

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Melissa Marcotte, Sue DeBenedet, Rozanne Casey, Chris Thoma, Troy Okerlund, Carrie Geiss, Perryn Hedlund, Jon Froemke, Kent Koerbitz, Nathan Heibel, Dave Reimer, Matt Gouin, Tony Jaksa, KCCTV Reporter Darcy Sullivan, KGHS Reporter Duane Etienne

2021/08-16 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-17 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to close the County Board meeting to the public under attorney client privilege to review a notice of claim pertaining to T. H. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-18 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to reopen the County Board meeting to the public. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-19 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2021 regular meeting. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-20 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve Courthouse claims in the amount of \$93,769.52, approve Highway claims in the amount of \$88,335.24 and approve Public Health and Human Services claims as presented. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-21 Motion by Murray, seconded by Adee to approve the employment separation of Shana Guzic as CVSO Office Assistant and authorize filling the vacant position within the assigned wage scale. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

000 Notice of hire of William Jenkinson as part-time E911 Dispatcher/Correction Officer with a start date of August 19, 2021.

2021/08-22 Motion by Adee, seconded by Murray to approve the voluntary transfer of Brittany Harris from the B22 Accounting Technician II position to the B21 Assessor Clerk position effective August 31, 2021 and authorize filling the vacant Accounting Technician II position within the assigned wage scale. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-23 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to approve the employment separation of Shay Mannausau as temporary Accounting Technician II position effective July 12, 2021. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-24 Motion by Murray, seconded by Pavleck authorizing the Board Chair to sign a letter of support for Rainy Lake Medical Center Financial Assistance Program providing Emergency Room care to persons seeking medical treatment regardless of their ability to pay. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-25 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to adopt the following resolution approving the Application for Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, State of Minnesota has been authorized to undertake a program to provide funds for Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Projects; and,

WHEREAS, KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., on behalf of households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in Koochiching County, has developed an application for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., has demonstrated the ability to perform the required activities of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., is hereby authorized as an entity to be charged with the administration of funds made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program in the County of Koochiching, in Minnesota. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-26 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to pre-authorize the Board Chair and County Attorney signatures to Federal Grant AIP 3-27-0043-037-2021 in the amount of \$1,061,251 and further that the County Board Chair and County Attorney are authorized to execute this agreement and any amendments on behalf of Koochiching County. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

000 Minnesota Department of Corrections Detention Facility Inspectors informed the Board of the decision to change the County's Jail facility classification from a Class III Jail to a Class II 90 day Lockup effective January 1, 2022. This decision was primarily based on the lack of recreation and programming space as well as the physical plant deficiencies and design limitations including the linear design of the facility which provides poor sightlines for staff to monitor the well-being of inmates. The spaces used for medical care, food preparation, programming, property storage, and intake are all undersized, increasing operational difficulties. Many of these functions share space in the facility. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC infrastructure are all more than 40 years old. The age of the facility is also evident in heaving floors and window frame deterioration. The current program room does not meet the needs of the facility and there is no recreation space. It is well established that best practices require having meaningful programming for inmates and is essential for the safe operation of a facility. This is even more critical when inmates can be incarcerated for long periods of time. Idletime,

combined with an indirect supervision design can often lead to problematic behavior. The Inspectors indicated that the next inspection could show that there is not adequate programming and recreation space which is also required as a Class II facility and a “sunset” letter could come with the next inspection. Board member inquired what will happen in January when we are limited to a 90 day facility and were informed that inmates will need to be transported to a Class III facility. The Jail Administrator informed the Board that several facilities have been identified as having space for inmates at a cost ranging from \$55 - \$65 per day. In addition, there will be added transportation costs for court appointments the inmates will need to attend. ICS Consulting representative inquired if an appropriate programming and recreation facility were added if this could delay the “sunset” letter. Inspectors commented that there are other items that would need to be corrected. ICS Consultant representative recommended that the County analyze investments in the facility and whether the investment would add any significant life to the jail given future requirements. Board member inquired if they have seen any examples of Counties sharing a jail facility and was informed there are a few regional type jails, and it is an option to put on the table and vet out to see if it is feasible. Inspectors indicated they appreciate the County Board being proactive in having the jail facility study completed this year and that is most likely the reason why a “sunset” letter was not issued at the last inspection. Inspectors commented that the Sheriff and the Jail Administrator are doing a fair job operating the facility given its physical restrictions and added that the inmates were very complimentary of the staff and operations which is out of the norm. The Board thanked the Inspectors for the update.

2021/08-27 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Murray to authorize the Land Commissioner to set a public comment period of August 30, 2021 through October 12, 2021 for the draft Long-Range Plan for the Management of Tax-Forfeited Land and Forest Resources of Koochiching County to seek written public and stakeholder comments and further authorizing the Land Commissioner to schedule a public meeting regarding the plan on October 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor Courtroom. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

000 The Land Commissioner reviewed the results of the August 4, 2021 timber auction in which 25,740 cords were sold for a total auction sale value of \$622,787.

2021/08-28 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to authorize the Highway Department to make repairs to the pedestrian bridge on the bike trail that follows Highway 11 over 2nd Creek in the amount of \$19,390. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-29 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to rescind Board Motion 2021/01-42, and approve new change order #12 in the amount of \$7,421.28 and change order #13 in the amount of \$777,022.28 for Island View Sewer Project Contract A. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

2021/08-30 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Murray to authorize the Environmental Services Director to execute final close out documents for the Island View Sanitary Sewer Extension – Contract A and authorize final payment of remaining retainage in the amount of \$92,578.73 to Wagner Construction. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

000 Constituent Tony Jaksa addressed the Board about water conservation and future uses of

water in Koochiching County and is recommending the County conduct a topographical survey of river basin as we have great reservoirs in the northern lake systems, and this could be one of the County's future resources if efforts would be considered to dam areas of the river's flow path that have potential reservoir pockets. The Board found this interesting and thanked Tony for the information.

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

2021/08-31 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Voting yes: Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Murray, Sjoblom. Motion carried.

Jason Sjoblom, BoardChair

Jenny Herman, BoardSecretary