

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 A.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020
County Board Room, 3rd Floor, Courthouse
MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following Commissioners present: Frank Gross, Jim Haney, Kevin Campbell, Grant Weyland, and Jenny Mongeau. Others present or joining remotely: County Attorney Brian Melton, County Administrator Stephen Larson, and Senior Administrative Assistant Colleen Eck.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gross called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda with one agenda addition: Request from Barnesville Lions to Conduct Raffle at Pitchfork.

RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR MAINLINE BAR AND GRILL

By consent, the Board approved the renewal of a liquor license for Mainline Bar and Grill.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

During this pandemic, citizens continue to have the opportunity to share feedback at Board meetings via website link. Mr. Larson noted there were no requests submitted for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Commissioner Haney, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment for bills and vouchers totaling \$462,532 from 115 vendors. From that total, 93 warrants issued were under \$2,000 (\$37,442) and the following 22 were over \$2,000:

Construction Engineers, Inc.	\$130,257	Pace Analytical Services, Inc.	\$7,470
Clay Co Public Health	\$53,136	Verizon-386550144	\$7,104
Otter Tail Co Public Health	\$47,096	The Retrofit Companies, Inc.	\$5,940
Turner Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$34,098	Network Center, Inc.	\$5,715
Becker Co Public Health	\$28,289	TrueNorth Steel	\$3,639
Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Auth.	\$25,840	Towmaster	\$3,619
Stensland/David & Ruth	\$14,298	City of Felton	\$3,441
American Enterprises, Inc.	\$12,643	Wilkin Co Public Health	\$3,328
Department of Corrections	\$12,470	Gate City Bank	\$2,997
Pinnaca	\$11,412	Farmers Co-op Oil Co	\$2,604
MN Counties Computer Coop	\$7,568	Amazon Capital Services	\$2,128

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 26, 2020

On motion by Commissioner Weyland, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from May 26, 2020.

ADDITION: REQUEST FROM BARNESVILLE LIONS TO CONDUCT RAFFLE AT PITCHFORK

Jane Salber from Barnesville Lions was present with the request to conduct a raffle at Pitchfork (formerly the Galaxie) that would begin on June 12.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized a letter of request for a raffle to commence at Pitchfork this Friday, June 12, 2020.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Public Health Director Kathy McKay; Public Health Nurse Cheryl Sapp; and Nursing Director Jamie Hennen were present with handouts of local trends and updates for COVID-19. The current number of positive cases in Clay County is at 480 with 425 of them no longer needing isolation. The County has experienced 30 unfortunate deaths from the virus, most of whom were in long-term care. There are just 25 active cases identified in the County at this point. In the State of Minnesota, a couple of deaths due to the virus were individuals in their 30s and 40s with no underlying health conditions. The ramp-up of testing continues on both the MN and ND side. The case counts are continuing, but the hospitals are not overwhelmed with patients. Governor Walz is moving the Stay Safe Minnesota to Phase III tomorrow. With this adjustment, restaurants will open to 50% capacity indoors and outdoors with a maximum of 250 people, the staff wearing masks, and six-foot distancing with tables. The Public Health Inspectors are fielding calls and complaints and are working with the County Attorney's office regarding enforcement of the orders. The Minnesota Department of Health has not established any fines at this time.

Ms. Hennen commented that asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 has been found to be rare. That news is encouraging, but more research is still needed. There are debates going on right now, but social distancing must be maintained until the CDC makes a change in their recommendation.

Ms. Sapp stated that more businesses are opening, and more employees are returning to work. Public Health is getting some calls about how long an individual who is experiencing symptoms needs to stay at home. They are advised to stay home for 10 days and three more days after they discontinue fever medication. They can then return to work with personal protective equipment (PPE). If an individual has been in close contact with someone with symptoms, they need to stay home for 14 days. From the last local round of testing with the National Guard, 840 tests were completed and just 1% of them were positive. Contact tracing continues with a lot of phone calls and follow-up work. Antibody testing is done primarily through health care providers. An individual from the Red River Valley Task Force has offered to do fit testing for N95 masks.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY FOR .6 EMPLOYEE IN THE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAM

Ms. McKay has had two .6 staff in the grant-funded Child and Teen Check-up Outreach Program. One of them has resigned her position. The remaining .6 staff person is interested in moving into a 1.0 position. The remaining .2 would be divided between other staff personnel. This item has been discussed and received support from the Personnel Issues Committee.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the request to fill a .6 vacancy in the Child and Teen Check-up Outreach Program by adding .4 hours to a remaining .6 employee and absorbing the remaining .2 hours with a variable hour employee.

Ms. McKay informed the Board that Barnesville and Hawley School Districts will be ending their Public Health contracts for school nurses. Future school nurses in those school districts will be employees of the school, not the County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE/DISCUSSIONS

Many of the following committee reports are from virtual or remote meetings.

- Commissioner Haney reported on meetings he attended for the City of Moorhead Planning Commission and Clay County Collaborative.
- Commissioner Weyland met with the Sheriff’s office regarding the previous weeks’ problems in the region.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on a meeting from Wild Rice Watershed Board. She worked with a landowner on questions regarding Highway 10. She noted the County should utilize closed caption broadcasting for the Board meetings if possible. She added she is available to any citizens who have concerns with racial inequities or other issues going on.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on a meeting from the FM Diversion Executive Authority. He noted the FM Diversion contested case hearing began yesterday in St. Paul. He is attending virtually through Web-X. He plans to bring back a formal request next week for issuance of another host fee to Hawley Township for dealing with landfill issues/nuisances.
- Commissioner Gross reported on meeting from Personnel Issues Committee and Wild Rice Watershed Board. He commented that he was very proud and thankful of the group he met with last week, especially the Sheriff’s Office, in how they handled the recent protests and issues in the region.
- Stephen Larson reported on meetings he attended for Personnel Issues Committee; Management; and Court Administrator. Court Administration will open a public window on June 15 and will commence jury trials again the last week of July. He noted that staff from AE2S has not been successful in obtaining an agreement for an environmental easement in Georgetown for the FM Diversion.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board requested the County Administrator notify the City of Georgetown that it is in their best interest to work with the AE2S staff for the agreement they are seeking for the FM Diversion.

CLOSED SESSION: FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE: COUNTY ATTORNEY BRIAN MELTON

On motion by Commissioner Weyland, seconded by Commissioner Haney, and unanimously carried, the Board closed the public meeting for a closed session at 9:21 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board completed their closed session and went back to their open meeting at 9:39 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Frank Gross, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator