

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy LaFrance, Nathan Heibel, Jon Froemke, Tom Weber, Kent Koerbitz, Russell Habermann, Bryan Anderson, Krysten Saatela Foster, Dave Reimer, KCCTV Reporter Darcy Sullivan

2021/04-17 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Public Health and Human Service Director provided a COVID-19 update to the Board noting the County is reporting 794 cases of which 740 no longer need isolation and 13 deaths have been reported. Vaccination numbers were provided, and that process is going very well. Board member inquired if the number of vaccinations in the County includes those that have been provided outside of the County and was informed that vaccinations are reported by the County of residence.

2021/04-18 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-19 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$85,289.28, approve Highway claims in the amount of \$16,201.65 and approve Public Health and Human Services claims as presented. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-20 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the void of warrant #34921 in the amount of \$209.30. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-21 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to accept a donation from the Northeast Service Cooperative in the amount of \$1,930 to be used for employee wellness. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-22 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> half allocation to Drug Court in the amount of \$6,250 to be paid before June 30, 2021 and further to approve additional funding in the amount of \$12,500 for Drug Court to be transferred from Administration contingency funds for a total 2021 funding allocation of \$25,000 which is consistent with prior year funding and matches funding received by Drug Court from Lake of the Woods County. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-23 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe that it is resolved by the Koochiching County Board that the Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition for State of Minnesota Agreement No. 1046187 for Reconstruct Runway 13/31 Phase 3 Project for State Project No. A3601-112 at the Falls

International Airport is accepted and further that the Board Chair and County Attorney are authorized to execute the above grant document and any amendments on behalf of the International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission and Koochiching County. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-24 Motion by Pavleck seconded by Murray to approve the On Sale and Sunday Intoxicating Liquor License for The River Golf Course, Inc., DBA The River, for the period of May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 as recommended by the License Committee. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-25 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to appoint Commissioners Pavleck and Murray to the ATV Joint Powers Board and further to add to the 2021 Committee List. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-26 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the voids of warrant #34462 in the amount of \$60, warrant #34719 in the amount of \$1,061.48 and warrant #35097 in the amount of \$941.02. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-27 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to accept the donation from St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid of six quilts to Public Health to be used for community members in the home visiting program. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-28 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to approve the expenditure of \$50,000 towards utilizing MN DNR contractors to collect the field data on 131 plots on Koochiching County managed lands over the course of CY2021 and CY2022 payable from the Reserve Timber Account for the purpose of collecting a predetermined amount/grid of fixed radius forest inventory plots to aid in collecting and updating forest inventory data in a more efficient manner than traditional methods in conjunction with other public forest manager in the region. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/04-29 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to adopt the following resolution to approve the appraisals, terms and conditions and sale to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021 at the Backus Community Center Auditorium for the sale of certain non-conservation tax-forfeited lands:

