

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Sjoblom, Hell & Roche

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy LaFrance, Matt Gouin, Perryn Hedlund, Jon Froemke, Dean Tveit, Lee Hervey, Josh Urban, Kent Koerbitz, Doug Franchot, Pam Tomevi, Eric Johnson and KCCTV reporter Darcy Sullivan.

2023/03-26 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve the agenda with additions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, and Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-27 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, and Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-28 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$13,462.83, and approve Highway claims in the amount of \$6,746.28 and approve Public Health and Human Service claims as presented. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-29 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve changes to the County Committee List as follows, all District 5 committee assignments are vacant until District 5 is filled except for MN Rural Counties Board – Jason Sjoblom Temporary until District 3 or 5 are filled, Northland Progressive – Destry Hell Temporary until District 5 is filled, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) – Jason Sjoblom Temporary until District 3 or 5 are filled. Additionally, add Whitney Sims, Planning and Zoning to Big Fork River Board, Board of Adjustment, Red Lake Watershed District Steering Committee, Wetland Technical Advisory Committee, and WCA Technical Evaluation Panel. Further, Replace Dave Reimer, former County Engineer with Trent Nicholson to the following Committee Assignments, Association of MN Counties, Beaver Removal Committee, Hwy 11 West Task Force, Northeast Area Transportation Partnership, Survey Committee and finally add Teddy Pearson to the Safety Committee. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, and Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-30 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to adopt the following resolution in support of moving ahead with the authorization to proceed with the implementation for the jail replacement project as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that Koochiching County, State of Minnesota, intends to proceed with the project scope of work as identified by the County Jail Project Oversight Committee

WHEREAS, the County Board (the “Board”) has established a Jail Project Oversight Committee to assist the County with a plan for the replacement of the existing County Jail.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The County Board has established a Jail Project Oversight Committee to work on a plan to address concerns expressed to the County from the MN Department of Corrections and has worked for the past year on a plan for a new jail.

WHEREAS the Jail Project Oversight Committee recommends, building a new jail to reduce recidivism, increase community safety, and reduce long-term cost while improving the health and well-being of our community.

WHEREAS, the County Board has reviewed the proposal for a 40 bed approximately 22,700 sq ft jail located at the existing county government service site location.

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2022, the County selected ICS to provide Program Management Services for the development of a plan, scope, and construction of County facilities with final project approvals directed by the County Board.

WHEREAS, A two part Contract was executed with ICS on May 10, 2022. Part A being planning and scope development and Part B (once County provides authorization to proceed with the project) to provide the necessary professional services for the design and construction management of a jail and modification of County buildings as specified.

WHEREAS, Once Construction Drawings are completed, it is the County Board's intentions to put the project construction contracts out for public bidding per MN Statute.

WHEREAS, Bonding has been authorized by the County Board for a maximum principal amount of \$20,000,000 for the jail replacement project authorized June 7, 2022.

WHEREAS, \$10 million in jail bonds have been secured by the County in August of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Koochiching County Board in State of Minnesota (the "Board"), as follows: The County Board authorizes Administration to officially enter Part B of the jail replacement project and move forward with necessary steps including proceeding with remaining project funding, design and construction of the jail replacement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-31 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell approving a Television Translator Maintenance Agreement with Up North Electric, LLC for Koochiching County's five translator site systems for the sum of \$7,500 per quarter. Further, there will be a three month overlap training period with Voyageur Comtronics Corporation Agreement which will terminate effective June 30, 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

000 Doug Franchot and Pam Tomevi representatives from the local Water Levels Committee and Eric Johnson, Rainy Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) chair gave an update on spring flood conditions. Tomevi updated the Board that on March 10, 2023 the Water Levels Committee (WLC) decided on the 2023 Spring Regulation Plan, directing dam operators to target the lower 33% of the rule curves for both Rainy and Namakan Lakes by March 31st. The WLC met again on March 27, 2023 to review current conditions and updated forecasts. Personnel from the National Weather Service – Duluth Office, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry -Surface Water Monitoring Centre and dam operators were in attendance. The Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat provided an overview of current conditions and National Weather Service provided an overview of current forecasts and spring flooding risk. Namakan Lake is currently in the March 31st target rate of 18% band, Rainy Lake is just outside the target range but is projected to drop within the target range by March 31. The 8–14-day outlook indicates below normal temperatures which favors a slower melt. Frost depth

is little to none, increasing the chance of soil infiltration which will slow runoff in the basin. After speaking with community groups it was decided to target the lower 25% of the rule curve by April 15th, 2023. This decision may cause low lake levels this summer, but community groups on both Namakan and Rainy Lake are good with that. They would rather have lower lake levels than flooding. RLPOA chair Johnson stated they are pleased with the WLC and thanked them for working with property owners' concerns. Franchot shared information on Mold Remediation Awareness free online course to be held April 11, 2023.

2023/03-32 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche approving the 2021 Stonegarden Grant with an amount of \$148,500 and effective dates of 09/01/2021 through 08/31/2024. Grant dollars will be shared by Koochiching County Sheriff's Office, International Falls Police Department and MN Department of Natural Resources. No matching county funds. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-33 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the approve the Chief Deputy's signature to the 2023 State of Minnesota Annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant in the amount of \$6,376. No matching county funds. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-34 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve renewal of Purchase of Service agreements for LSS Guardianship, ODC Supported Employment, and ODC Day Support. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-35 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to approve the payment of two burials for a total of \$3,070.70. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-36 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche approving the appointment of David Burchell (Industry Representative) and Dave Harder (Contractor Representative) to the Koochiching County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-37 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to approve payment of the emergency sewer line repairs in the Law Enforcement Center from the Sinking Building Fund in the amount of \$6,640.86. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

2023/03-38 Motion by Hell, seconded by Roche to obtain additional information from the two bidders for the replacement of three garage doors with openers located in the Law Enforcement Center and to bring this back to the Board at the next meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.

000 Lee Hervey representing the Loman Volunteer Fire Department requested the Board pay for the monthly cost of internet services at their County leased building. Commissioner Sjoblom responded they couldn't do that as they must be fair to all volunteer organizations.

000 The Board Chair opened the meeting for Public Comment and Chrystal Clance asked what would happen to the Veterans Memorial when the new jail was built. Commissioner Sjoblom responded it would move north of its current location.

2023/03-39 Motion by Roche, seconded by Hell to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Hell, & Roche. Motion carried.