessment and debt service fees; and

WHEREAS the Temporary Interfund Loan will follow the Koochiching County Interfund Loan Policy; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners approves an Interfund Loan in the amount of the temporary cash shortage to the Island View Sewer Capital Improvement Fund, the Northland Counseling Capital Improvement Fund and the Jackfish Bay Debt Service Fund effective December 31, 2020. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-19 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve a meeting schedule change adding a KDA meeting on March 9th and moving the April 20th County Board meeting to April 27th. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-20 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to approve the appointment of Pam Saunders as Commissioner on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board effective March 1, 2021 through March 1, 2026. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Commissioner Murray provided an update to the Board regarding dialysis. Representatives from the County including Commissioners Murray and Adee, County Administration, Public Health and Human Services Director, Public Health Supervisor and representatives from Rainy Lake Medical Center (RLMC) and Essentia Health met on January 28, 2021. There was a lot of discussion of what was done in the past. Essentia Health provided information from Dr. Michael Maddy, Division Chair of Medical Specialties. The first and most important point is that Essentia does not provide the dialysis service. That service comes from Fresenius Kidney Care or from Davita. They have both looked at this several times and have declined to build a unit because of the small number of patients in the catchment area and the technical and staffing difficulty of supporting a unit that would be so far from other units located in Eveleth and Hibbing. RLMC talked with Sanford and they have a dialysis in Bemidji that operates 6 days a week. The challenge remains the low volume of patients. Unfortunately, the conclusion remains that there are not enough numbers to make a dialysis center feasible and it is beyond the scope of the County Board and Public Health and Human Services. Overall providing dialysis is a function of the health care system and the people need to advocate for local dialysis with their health care providers. The recommendation is to use the existing dialysis funds the County is holding for a gas card program that can be coordinated through Public Health and Human Services noting that fundraising for donations would not be a function of PHHS.

2021/02-21 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to authorize Public Health and Human Services and Commissioners Adee and Murray to develop a policy and criteria for distribution of existing dialysis funds in the form of a gas card program. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Information regarding the proposed Clean Car Standards was provided to the Board, noting there are hearings today starting at 3:00 p.m. Minnesota Rural Counties Association is requesting the County Board express opposition to adopting the provisions of MN Clean Car by rule and

support for putting it through the legislative process. Commissioner Skoe would like to oppose it and have the County adopt a resolution. Commissioner Adee noted that AEOA is adding two or three electric buses to their fleet. Commissioner Pavleck commented that it does not make sense to adopt California standards for Minnesota and allow the MPCA to have rule making authority.

2021/02-22 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to adopt the following resolution that opposes the MPCA's attempt to adopt California's mandates through rulemaking without consulting the Legislature:

A RESOLUTION THAT OPPOSES THE MPCA'S ATTEMPT TO ADOPT CALIFORNIA'S MANDATES THROUGH RULEMAKING WITHOUT CONSULTING THE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Koochiching County is responsible for providing essential government services such as transportation infrastructure and solid waste management that promote a vibrant community;

WHEREAS, Koochiching County works tirelessly to be good stewards of our tax dollars and provide these programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of adopting California's Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandates, which are expected to phase-out the sale of fuel-powered passenger vehicles by 2035;

WHEREAS, the adoption of these rules is being conducted by rulemaking, which limits the scope of the discussion to a narrow set of issues, precluding a broader policy debate on the economic development, transportation, energy, and waste disposal impacts of the policy. The proposed rule and process for adopting it also fail to address many of the Minnesota-specific concerns related to our county's demographics and climate.

WHEREAS, the MPCA's own documents show that the plan to mandate California's LEV and ZEV standards is likely to increase the cost of all light- and medium-duty vehicles sold in Minnesota by an average of \$1,139;

WHEREAS, the MPCA estimates the rule will displace 674 million gallons of fuel by 2034, before the phasing out of fuel-powered vehicles, but the MPCA's documents do not address the long-term consequences on our county's transportation revenues;

WHEREAS, batteries in electric vehicles weigh ten-times as much as batteries in vehicles with internal combustion engines and include more toxic elements, exposing our county to increased disposal costs and liabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Koochiching County opposes the MPCA's attempt to adopt California's mandates through rulemaking without consulting the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Koochiching County encourages the Walz administration to withdraw its proposed rulemaking and bring a proposal to the Legislature where a more comprehensive policy can be considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Koochiching County stands ready to advise the Governor, his administration, and our regional Legislators on proactive methods to achieve the goals raised by Governor Walz without adversely impacting our ability to provide public services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Koochiching County will advocate against this rulemaking to ensure that our concerns about increased costs, lost transportation revenues, and battery waste are contemplated and mitigated. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-23 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to approve the purchase of Board Room Audio Video equipment necessary due to COVID-19 to make the Board room open meeting law compliant in the amount of \$22,100 from iSPACE Environments with \$8,000 of funds coming from the IS budget and the \$14,100 from Administration contingency funds. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-24 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to approve the purchase of 2021 technology device replacements from SHI in the budgeted amount of \$12,040. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-25 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to authorize the Information Systems Director to execute the Sergeant Laboratories Inc. Product License and Support Services Agreement and the budgeted capital purchase of a cybersecurity system in the amount of \$14,901.84 with an estimated annual renewal cost of \$7,451. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-26 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to set aside \$110,000 for timber and resource development reserves and \$45,000 for park development reserves from the 2020 Trust Fund income as approved in the 2021 Land and Forestry Budget and to set aside \$7.00 per capita from the 2019 Trust Fund income for promotion as allowed under MN Statute with allocation as follows: allocate 57% of the promotion funds to the cities within Koochiching County with allocation ratio to be the same as in previous year (50% to International Falls and remaining 50% split equally between the small cities) and with a letter to accompany the checks stating what the funds can be expended on and when they have to be expended and to allocate 43% of the promotions funds to the Koochiching Development Authority to be held and utilized for the promotion of tourism, agricultural and industrial development as defined in MN Statutes. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-27 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to approve the void of warrant #33067 in the amount of \$144.60. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-28 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to approve the donation of 12 quilts from the Quilters at First Lutheran Church to be used for community members in the Home Visiting Program. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-29 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to award SAP 036-601-014 CSAH 1 Bridge Replacement over Bear River to Gladen Construction Inc. in the amount of \$617,028.77 and

further to authorize the Board Chair signature to the contract agreement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/02-30 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to award SAP 036-620-010 CSAH 20 Angled Parking to Wagner Construction Inc. in the amount of \$478,599.05 and further to authorize the Board Chair signature to the contract agreement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Board heard a presentation on the County Geologic Atlas Program from Barbara Lusardi, Geologist/Associate Director, MN Geological Survey (MGS), Emily Bauer (MGS) and Paul Putzier from the DNR. This program produces maps and data bases that describe the geology and water mineral resources of a county in forms useful for land use planning and resource management. County geologic atlases have been prepared for nearly half of the state and most of the population. They are requesting that Koochiching County participate in the program, noting there is only an in kind contribution required by the County which is to assist in locating wells throughout the County. A request for participation will be brought to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting.

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

2021/02-31 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.