

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1:30 P.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022
Rooms A/B, 3rd Floor, Courthouse
MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following Commissioners present: Jenna Kahly, Frank Gross, Jenny Mongeau, Kevin Campbell, and David Ebinger. Others present: County Administrator Stephen Larson, Assistant County Attorney Michael Leaser, HR Director/Asst. Administrator Darren Brooke, and Sr. Admin. Asst. Colleen Eck

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the payment of bills and vouchers totaling \$1,026,724 from 121 vendors. From that total, 86 warrants issued were under \$2,000 (\$42,954) and the following 35 were over \$2,000:

Clay Co Public Health	\$183,382	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$5,221
Mn PERA	\$139,075	SeaChange Print Innovations	\$5,217
Otter Tail Co Public Health	\$138,903	Dean's Bulk Service	\$4,709
Advanced Correctional Healthcare	\$102,511	Marco Technologies, LLC	\$4,348
Becker Co Public Health	\$ 89,202	High Point Networks, LLC	\$4,210
Hanson Silo Company	\$ 70,270	Galls, LLC	\$4,168
Turner Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$ 50,431	Psychlogics	\$3,870
MN Dept of Transportation	\$ 29,927	Stellar Services, LLC	\$3,050
CB & Sons Electric, Inc.	\$ 26,441	Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP	\$2,898
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 21,955	Fuchs Sanitation, Inc.	\$2,595
Holm Construction Services, LLC	\$ 20,000	Scott Welle Transformations	\$2,500
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	\$ 15,164	Melkai Consulting LLC	\$2,484
Uline	\$ 7,893	C-W Valley Co-Op	\$2,379
Dept of Corrections	\$ 7,350	Moorhead Public Service	\$2,314
Nitzkowski, Inc.	\$ 7,075	River Valley Forensic Services, PA	\$2,250
Forum Communications	\$ 6,193	Rick Electric, Inc.	\$2,183
Farmers Co-op Oil Co	\$ 6,028	Jarman's Midwest Cleaning Systems	\$2,046
Powerplan	\$ 5,528		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 26, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Kahly, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from July 26, 2022.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – JUVENILE CENTER

Superintendent James O’Donnell stated the Juvenile Center has two separate programs and budgets: 1) Multi-County secure facility with 30 beds; and 2) Clay County non-secure facility with 15 beds. Some of the revenue amounts have been updated since the printing of this budget.

Clay County’s portion of the proposed budget for the secure facility for 2023 is \$697,715. The miscellaneous reimbursements are mainly for medical coverage. The increases in the secure facility budget are for specialty in medical costs and services, reimbursement for maintenance, purchase of material that is licensed, Workers’ Comp, custodial supplies, fingerprinting, and a change in the nursing contract. Commissioner Campbell commented on requiring a minimum payment from all the participants for the multi-County program. A two-year lookback has worked for the most part, but the membership payments have impacts on the full group.

The non-secure facility receives a state grant for \$117,000 for two case managers. Anticipated revenues from Clay County placements are just over \$1 million and anticipated revenues from non-Clay County are \$1.25 million. Miscellaneous reimbursements from medical insurance companies are estimated at \$90,000. Increases for 2023 include maintenance costs, food costs, Worker’s Comp, fingerprints, and background studies, The facility is nearly full the majority of the time. There is a request for 2023 for the addition of two new FT staff which should reduce variable hour staff by 4,000 hours.

HUMAN RESOURCES’ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF CAFETERIA PLAN FOR 2023

HR Director Darren Brooke and Coordinator Anna Moore presented themselves on behalf of the Clay County Insurance Committee with items that require Board action.

Ms. Moore stated the first item is an update to the cafeteria plan for 2023. The County moved from Lakes Country Services Cooperative to Blue Cross Direct for 2022. BCBS provided rate caps for three years. Based on projections the increase for 2023 would have been 33%, but the rate cap is at 7%. A spread sheet was provided which includes the 7% increase for the health insurance plans. County contribution per month would include an average of the increase of the four health plans. The total annual increase is estimated to be \$170,000 for 455 employees who are on the insurance plans. With dependents and retirees’ COBRA there are 650 participants in the health plans. Open enrollment for 2023 insurance plans will be conducted from October 19 to November 4 to allow employees to research the exchange for family members.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kahly, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the recommendations for renewal of the County’s Cafeteria Plan for 2023 including a 7% increase in health insurance coverage.

Commissioners Campbell and Mongeau both noted that the County needs to prepare for self-insuring in the near future.

HUMAN RESOURCES’ RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT PLAN FOR RETIREES

Ms. Moore stated that she has been working with Steve Smith and is prepared to recommend adoption of an optional Medicare Supplement Plan for retirees. The Insurance Committee voted unanimously to move this item to the Board for adoption. The premium would be \$242 for 2023. The supplement plan overview was provided. Employees would be eligible to enroll in the plan at the time of retirement if they are of Medicare age. If an employee’s spouse is covered by a Clay County insurance plan, their spouse would also be eligible

for a Medicare Supplement Plan at the time of employee's retirement. There would be a cost savings for the retiree. The premiums would be on a direct bill and HR would no longer track and process monthly payments. There are 25 or so retirees who are currently paying for County insurance plans.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kahly, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted a Medicare Supplement Plan for Retirees.

HUMAN RESOURCES' RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSITION FROM FURTHER TO WEX

Ms. Moore noted that the County's current tax advantaged account is with Further which was recently purchased by a different company. A request for proposals was conducted by MHC. WEX was found to be the most competitive with the same 3% administrative fee. The transition timeline and notes from the July 25th Insurance Committee meeting were provided. National Insurance Services has recommended moving forward with WEX as the new administrator for our tax advantage accounts. WEX has local offices in Fargo and West Fargo. There will be a blackout period for approximately two weeks during the transition to WEX. New debit cards will be sent out to the participants.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kahly, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the recommendation to transition from Further to WEX .

REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY FOR ROAD FOREMAN POSITION

County Engineer Justin Sorum provided notice to the Board that a Road Foreman position at the Highway Department will be vacated next month with an upcoming retirement of a 28-year employee. Mr. Sorum would like to begin advertising the position immediately.

On motion by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved filling a vacancy for a Road Foreman at the Highway Department with backfill if needed.

PRESENTATION FROM WEST CENTRAL INITIATIVE

Rebecca Petersen, Director of Development and Jill Amundson, Innovation Strategist, from West Central Initiative introduced themselves and thanked the Board for seeing them today.

West Central Initiative packets were handed out. Ms. Amundson provided an update on the County's return on their investment in the organization. They are the regional development commission, that Commissioner Kahly has been a part of, and are tasked by the federal government to write a comprehensive economic strategy. They had written a letter of support that the local chamber is in line with the strategies, and the chamber was recently awarded \$9.6 million. She referred to the population growth in the region with an increase in the younger population and more diverse population. Under housing affordability in the County there are many residents who are burdened with paying over 30% of their income for their rent or mortgage. many. They are also conducting a survey on their website for their Climate Action Plan. Minnesota is slated to be a climate refugee state, expecting populations from other areas.

Ms. Peterson thanked Commissioner Kahly for being co-chair on their board and noted there are two other Clay County representatives on the board. She listed several hundreds of thousands in grants for this region since August of 2020 including many programs for immigrants and diverse populations. She touched upon their goals and framework and their annual review. Their spring convivium was here in Moorhead with a focus on climate and extreme weather. Their autumn convivium will be in Detroit Lakes and spring next year

in Morris. She commented that they recently raised enough money to plant two apple trees in each of their 82 communities including Moorhead.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE/DISCUSSIONS

- Commissioner Gross reported on a Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting and a meeting with Klein McCarthy for Substance Abuse Crisis Facility planning.
- Commissioner Kahly reported on meetings for Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council; Early Childhood Initiative Re: Mental Health Training; Children’s Mental Health Local Advisory Council; West Central Initiative for Economic Development; attended Night to Unite in several communities; went with a group to visit possible sites for new childcare centers; and met with Rhonda Porter and others regarding a childcare grant.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for FM Diversion Executive Committee and Resource Recovery Facility Construction Update.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Substance Abuse Crisis Facility Planning and Buffalo Red River Watershed Board.
- Mr. Larson reported on his past week which included meetings for Resource Recovery Facility Construction Update; Substance Abuse Crisis Facility Planning; budget discussion for Juvenile Center. He also met with FM Chamber President Shannon Full, and with Sheriff Empting on several issues. He was provided with an update from Scott Fettig.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Jenny Mongeau, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator