

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Pavleck, Adee, Skoe, and Sjoblom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Murray (Medical)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Perryn Hedlund, Dave Reimer, Trent Nicholson, Nathan Heibel, Peter Makowski, Representative Rob Ecklund, Andy Hubley, Bryan Larsen, Holly Kostrzewski, Aaron Nevalin, and KCCTV reporter Darcy Sullivan

2022/05-21 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-22 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

000 Sheriff Hedlund updated the Board that Koochiching County has a great group of employees and wanted to give special appreciation to the Highway crew that have been working seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. We couldn't do the sandbagging without them and the help from the DNR, National Guard, students and the public. They are producing 15,000 sandbags a day at Kerry Park. The lake continues to rise at an average of 1-2 inches a day, we are now at 2014 levels, with another 11 – 12 inches expected by May 30. Once the peak is reached it will take weeks for the water levels to come down. These are unprecedented water levels, and we may reach water levels of the 1950 flood which were 18 inches higher than the 2014 flood. Portions of County Road 46 in Ranier and 461 to Eagles Nest remain closed and barricaded and county crews continue to build up some county roads that threaten to overflow. Should roads need to be closed, Sheriff Hedlund will issue voluntary evacuation orders and travel will not be recommended on roads under water. Large de-water pumps have been issued to Thunderbird Lodge and Island View Lodge to keep the water out of their facilities.

2022/05-23 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$76,757.14, Highway claims in the amount of \$78,669.19 and Public Health and Human Service claims as presented. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-24 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve a Highway warrant void in the amount of \$35.85. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

000 The Board received a Notice of Hire of Susan Wadaga as Accounting Technician effective May 31, 2022.

000 The Board received a Notice of Hire of Myles Mason as part-time E911 Dispatcher/Correction Officer effective May 16, 2022.

2022/05-25 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Sjoblom to approve employment separation of Clarissa Grasshorn, E911 Dispatcher/Correction Officer, effective May 8, 2022 and authorize filling of vacant position. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-26 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Adee to temporarily appoint Jason Sjoblom to the American Rescue Plan, Kevin Adee to the Arrowhead Regional Corrections Board and Falls International Airport Commission, Wayne Skoe to the Kootasca Board of Directors, Kevin Adee to the Management and Personnel Committee, and Jason Sjoblom to the VNP Planning/VNP Government Affairs Committee on the County Committee List while Commissioner Murray is on medical leave. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-27 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Skoe to approve a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG214 Premises Permit Application and accompanied with LG215 Lease for the purpose of Lawful Gambling activity from the Ranier Recreation Club to be held at the premises of Sha Sha, LLC at 1664 Hwy 11 East in International Falls, MN. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-28 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve a resolution of the Koochiching County Jail Project Oversight Committee (POC) to move forward with the engagement of Bond Counsel and the selection of a Municipal Advisor to issue \$10 million in phase 1 jail bonds. Final issuance to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

000 Nathan Heibel, Land and Forestry Commissioner informed the Board the May 4, 2022 timber auction had 42 registered bidders, prices were up across the board with high demand for spruce and pine with a grand total of timber sold at \$1,122,276.65.

2022/05-29 Motion by Adee, seconded by Sjoblom to approve a Public Health/Human Service warrant void in the amount of \$3,217.10. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

2022/05-30 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Sjoblom to adopt the following resolution to renew the MnDOT Master Partnership Agreement:

Whereas, The Minnesota Department of Transportation wishes to cooperate closely with local units of government to coordinate the delivery of transportation services and maximize the efficient delivery of such services at all levels of government; and

Whereas, MnDOT and local governments are authorized by Minnesota Statutes sections 471.59, 174.02, and 161.20, to undertake collaborative efforts for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of state and local roads; and

Whereas, the parties wish to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to such opportunities for collaboration and have determined that having the ability to write “work orders” against a master contract would provide the greatest speed and flexibility in responding to identified needs.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Koochiching County of Minnesota enter into a Master Partnership Contract with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, a copy of which was before the Koochiching County Board.

2. That the proper Koochiching County Board officers are authorized to execute such contract, and any amendments thereto.
3. That the Koochiching County Engineer is authorized to negotiate work order contracts pursuant to the Master Contract, which work order contracts may provide for payment to or from MnDOT, and that the Koochiching County Engineer may execute such work order contracts on behalf of the Koochiching County of Minnesota without further approval by this County Board. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.

000 Andy Hubley, ARDC introduced Bryan Anderson, MnDOT Planning Director. Anderson discussed the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership and projects planned for Koochiching County and updated the Board the manhole cover repairs, turf, final striping and landscaping on Highway 53 will be completed by June, 2022.

000 Holly Kostrzewski, Northeast MN Toward Zero Deaths Coordinator, and Aaron Nevalin updated the Board the Toward Zero Death initiative began in 2010 and is comprised of an eight-county region. Current trending shows there are more drug (meth and heroin) impaired driving issues than alcohol.

000 The Board Chair called for Public Comment and Rob Ecklund, State Representative, reported the legislative session is done and the Veterans Bill passed which included 911 bonus's totaling \$25 million, enlistment bonuses for National Guard, Veteran Home assistance and larger state payments for CVS0 projects. The Drought Relief Ag Bill, Broadband Bill, and HHS Bill includes a pilot project at North Shore hospital all passed.

Pete Makowski, North Central Regional Outreach Director, was asked by Senator Tina Smith to be in Koochiching County to scope out flood damage and will be going on a tour this morning. He is planning a Housing Forum for June 15, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. held at City Hall to discuss housing needs in Koochiching County.

2022/05-31 Motion by Sjoblom, seconded by Skoe to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. Voting yes by roll call: Sjoblom, Adee, Pavleck, Skoe. Motion carried.