

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Len Peterson, Mike Hanson, Tom Smith, Josh Compton, Jon Froemke, Perryn Hedlund, Jaci Nagle, Carissa Maclean, Kathy LaFrance, Trent Nicholson, Matt Gouin, KCCTV Reporter Darcy Sullivan

2021/06-01 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-02 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-03 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the May summarized payment listing, verifying its review, approve May payroll and payroll ACH payments in the amount of \$1,169,098.35, approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$77,154.15 and approve Highway claims in the amount of \$49,568.15. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-04 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to accept a donation from Tom Sutch in the amount of \$100 and Paul Bunyan in the amount of \$21 to be used for the squad room coffee fund. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-05 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve the employment separation of Sherri Promersberger as Payroll and Benefits Coordinator effective July 1, 2021 and authorize to fill the vacant position within the assigned wage scale. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 Notice of hire of Ryan Stenson as part-time Deputy Sheriff with a start date of June 1, 2021.

000 Notice of hire of Alexandria Stevens as part-time Deputy Sheriff with a start date of June 14, 2021

2021/06-06 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Adee to approve attendance at the grand opening of the Big Falls City Campground on June 23, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. as a board activity. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-07 Motion by Murray, seconded by Pavleck to form an American Rescue Plan Committee and appoint Commissioners Skoe and Murray. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-08 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve a value reduction of \$343,600 and a tax abatement to Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation per a tax court decision for parcel

#92-099-00020 and #98-099-00030 for years 2020 and 2021 and further to authorize the Board Chair signature to the Minnesota Department of Revenue application for property tax abatement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-09 Motion by Pavleck seconded by Adee to adopt the following resolution approving an economic development property tax abatement to IF Properties LLC subject to a fully executed business subsidy agreement:

**RESOLUTION OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY
LOCATED IN THE CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS IN KOOCHICHING
COUNTY**

WHEREAS, IF Properties LLC (Herein after “Developer”) owns real property located in the city of International Falls County of Koochiching, (the real property and improvements hereafter collectively referred to as the “Property”): legally described as that part of Governments Lots 3 and 4, Township 70 North, Range 24 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the southeasterly boundary line of the right of way of State Trunk Highway No. 11 and south line of said Lot 4; thence easterly along said south line of Lots 3 and 4, a distance of 1450.00 feet; thence angle 90 degrees to the left and go north 500 feet; thence angle 90 degrees left and go west parallel with the south line of said Lots 3 and 4 to the southeasterly boundary line of said right of way of Trunk Highway No. 11; thence southwesterly along said boundary line of said right of way to the point of beginning. Lying Westerly of the East line of said Government Lot 4, Koochiching County, Minnesota, comprised of Koochiching County Parcel Identification No 92-028-04171.

WHEREAS, the Developer endeavors to spur economic growth in the County by redeveloping the Property into a four story, 84 room AmericInn Hotel by Wyndham Hotels & Resorts International; and

WHEREAS, the Developer has filed a Business Subsidy Application requesting the abatement of the County’s share of ad valorem property taxes on the Property; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 469.1813 grants the authority to the County to grant a current or prospective abatement of property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the County held a public hearing on June 15, 2021 which was noticed by publication on May 27, 2021 in the *International Falls Journal* more than ten days but less than 30 days before the hearing and heard no objection to the tax abatement; and

WHEREAS, the County, finds that granting the abatement is in the public interest because it will enhance economic diversity by adding a hospitality property with newer amenities, increase the tax base with an overall investment in the property of \$11,300,000, develop a greenfield site as well as provide employment opportunities in Koochiching County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Auditor to abate 100% of the portion of the County's share of ad valorem property taxes on the Property, for the taxes payable for the years 2023 and continuing through 2032 resulting from the project in an amount not to exceed \$544,899 and subject to the limitations, representations and warranties of the executed Business Subsidy Agreement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

000 The Board was informed the official newspaper The Journal will be closing, and the last publication will be on June 24, 2021. Administration is researching alternatives and Commissioners requested Administration contact Representative Ecklund and Senator Bakk for assistance.

000 The Board was introduced to the North Star Electric Cooperatives newly appointed General Manager and CEO Josh Compton. Mr. Compton provided a summary of his experience and provided his contact information encouraging everyone to call him for any needs they may have. The Board welcomed Josh to the community.

2021/06-10 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to approve the 2021 Boat and Water Safety Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota allocating funds to Koochiching County in the amount of \$5,195.00 on a reimbursement basis with no county match requirement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-11 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to approve the 2020 Emergency Management Grant in the amount of \$16,291 with a 50% County match. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-12 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to appoint County Recorder Lindsay Frank and Tax Coordinator Shelley Johnson as alternates to the MCIS Board of Directors. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-13 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck to accept the Together with Veterans, Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention Program three year grant in the amount of \$100,000 with no county match requirement. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-14 Motion by Murray, seconded by Skoe to approve the renewal of the Fraud Prevention Investigation Program Cooperative Agreement from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-15 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to authorize the Highway Department to transfer the 1998 International 2574 Tandem Axle Truck to the Environmental Services Department in the amount of \$5,000. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

2021/06-16 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to authorize the Environmental Service Director to execute DNR Special Use Permit Number 425-21-09 which will permit the County to

implement AIS prevention activities as various public water access sites during the 2021 boating season. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.

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

2021/06-36 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Voting yes: Sjoblom, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray. Motion carried.