

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023
Meeting Room A / B – 3rd Floor – Courthouse
MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following Commissioners present: Paul Krabbenhoft, Frank Gross, Jenny Mongeau, Kevin Campbell, and David Ebinger. Others present: County Administrator Stephen Larson, County Attorney Brian Melton, HR Director/Asst. Administrator Darren Brooke, and Communications Coordinator Jacqueline Finck

Call to Order

Commissioner Gross called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda with the following addition: Request to Replace Social Worker - Child Protection Due to Resignation.

Donation From the Fargo Force to the Sheriff's Department

Commissioner Gross recognized the donation of 4 Breacher packs from the Fargo Force to the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$2,431. The Breacher packs were placed in Ulen, Barnesville, Glyndon and Dilworth schools to be utilized in an active shooter incident or other large threats.

Approval of Write Offs of Uncollectable Insurance Balances.

By consent, the Board approved the write offs of uncollectable insurance balances for the Public Health Department for the years 2020-2022, in the amount of \$9,763.05.

Sheriff Empting to Recognize Scott Tommerdahl with the Sheriff's Office Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service

Sheriff Empting and Lt. Gabe Tweten recognized Scott Tommerdahl for assisting the Sheriff's Department by providing aid to a stranded woman and child during the February 14, 2023, blizzard.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the payment of bills and vouchers totaling \$781,965 from 112 vendors. There were 82 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$36,052) and the following 30 were over \$2,000.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota	\$ 330,509	Kris Engineering, Inc.	\$ 4,051
Clay Soil & Water Cons Dept	\$ 70,572	Fevig Oil Co	\$ 3,596

Clay Co Public Health	\$ 61,101	Interstate Power Systems, Inc.	\$ 3,574
Dakota Plains Mechanical, Inc.	\$ 55,575	Corrections Products Company	\$ 3,255
Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 53,209	CDW Government, Inc	\$ 3,032
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.	\$ 38,768	ADDvantage Triton LLC	\$ 3,000
Becker County Public Health	\$ 29,265	Clay County Social Services	\$ 2,785
Lutheran Social Service Of Mn	\$ 16,275	City Of Fargo	\$ 2,646
MN Counties Computer Coop	\$ 11,430	RBS Activewear	\$ 2,536
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	\$ 8,551	FM Ice Dams	\$ 2,450
Madison National Life	\$ 7,892	Amazon Capital Services	\$ 2,359
MN Life	\$ 6,525	MacQueen Equipment, Inc.	\$ 2,320
Xcel Energy	\$ 5,264	Minnkota EnviroServices, Inc.	\$ 2,299
Psychlogics	\$ 4,515	Green View Inc.	\$ 2,274
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 4,120	Stellar Services, LLC	\$ 2,156

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2023

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from March 14, 2023.

Request Approval of Resolution 2023-09 Declaring State of Emergency in Preparation for Spring Flooding

Lt. Gabe Tweten presented the Resolution 2023-09 Declaring State of Emergency to prepare for potential flooding this spring.

Commissioner Mongeau asked Lt. Tweten to discuss the reasoning why action takes place for something like this. Lt. Tweten stated a week ago, the National Weather Service put out their probabilistic forecast which is based on snow depth, moisture content, and predictions on weather trends. Currently the Red River in Fargo will most likely reach major flood stage. There is a 90% chance that the crest will be at 30 feet and a 50% chance that it will crest at 34.2 feet. Once major flood stage is met in this area, there are mitigation efforts that need to take place. Certain roads will be closed, localized sand bagging will take place, and there will be limited access to certain county and township roads. Lt. Tweten has been in discussion with County Engineer, Justin Sorum, as the Highway Department plays a role in opening culverts and ditches during this time.

Commissioner Campbell asked Mr. Sorum if Townships have their own barricade systems. Mr. Sorum stated that most Townships do have their own systems, and they do communicate with the Highway Department regarding which roads might be closed in order for the Highway department to update their road closure maps, which the Sheriff's Department uses regularly.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-09 Declaring State of Emergency in preparation for spring flooding.

