

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 A.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 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, HR Director Darren Brooke, and Communications Coordinator Jacqueline Finck.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, 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 Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the payment of bills and vouchers totaling \$1,289,835 from 115 vendors. There were 85 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$38,153) and the following 30 were over \$2,000:

Sellin Bros Inc	\$335,831	Forum Communications Printing	\$8,523
Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota	\$283,785	Dakota Plains Mechanical, Inc.	\$5,936
Clay Co Public Health	\$153,020	Sanford Health	\$5,219
Otter Tail Public Health	\$120,230	Psychlogics	\$5,160
Becker County Public Health	\$ 45,561	Mn State Auditor	\$3,337
Clay County Social Services	\$ 38,970	Brantner/Kelly	\$3,087
Treas Of Dilworth City	\$ 36,640	Reliance Telephone	\$3,025
Polk-Norman-Mahnomen CHB	\$ 26,356	Bob Barker (Wcrjc)	\$2,973
Xcel Energy	\$ 21,752	Kyle Bergren Farms	\$2,773
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 19,615	BDT Mechanical, LLC	\$2,756
Trinity Services Group, Inc.	\$ 17,824	Dacotah Paper-401509	\$2,430
Cardmember Service - (Sheriff 0547)	\$ 17,779	Butenhoff Farms LLC	\$2,391
Uline	\$ 16,714	West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$2,313
Lutheran Social Service Of Mn	\$ 13,732	Nancy Hein-Kolo, PsyD, LP	\$2,250
ADDvantage Triton LLC	\$ 11,485	Snap-on Industrial	\$2,052

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from November 8, 2022.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT #3 WITH BURNS AND MCDONNELL ENGINEERING FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY PROJECT

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the board approved to remove contract Amendment #3 with Burns and McDonnell engineering for the Resource Recovery Facility Project from the table.

Mr. Larson proposed to postpone this agenda item to a future meeting until additional research and information is gathered to respond to the Commissioner's questions from the November 15, 2022 Board Meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kahly, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to take no action on the contract Amendment #3 with Burns and McDonnell Engineering for the Resource Recovery Facility Project until additional information is gathered.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPOINT A CLAY COUNTY A CLAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER TO THE GFMEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023

Mr. Larson requested to appoint a Clay County Commissioner to the GFMEDC Board of Directors for 2023 per the GFMEDC bylaws. The Clay County Commission has one designated position on the GFMEDC Board of Directors appointed annually in December for the upcoming year. Commissioner Ebinger currently holds the position.

Commissioner Ebinger stated he is interested to continue being an appointed Clay County Commissioner for the GFMEDC Board of Directors.

Commissioner Kahly praised Commissioner Ebinger on the great job he has done and the movement that has been seen from him being on the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Gross, with Commissioner Ebinger abstaining his vote, the Board approved the continuation of Commissioner Ebinger's appointment to the GFMEDC Board of Directors for 2023.

Commissioner Campbell discussed the at-large position that Commissioner Kahly has served with the GFMEDC Board of Directors in the past. Commissioner Campbell hopes that the GFMEDC will continue to have the second position available and Commissioner-elect Krabbenhoft would be willing to fill that position.

Commissioners Ebinger and Mongeau both stated the GFMEDC has indicated the continuation of the second position for Clay County on the Board of Directors and voiced their appreciation for those two positions.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

Planning & Zoning Director Matthew Jacobson requests approval to appoint Planning Commissioners recommended by the Planning Commission. The Clay County Planning Commission unanimously supports the appointment of Dave Steichen to his first 3-year term (Incorporated – Dilworth), Laura Johnson to her second 3-year term (Unincorporated – Rural), and Curt Stubstad to his third and final 3-year term (Unincorporated – Rural).

Dave Steichen introduced himself and stated that he is from Dilworth and has been on the Dilworth Planning Committee for 7 or 8 years and has learned a lot from Mr. Jacobson and his commission. Mr. Steichen is an army veteran, worked for the post office in Fargo, and owned his own trucking business.

Commissioner Mongeau mentioned that this was presented at the Planning Commission and there was a unanimous recommendation to appoint Mr. Steichen to this position. She discussed how important it is that our incorporated cities and unincorporated rural areas are represented. Mr. Steichen has been very active resident and has taken interest in the issues that would affect his community.

Mr. Jacobson thanked Bill Davis for his active service on the Planning Commission Board and all he has done for Clay County.

Commissioner Campbell thanked the three appointees for wanting to serve in this public capacity and stated how important these positions are to assist much of what happens within Clay County.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to appoint Dave Steichen to his first 3-year term (Incorporated – Dilworth), Laura Johnson to her second 3-year term (Unincorporated – Rural), and Curt Stubstad to his third and final 3-year term (Unincorporated – Rural).

Commissioner Mongeau and Commissioner Gross praised Mr. Jacobson and Planning & Zoning Technician Erika Franck for doing a great job at the Public Hearing last week clearly and effectively answering questions and concerns that Clay County residents had.

Mr. Jacobson also praised Ms. Franck on the great job that she did at the Public Hearing when he was unable to attend in person.

INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES: STATE REPRESENTATIVE HEATHER KEELER

Rep. Keeler passed around her 2022 Legislative Report that outlines the accomplishments they were able to achieve in her first term. She intends on building a better working relationship with the Clay County Commissioners and thanked Commissioner Kahly for helping connect her on Clay County's needs which has given her great insight on what she wants to address in the next two years. Rep. Keeler plans on taking 3 committee assignments this year so she can be back to Moorhead on Fridays to attend meetings in her district. Rep. Keeler discussed her key initiatives which are the daycare crisis in Moorhead and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The committees that she is vying for are Child & Family Services, Human Services, and Education Policy.

Rep. Keeler wants to be sure greater Minnesota is heard and completed surveys last year with members, stakeholders, and staff. The survey showed that 72% of individuals believe there needs to be a hybrid option for committee meetings. She intends to lead the task force to introduce hybrid options for the state.

Rep. Keeler asked the Commissioners to send her helpful information on topics that are important to Clay County so she can research and bring them to legislature. Her research team was able to look into SCORE funding and see where Clay County is and what the state requires.

Commissioner Mongeau thanked Rep. Keeler for her help during Covid testing when individuals had to wait outside in cold weather. Commissioner Mongeau also stated she appreciates the idea of a hybrid option and that it also makes sense economically.

On motion by Commissioner Kahly, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to send a letter of support for a hybrid option to attend meetings and testimonies virtually at the state level.

Commissioner Mongeau expressed frustration with the limitations Commissioner face regarding the number of meetings they are allowed to miss under the current open meeting law, citing the need for additional flexibility. Commissioner Mongeau mentioned the flexibility allowed in the open meeting law during COVID was beneficial. The days can get exhausted quickly when people are trying to be cautious when feeling ill. Rep. Keeler mentioned that would be something she'd be happy to help work on towards a hybrid option at a regional/county level as well.

There was discussion from the board on meeting dates recommended that Rep. Keeler attend if she is able. The commissioners will coordinate with Ms. Finck to forward on information and calendar invites to Rep. Keeler.

Commissioner Campbell thanked Rep. Keeler on the information she shared and her initiatives. He stated that it would be helpful to receive updates with regards to the childcare shortage, Border Cities Legislation, SCORE funding, and PFAS legislation that could have an impact on Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Facility and the Clay County Landfill.

Rep. Keeler discussed the barriers hiring daycare staff is the turnaround time of background checks and gap funding. Rep Keeler mentioned two additional initiatives she forgot to mention earlier which are supporting mental health, especially in our youth, and Narcan training.

There was additional discussion from Commissioners Mongeau and Ebinger regarding the need for Narcan training, policies, and funding at a state level.

Commissioner Mongeau lastly stated the importance of continued support for county program aid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE/DISCUSSIONS

- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for Election Canvassing; Adult Mental Health LAC; Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC Board; Clay County Substance Abuse Committee; Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board; Partnership4Health CHB; Township Officers; and FM Diversion Authority Board.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for ARPA Committee; Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority; Solid Waste Advisory Committee; Moorhead Clay County JPA; FM Diversion Authority Board; Township Officers; Resource Recovery Facility Construction.
- Commissioner Gross reported on meetings for Planning Commission; Colleen's retirement; Partnership4Health CHB; Clay County Association of Township Meeting.
- Commissioner Kahly reported on meetings for Clay County Adult Mental Health LAC; Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC Board; Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County; West Central Initiative - Economic Development; Early Childhood Initiative; worked at the Pangea event on behalf of Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County Board; and Township Officers.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for ARPA; Great Fargo Moorhead EDC; Planning Commission; Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority; Metro COG Board; Moorhead Clay County

JPA; Correspondence with a resident in east Clay County regarding a potential lake name change; Township Officers; Resource Recovery Facility Construction.

- Mr. Larson attended meetings for ARPA, STRIVE; met with Jackie, Colleen, and Sarah; attended GIS Day; attended Colleen's Retirement; SWACK; Board Packet Meeting; MCCJPA; phone conversation with Burns and McDonnell regarding Resource Recovery Facility; Township Officers; Resource Recovery Facility Construction; and Intergovernmental Retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Jenny Mongeau, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator