

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in Special Session held at the Courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Board Chair Roger Falk. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioners present were Roger Falk, John Horner, Russell Walker, and Daryl Wicklund. Jack Swanson attended through WebEx. Others attending through WebEx were Jeff Pelowski, Joleen Kezar, Kristy Kjos, Brian Ketring, Martie Monsrud, Sue Grafstrom, Pam Grand, Diane Gregerson, Martin Howes, Karla Langaas, Liz Lund, Pam Shaw, Chris Stauffer, Cindy Tangen, Renae Hamilton, Brenda McMillin, June Wensloff, Sandi Weiland, and Mike Trinka.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Horner requested the addition of a discussion on the Highway Maintenance Facility to County Board Items. Commissioner Wicklund requested the addition of a discussion concerning the intersection of County Roads 4 & 7 in Greenbush to County Board Items. A motion to approve the amended Agenda was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Horner, and carried unanimously, (roll call vote).

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Horner, Swanson, Walker, and Wicklund stated that they have been contacted by constituents concerning a citizen's committee that has been formed to urge Governor Walz to re-open Roseau County and the State of Minnesota. Coordinator Pelowski received a "Property Owners Report" from the Roseau River Watershed District Board in advance of the June 3, 2020, Ditch 16 Public Hearing. Board Chair Falk stated that Norfarm Seed Company has discontinued the land spreading of seed screenings.

COUNTY BOARD ITEMS

County Veteran Services Office (CVSO) – Donation

CVSO Howes stated that he has received a donation of \$2000.00 from the Warroad VFW Post 4930 for the betterment and support of our local Veterans and their families in their time of need, for the purpose of fuel cards, food cards, or anything deemed necessary by the CVSO. A motion was made by Commissioner Wicklund, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously, (roll call vote), to accept the donation.

COVID-19 Pandemic – Situation Update

Emergency Management Director Grafstrom provided an update; including, a discussion regarding possible FEMA and CARES Act funding to reimburse COVID-related expenses; continued work developing the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for Contact Tracing; and, the Marvin Companies started drive-thru testing for their employees in Warroad.

Coordinator Pelowski stated that the Department Heads have been working on Preparedness Plans to get ready for the possible re-opening of County facilities to the public. As Governor Walz has ended the Stay-at-Home Order, effective May 18, 2020; the Preparedness Plans have not been finalized to-date; AMC is holding a webinar on May 21, 2020, to provide guidance for re-opening County facilities; and, we are continuing to provide our usual County services, the Department

Head's recommendation to the Board is to establish the goal of re-opening County facilities to the public by June 1, 2020. Board consensus was to concur with the recommendation.

County Recorder Position Discussion

On April 14, 2020, the Board unanimously approved a Resolution establishing the Appointed Office of County Recorder. Following passage of the Resolution, there is a 30-day appeal period consisting of the ability to file a petition signed by greater than 10% of the registered voters in the County. If a petition is filed within 30 days (by May 14, 2020), the Resolution approved on April 14th would be null and void. No petition was received by May 14th; therefore, the County Recorder is now officially an appointed position. Coordinator Pelowski provided a handout summarizing the three options previously discussed by the Board concerning an appointed Recorder. Following discussion, Commissioner Swanson made a motion to promote Deputy Recorder Renae Hamilton to the Recorder position, effective May 23, 2020, at a pay grade 9, step A. The motion died due to a lack of a second. Following discussion, Commissioner Horner made the motion to combine the Recorder office duties with the Auditor's Office effective May 23, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Wicklund, and passed with a 4 - 0 vote, with Commissioners Horner, Swanson, Walker, and Wicklund voting yes, Commissioner Falk abstained from the vote. In addition, a motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to authorize the re-evaluation of the Deputy Recorder job description, seconded by Commissioner Horner, and carried unanimously, (roll call vote). Finally, as a part of this discussion, Commissioner Swanson made a motion to set a Public Hearing for June 23, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., to consider public input concerning the establishment of the Appointed Office of County Auditor, seconded by Commissioner Horner, and carried by a 4 – 0 vote with Commissioners Horner, Swanson, Walker, and Wicklund voting yes, Commissioner Falk abstained from the vote.

Roseau County Highway Maintenance Facility

As a follow-up to previous Board meeting discussions concerning the potential location of a new Highway Maintenance Facility, Commissioner Horner made a motion to purchase 3 lots located in the City of Roseau Industrial Park for \$50,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and failed by a 1 – 4 vote, with Commissioner Horner voting yes, and Commissioners Falk, Swanson, Walker, and Wicklund voting no. Board consensus was to defer this item to the next Highway Committee meeting.

Intersection of County Roads 4 & 7 in Greenbush

Commissioner Wicklund requested information from Engineer Ketring regarding lighted signage at the intersection of County Roads 4 & 7. He stated that it is up to the County Board to make the decision concerning installation of lighted signage at that intersection. It is a State Aid intersection, so MnDOT would install the signs. Commissioner Walker noted that there is also a safety issue at the intersection of County Roads 5 & 12 south of Warroad. Commissioner Wicklund made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously, (roll call vote), to install lighted signs on both the intersection of County Roads 4 & 7 in Greenbush, and the intersection of County Roads 5 & 12 south of Warroad.

Upon motion carried, the Board adjourned the Special meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next Regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.

Attest:

Date: _____

Jeff Pelowski, County Coordinator
Roseau County, Minnesota

Roger Falk, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Roseau County, Minnesota