Resolution 2023-09 Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency

WHEREAS the potential spring flooding event will impact the population of Clay County and its

municipalities due to the large amount of snow; and

WHEREAS the potential spring flooding event will cause a significant amount of public property damage; and

WHEREAS the Clay County Emergency Management Director requests the Clay County Board of Commissioners to declare Clay County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the potential spring flooding event of 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners declares Clay County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the potential spring flooding event of March 2023.

Request Approval of Grant Agreement and Supporting Resolution 2023-10

County Engineer Justin Sorum requested approval of MnDOT Grant Agreement and Resolution 2023-10. An LIRP grant of \$800,000 was received for SAP 014-618-016 which was a mill and overlay project on County Road 18. MnDOT does require a Grant Agreement and Resolution in order to use the funds.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Grant Agreement and adoption of Resolution 2023-10.

Commissioner Campbell thanked Mr. Sorum and his efforts in obtaining these funds.

RESOLUTION 2023-10
Exhibit E for Grant Agreement to State Transportation Fund
Local Road Improvement Program
Grant Terms and Conditions
SAP 014-618-016
March 28th, 2023

WHEREAS, Clay County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for Local Road Improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$800,000.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Clay County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.52 and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Information on West Central Regional Water District Project

Stephen Slick from AE2S introduced himself, the Mayor of Felton Minnesota, Aaron Belka, and Senior Attorney Daniel Marx from Flaherty & Hood, who joined online.

Mr. Slick presented the West Central Regional Water District Project (WCRWD), which is a water regionalization project that has potential to impact roughly 15,000 citizens in western Minnesota. Mr. Slick discussed the need for the project, regional approach, case study: Climax, MN, progress to date, funding applications, critical next steps and WCRWD participation.

Need for the project came about in fall of 2020 due to water concerns in Polk, Norman, and Clay counties, such as aging infrastructure, lack of licensed operators, high capital costs, emerging contaminants and water quality concerns. Letters of support and resolutions have been provided from the Cities of Climax, Nielsville, Beltrami, Shelly, Hendrum, Halstad, Borup, Felton, Perley and Georgetown along with Polk and Norman Counties, MN Rural Water Association and 4 economic development entities. There have been 27 public meetings and 130 testimonials from rural residents.

Mr. Marx stated because this project is a multi-County district, the counties that so choose, form the district itself. Legally the district has been formed for Normand and Polk counties. The next step would be for Clay County to adopt the resolution. The resolution would form the district within the Clay County jurisdiction and authorize the initiation of judicial proceedings to move forward.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the main lines and lateral lines are in correlation to who pays for the water system. Mr. Slick stated that is essentially correct. When water districts were initially formed, the cities weren't looked at as the primary constituent, it had gone rurally first. Now, more and more cities are falling into this issue. Therefore, the intent of the design is to first engage all larger populations. This would be a cheaper option and set up to serve rural customers. Commissioner Campbell expressed concern regarding rural residents and who may not want to hook up to certain lateral water lines. Mr. Slick stated that property owners would pay their cost share based on signing up. The district would not be assessed to property owner without interest.

Commissioner Campbell asked what the guarantee of water supply would be and how are the rates set. Mr. Slick stated the rates would be set by the Commission that's established. Currently the City of Climax and Nielsville are contracted with East Central Regional Water District (ECRWD), who sets their rates. Once the WCRWD is formed ECRWD would be a bulk supplier and will be a contracted known water rate, from there the Board of Directors who are chose would determine what the cost structure would look like for the residents who choose to sign up.

Commissioner Campbell asked to what level the three counties are financially responsible for. Mr. Marx stated once a petition is filed the District Court would take over and then appoint the Engineer and would be paying the cost associated with the public notice, engineering costs, etc. The way the statute is written, the counties do not have to put up a bond, if for some reason the Water District is dismissed by the District Court. However, there is potential for the counties who signed the resolution to front the cost in the event that the District Court doesn't believe the project is in the interest of the public.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the project goes through, are the engineer costs and legal fees part of the cost of the project that are reimbursed through rates. Mr. Marx confirmed that's the intention, but again there will be a lot of latitude from the District Court. The statute anticipates those details would then be addressed by the Water District once it's formed and established. Ideally, yes, the cost would then be passed on to the Water District as operating

costs going forward and the Water District would then be responsible for itself financially.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft asked if the boundaries are fixed and if the ECRWD was big enough for long term purposes. Mr. Slick stated the boundary is not set in stone, at this time, it does have potential to grow if necessary. The boundary has already grown significantly in comparison to when this project started. Regarding the ECRWD, no, it's not big enough to support this project. Through the judicial court process, additional regional partners will need to be found for the long term. It's possible that the Water District itself, long term, would possibly cost share in water treatment plant or develop their own water treatment plant. Additional sources will need to be investigated.

Discussion ensued regarding water lines, purchasing of water and cost.

Commissioner Gross asked what this would cost Clay County. Mr. Marx stated there is a possibility for the counties involved to be responsible for part of the process fees if the District Court dismisses the process.

Commissioner Ebinger asked what the process looked like when Felton and Georgetown came into this project, if a needs assessment took place, if this is what the people want, or if it was just an extension of the project. Mr. Slick stated that either AE2S or ECRWD was approached by the cities, stating that they have issues and were interested in a water district project. After that, discussion would follow regarding their needs and infrastructure. Mr. Marx stated once the public system is established by the court each individual city would have to adopt a resolution to join, which has not been done at this point. Commissioner Mongeau wanted to point out that it also includes the City of Ulen and Hitterdal. Mr. Belka stated that the City of Felton has researched different options over the last year. Since Felton is a small town, there is no one on staff who could handle a treatment facility, therefore, if this water district was an option, it would be the best route to take.

Commissioner Campbell asked, during this process, if there are challenges to the process, or people who want to legally fight this project, could those costs also fall on the county. Mr. Marx, stated, no, the costs that Clay County would potentially see would be for Judicial formation process. Typically, litigation associated with a project like this would be if the water district was attempting to assess a property owner who didn't want to be involved, which would be a separate issue after the project is up and running.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft asked what the timeframe would look like for the court to do this work. Mr. Marx stated the court couldn't dismiss the process until it went through the full process with a Public Hearing. Overall, this could easily take at least a year.

Discussion ensued regarding grants for costs.

Commissioner Campbell stated that he would like the County Attorney and County Administrator to look at the resolution and have further discussion on the risks of the project.

County Administrator Stephen Larson shared that the discussion today was a sharing of information and if there was interest, the signing of a resolution would be on a later date.

Request Approval to Replace two (2) County Agency Social Worker Positions in Child Protection/Child Welfare Services due to Resignations.

Social Services Director Rhonda Porter, Child and Family Supervisor Amy Amundsen, and Supervisors Michelle Thordal and Quinn Jaeger requested approval to replace two County Agency Social Worker positions in Child Protection/Child Welfare Services due to resignations with backfill if there would be any internal interest.

Ms. Thordal stated there are two open Child Protection Specialist positions. One position handles case management with open transferred cases. The other is a specialized case load, working with children's mental health and voluntary placements. Ms. Amundsen stated she has one open position for Child Protection Ongoing Case Management. Ms. Porter stated that these positions do generate some revenue based on the work, eligibility of the family, and caseload size.

Commissioner Campbell asked Ms. Porter and her staff to discuss the reasoning behind the resignations. Ms. Thordal stated that with the three resignations, they are workers who have been around for some time. Some of them moved onto new opportunities and another one moved to a different county. Ms. Amundsen stated that she has seen more stability with staff, due to keeping the caseload sizes lower.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the replacement of two social worker positions within the Child Protection/Child Welfare Services with backfill if there is any internal interest.

AGENDA ADDITION: Request to Replace Social Worker - Child Protection Due to Resignation

Ms. Porter requested approval to replace a Social Worker - Child Protection due to resignation. The resignation was due to relocation and higher wages.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, with a 4-0 vote, the Board approved to replace a Social Worker - Child Protection due to resignation with backfill.