WHEREAS, certain parcels of land in Koochiching County have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes and it appears desirable that pursuant to the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 282, said lands have been classified and that certain of said lands be offered for sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Koochiching County that lands described in a list approved by members of the said County Board and filed with the County Auditor, are hereby classified as non-conservation and offered for sale subject to the Provisions of Section 282.01, Minnesota Statutes of 1982, and further certify that all parcels on the list comply with the provisions of M.S. 40.46, 85.012, 92.461, 103F.535, 282.018 and other statutes that withhold tax forfeit lands from sale or require conservation easements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land have been viewed and comply with the provisions of M.S. 282.018 and the 1991 Laws of Minnesota Ch. 354, Art. 10, Section 9, amending M.S. Sec. 282.018, Subd. 2 (1990). The County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that the County Land Commissioner has reviewed the filed land sale list and identified any and all non-forested marginal land and wetland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said parcels of land are hereby appraised at the value set opposite each parcel and filed with the County Auditor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the land is sold on terms that the terms of sale shall be as follows, to-wit: That all sales amounting to \$1,000.00 or less shall be paid in cash at the time of purchase; that on all sales amounting to more than \$1,000.00; the purchaser shall pay a minimum twenty percent (20%) of the purchase price of the land and building value at the time of purchase or \$1,000.00 whichever is greater, with the remaining balance due within thirty (30) days of the sale. Full payment will be required before any timber can be removed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any buildings or improvements now on any tract purchased or which hereafter be erected, placed or made thereon, shall be and remain the property of the State of Minnesota until the purchaser has paid for the property in full.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all sales are final. In the cases of payment default, Koochiching County will retain the down payment as penalty and damages, and will, at its sole discretion, decide whether the tract(s) will be re-offered to the next highest bidder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said purchaser shall not be delinquent in any Koochiching County Auditor's Certificate of Purchase of Tax Forfeited Lands under Minnesota Statutes, Section 282.01.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the responsibility for determining boundary lines of parcels purchased rest with the purchaser.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all sales are subject to the various county and municipal zoning ordinances; any existing easements or right of way; and any deed restrictions so imposed and noted at the time of sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all mineral rights are reserved to the State of Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining personal property remaining on a property is part of the sale as noted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bid raises shall be made on a percentage basis of the appraised value of the land, timber and buildings, with no increased bids being accepted of less than increments of five percent (5%) of the appraised value. Bid raises do not apply to any special assessments that may be listed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certain parcels of tax forfeited land located within the list forfeited with unpaid special assessments for improvements. These special assessments were cancelled at the time of forfeiture. Upon the sale of this land, an assessment schedule may be established for payment of a portion or all of the unpaid special assessments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of sale of such lands be given by publication in the official newspaper of the County as provided by law, and that the County Auditor of Koochiching County offer such parcels for sale in the order in which they appear in such notice of sale and that such sales be to the highest bidder for not less than the appraised value and shall continue until all such parcels are sold or the County Board orders a reappraisal. The sale will be held at 10:00 A.M., Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Backus Community Center Auditorium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that three percent (3%) of the total sale price will be cash at the time of the sale for the Minnesota Tax-forfeited Real Estate Account. Pursuant to Minnesota Laws of 1969, Chapter 373, Subdivision 6, and acts amendatory thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Statutes 282.014, Section 3 imposes a \$25.00 fee upon purchasers of tax forfeited land for issuance of a State Deed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as required by Minnesota Statutes 282.01, Subdivision 6, all State Tax Deeds must be recorded with the County Recorder prior to issuing the Deed to the purchaser, therefore a recording fee of \$46.00 for each State Deed issued must be paid to the Koochiching County Recorder by the purchaser when tax forfeited land is paid for in full. Any property with a known well will be charged a \$50.00 fee for recording the well certificate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as required by Minnesota Statutes 287.22, all State Tax Deeds are subject to State Deed Tax which must be paid by the purchaser.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that except in the case of deeds issued for platted property and deeds issued to correct errors in either legal description or grantees, the deeds issued for these parcels will contain a restrictive covenant which will prohibit enrollment of the land in a State Funded program providing compensation of marginal land or wetlands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any of the said lands or lots is subject to withdrawal from sale by the County Board or Land Commissioner when it appears to be the public's interest to do so, and the Land Commissioner reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Land Commissioner provided the results from the April 7, 2021 timber auction noting that 24,164 cords were sold for a total auction sale value of \$763,026.80 with one tract remaining unsold.

000 Undersheriff Froemke informed the Board that the previously approved purchase of two new squads included a trade in of the two oldest squads. In an incident two other squads were damaged with one being totaled and the other in for repairs. The Undersheriff inquired about the

purchase of a new squad to replace the totaled squad and there is an ordering freeze with Dodge of Burnsville who holds the state bid contract. Froemke recommends to trade in only one squad and use Administration contingency funds in the amount of \$14,000 for the additional unbudgeted capital outlay expense.

2021/04-30 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck to approve keeping one of the Sheriff squads instead of trading in on the approved purchase of a new squad and further to increase the Sheriff's Office capital outlay budget in the amount of \$14,000 using Administration contingency funds. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Board heard from consultant Tom Weber who presented a Koochiching County Justice Campus Conditions Assessment report as part of the County Facility Study. This report is a review of the flow between what he termed the county's "justice campus," involving the jail, courtroom, probation, and court administration offices, which are located in three different buildings. Mr. Weber recommended working through a suggested process to define need, policy, and operations, which would lead to a design and cost and suggested using the existing county Court Service Committee as a criminal justice coordinating council, allowing agency leads to become planners and managers of the justice system resources. This Committee could advise and guide the County Board on facility decisions. In addition, he recommended completion of a comprehensive master plan, with an eye toward jail replacement and adaptive reuse of the other spaces. Mr. Weber noted that there is a lot of risk to operating the jail in its current conditions and while the County's buildings appear in pretty good shape, he said they do not function very well for the needs, noting that flow between related offices is disorganized adding some offices are working out of closets and hallways are used for copy and filing centers. In addition, he said the jail, over the past 20 years has seen increases in the number of mental health issues, and the severity of medical issues presented in jails that there is a burden and a cost to a County jail when they are not equipped to deal with that. The Board Chair thanked Mr. Weber for the presentation.

000 ARDC planner and MnDOT District 1 Representatives provided an annual update to the Board informing them of various projects in Koochiching County.

000 The Board Chair called for public comment and Commissioner Skoe thanked the people for their efforts in promoting the 2020 Census as the State of Minnesota was able to retain its eight U.S. House seats and will not lose a congressional district as was previously expected.

2021/04-31 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.