Annual Department Update - Social Services: Behavioral Health and Child & Family Services

Ms. Porter introduced her staff and presented Social Services organizational chart.

Social Services Supervisor Kristin LePard presented on the Behavioral Health Unit and discussed mental health, chemical health, and adult protection.

Commissioner Mongeau discussed having a meeting with Lakeland Mental Health where they discussed Rule 20 & 25 assessments and wondered what the Commission can do to advocate for the department. County Attorney Brian Melton discussed more on Rule 20 and mental health and how incidents can have a snowball effect. Commissioner Mongeau clarified her question was more along the lines of getting those assessments completed. Ms. Porter stated Lakeland Mental Health does provide substance use treatment services in Otter Tail County and Rule 25's are now called comprehensive assessment and it can be a staffing issue because they do have to have the right credentials. Ms. LePard stated Lakeland in Moorhead does not provide comprehensive assessments. Commissioner Mongeau asked if it would be helpful if those assessments were provided. Ms. LePard stated there are several providers in Clay County who have scheduled comprehensive assessments as well as certain days for

walk-ins and those assessments are being completed in a reasonable amount of time within the County.

Discussion ensued regarding Rule 20.

Ms. Thordal, Ms. Amundsen, and Mr. Jaeger presented on Child Protection/Child Welfare Division. Information was provided on staff, provided services, child protection and child welfare intakes, assessments and case management, placements and costs, out of home placements, community partners, and current challenges and successes. Ms. Porter provided additional information on placements.

Commissioner Gross asked what the delay was for the pre-adoptive home and pre-kinship home placements. Ms. Amundsen stated things are moving along rather quickly, however, there is a period of time where the Department of Human Services needs to approve certain things and all the paperwork needs to be completed in order to finalize.

Commissioner Mongeau praised and thanked the staff and their hard work.

Request Approval to Fill an Upcoming Vacancy in the Secure Program (Case Manager)

Juvenile Director James O'Donnell requested to fill a vacancy in the Secure Program with backfill if the candidate is internal. The new hire would start in May of 2023.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, with a 4-0 vote, the Board approved to fill the upcoming vacancy in the Secure Program (Case Manager) with backfill if the candidate is internal.

Commissioner Mongeau discussed how Mr. O'Donnell came to the Personnel Issue Committee to share that there were additional funds within the Non-Secure grant that will free up a total of \$270,000. With that grant there's opportunity to pay exempt employees overtime in order to attend different training opportunities.

BREAK

The Board took a break between 10:43 a.m. to 10:49 a.m.

Approval to Replace Public Health Nurse

Public Health Administrator Kathy McKay requested approval to advertise and replace a Public Health Nurse, it's a full time position and it is a budgeted item.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to advertise and replace a Public Health Nurse.

Request Approval to Waive Penalties on Property Taxes

Deputy Treasurer Annette Mahler and Chief Deputy Treasurer Michelle Rohrich received a request from Orion Hendrickson to waive penalties on property taxes for parcel 60.200.0080, after his father, Joseph Hendrickson, had passed away.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the to waive penalties on property taxes for parcel 60.2000.0080 in the amount of \$327.08.

Request Approval to Join the Landfill Coalition PFAS Test Study

Solid Waste Manager Corey Bang requested approval to join the Landfill Coalition PFAS test study. PFAS is a chemical found in water, and this test would allow an individual landfill to test wells twice to determine a baseline amount of the chemical in the water. The cost of the study would not exceed \$4,200 but it would be dependent on the number of landfills involved in the study. There was an estimate of 31 landfills that wanted to participate and just recently, Mr. Bang found out that there are now 51 landfills across the state of Minnesota that will be involved. Mr. Bang stated that he would test 5 wells, 2 that are upstream and 3 that are downstream, to determine what levels are coming in and out.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to join the landfill coalition PFAS test study at the cost of \$4,200.

Request Approval to Fill Assistant County Attorney Vacancy

County Attorney Brian Melton requested to fill the Assistant County Attorney position in the Civil Division. This is a budgeted position.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the to fill vacant Assistant County Attorney position.

Request Approval to Sign Updated Contract for Construction Management Services with Gehrtz Construction

County Administrator Stephen Larson requested approval of the signed updated contract for construction management services with Gehrtz Construction. At the signing of the original contract, the B-3 requirements were not included, this updated contract would include those requirements and the \$44,000 that the Board has already taken action on.

Commissioner Mongeau commented that this was a cost that wasn't planned but it's justified based on the requirements.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the \$44,000 is an increase to the service agreement with Gehrtz as a result of the B-3 additions. Mr. Larson stated that was correct, and that the Board has acted on that amount already.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the updated contract to include B-3 items with additional fees in the amount of \$44,000.

Request Approval of Resolution 2023-11 and Execution of Amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement

Mr. Larson requested approval of Resolution 2023-11 and execution of Amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Larson stated that on December 14th, 2021, the Clay County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to opt-in, along with other counties/cities in the State of Minnesota, to be a part of the National Opioid Settlement. At the time of the Board of Commissioners' action, there were two settlements available with Janssen and three distributors. Since that time the State of Minnesota has agreed to settle additional opioid lawsuits. Resolution 2023-11 and the Amended Minnesota Opioids State Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement are intended to opt-in both current and future opioid

settlements.

Commissioner Gross asked if we knew of any settlement amounts. Mr. Larson stated that the total number for the 5 settlements, Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, would be 15.9 billion. Mr. Larson provided background on the first three settlements. In the original document and resolution that was signed, we were told we'd receive \$2,930,240.98 minus the 7% backstop fund. An exact number has yet to be received, however, 1.9 million is where those original first 2 settlements came in at. Through the National Settlement, we won't know what the future years allotted dollar amount will be until it comes out.

Commissioner Gross asked if there are restrictions on what the funds can be used for. Mr. Larson stated the Memorandum of Agreement provides guidelines on what the funds can be spent on.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-11.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved executing the Amended Minnesota Opioid State-Subdivision Memorandum Agreement.

Resolutions 2023-11

Resolution Authorizing Clay County Administration to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure Clay County Participation in the Multistate Settlements Relating to Opioid Supply Chain Participants, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement.

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and numerous Minnesota cities and counties are engaged in nationwide civil litigation against opioid supply chain participants related to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Attorney General has signed on to multistate settlement agreements with several opioid supply chain participants, but those settlement agreements are still subject to sign-on by local governments and final agreement by the companies and approval by the courts; and

WHEREAS, there is a deadline of April 18 2023, for a sufficient threshold of Minnesota cities and counties to sign on to the above-referenced multistate settlement agreements, and failure to timely sign on may diminish the amount of funds received by not only that city or county but by all Minnesota cities and counties from the settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Minnesota's local governments, the Office of the Attorney General, and the State of Minnesota have reached agreement on the intrastate allocation of these settlement funds between the State, and the counties and cities, as well as the permissible uses of these funds, which will be memorialized in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, as amended (the "State-Subdivision Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the State-Subdivision Agreement creates an opportunity for local governments and the State to work collaboratively on a unified vision to deliver a robust abatement and remediation plan to address the opioid crisis in Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Clay County supports and agrees to the State-Subdivision Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Clay County supports and opts into all future multistate settlement

agreements with opioid supply chain participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Clay County Commission authorizes Clay County Administration to execute all necessary documents to ensure Clay County participation in the multistate settlement agreements, including the Participation Agreement and accompanying Release, and in the State-Subdivision Agreement.

Request Approval to Extend the Clay County Referral Program

Human Resources Director Darren Brooke requested approval to extend the Clay County Referral Program. Mr. Brooke discussed that the Clay County Referral Program was designed to increase recruitment in our 24/7 departments by providing incentives to current employees to recruit new applicants to take on those jobs. The program has been a success and it is time to consider expanding the program to all employees in all departments. This has been reviewed and recommended by the Personnel Issues Committee.

Commissioner Gross discussed that he feels that employees would still recommend someone for a job within the County, regardless of the recruitment bonus.

Commissioner Mongeau stated that it seems to be a beneficial tool at a minimal cost to recruit employees. The Personnel Issues Committee was hopeful that by opening it up to all departments and employees, it would help fill additional openings in other departments. Mr. Brooke stated that most other departments don't do a lot of hiring, meaning the cost would be minimal.

Commissioner Campbell questioned why the County would spend money in areas where there hasn't been issues in hiring. Commissioner Mongeau stated the Highway Department was a good example of another department having issues with hiring. Mr. Brooke stated that Public Health and Social Services sometimes have difficulty hiring, and it would be at a minimal cost.

Commissioner Ebinger discussed how this program doesn't harm the County to pay a modest bonus to recruit into departments that are having difficulty and in fairness, the program should be extended to all departments.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft discussed that he believes the recruitment programs have value and agrees that the program should be offered to all County employees and departments.

Commissioner Mongeau stated the policy states that every 6 months it will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and asked when the implementation timeline would be. Mr. Brooke stated he'd like to make the program effective for everyone on April 8, 2023, which is the start of the next payroll. Commissioner Mongeau believes it would make sense to evaluate the policy at year end, to which Mr. Brooke agreed.

Commissioner Campbell asked where the money would come from, as the budget has already been set. Mr. Larson integrated stating how the policy was presented in the past was that any month that a position sits open, the County wouldn't pay the health insurance, in addition to the salary, and that is where those funds would come from. Commissioner Campbell feels that there isn't a need to extend the program since the other departments don't have issues hiring.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and carried with two descending votes (Commissioners Gross & Campbell), the Board approved to extend

the Clay County Referral Program to all departments within Clay County.

CLOSED SESSION - Union Contract Negotiations

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to close the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to open the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and carried with one descending vote (Commissioner Gross), the Board approved the 2023-2025 union contract for Social Workers.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Personnel Issues Committee; Substance Use Crisis Facility meeting to review bids; One Watershed, One Plan – Buffalo Red; SWAC; MCCJPA; Metro COG Executive Committee; CAPLP; Facilities Finance Committee; Lakeland Mental Health Center.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for Substance Use Crisis Facility meeting to review bids; Facilities Finance Committee; Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority; SWAC; MCCJPA; and FM Diversion Authority.
- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for FM Diversion Authority Finance; FM Diversion Authority; and Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for Adult Mental Health LAC; Moorhead City Planning Commission; CAPLP; and Cass-Clay Food Commission.
- Commissioner Gross reported on meetings for Personnel Issues Committee; One Watershed One Plan – Buffalo Red; and One Watershed One Plan – Wild Rice.
- Mr. Larson reported on meetings for Personnel Issues Committee; Substance Use Crisis Facility meeting to review bids; County Management; Department Head Evaluations; Meeting with Darren Brooke in HR; MCCJPA; and Facilities Finance Committee. Mr. Larson stated last week, there was a request from a citizen to speak before the Board whom he did reach out to. Kim Syverson of Ulen had concerns on redistricting. Mr. Larson put Mr. Syverson in touch with Mark Sloan regarding this issue. Mr. Syverson no longer feels the need to come before the Board. There was another request from an individual to speak before the Board, however, that has not yet been set up. Mr. Larson reminded the Board of the Rural Cities and County meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023. There's been talk about risk management and the County will be hosting MCIT on April 5, 2023 to look at the properties that value over \$100,000, to verify that they are properly insured. On February 28, 2023, Matt Jacobson brought forward a contract amendment for the Buffalo Red Insurance Study. The Buffalo Red Rive Watershed District Board did approve their portion of the payment which was received. For those who shop in Moorhead, note that on April 1, 2023 the half cent sales tax does go into effect. Lastly, Mr. Larson publicly recognized Stephen Landsem on his retirement and 32 years of service. His last day will be Friday, March 31, with an open house from 1-3:30 p.m. at the LEC.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Frank Gross, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator