

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024
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 (arrived at 8:36 a.m.), 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 Ebinger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Donation from Comstock Community Center to the Clay County Sheriff's Office - Corrections for Work Detail Supplies

By consent, the Board approved the donation from Comstock Community Center to the Clay County Sheriff's Office - Corrections for work detail supplies in the amount of \$200.00.

Donation from Western MN Steam Threshers to the Clay County Sheriff's Office - Corrections for Work Detail Supplies

By consent, the Board approved the donation from Western MN Steam Threshers to the Clay County Sheriff's Office - Corrections for work detail supplies in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit - Trojan Takedown Club

By consent, the Board approved the Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit - Trojan Takedown Club.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bills and vouchers totaling \$1,050,782 from 178 vendors. There were 130 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$60,130) and the following 48 were over \$2,000.

Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 150,238	Farmers Coop Oil Co	\$ 5,617
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$ 134,819	Pace Analytical Services, Inc.	\$ 5,528
Clay Co Public Health	\$ 129,436	LELS	\$ 5,372
Becker County Public Health	\$ 77,734	Rob Bentz Lock & Key, LLC	\$ 4,676
Moorhead Public Service	\$ 57,556	Sabin C Store	\$ 4,532
Trinity Services Group, Inc.	\$ 56,581	Streicher's	\$ 4,463
Powerplan	\$ 54,413	MFI Medical Equipment Inc	\$ 4,326

Red River Regional Dispatch Center	\$	37,508	McKesson Medical Surgical	\$	4,046
Historical & Cultural Society Of Clay Co	\$	33,562	Magic Fund	\$	3,785
Lutheran Social Service Of Mn	\$	31,722	Barnesville C-Store	\$	3,755
Xcel Energy	\$	21,595	Toshiba Business Solutions-t0bbpx9	\$	3,467
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	\$	17,081	Corrections Products Company	\$	3,450
Enterprise FM Trust	\$	11,646	Lexipol, LLC	\$	3,212
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$	11,064	Advanced Business Methods	\$	3,175
SRF Consulting Group Inc	\$	9,877	Stein's Inc	\$	2,738
Petro Serve Usa-Hwy	\$	9,586	Manthe/Scott	\$	2,604
Nitzkowski, Inc.	\$	9,365	MN State Community & Technical College	\$	2,280
Uline	\$	8,761	River Valley Forensic Services, PA	\$	2,250
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	\$	8,144	Martin/Todd Matthew	\$	2,220
City Of Dilworth	\$	7,990	TrueNorth Steel	\$	2,219
Verizon-386550144	\$	7,709	Capital One Trade Credit	\$	2,217
MN Counties Computer Coop	\$	7,677	Pete's Gas & Service	\$	2,186
Wegner Psychological & Therapeutic Svc	\$	7,500	West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$	2,158
Solutions Behavioral Health PC	\$	6,727	Wex Bank (fleet)	\$	2,062

Request Approval to Replace a Social Worker Position in Child Protection Services Due to Resignation

Social Services Director, Quinn Jaeger, stated that a position is being vacated in the Child Protection Intake/Investigations unit due to a resignation. This position plays a vital role in conducting family assessments and investigations, which are fundamental to protecting vulnerable populations. It is critical that this position be filled given the caseload demands and the State and Federal guidelines relative to our agency's response to these reports.

On motion by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to replace the Social Worker Position within the Intake/Investigations Unit with backfill should there be an internal appointment.

Request Approval of Letter of Support for Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services

Mr. Jaeger introduced Social Services Supervisor, Kirstin LePard and Paul Bangura from Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services, and stated that Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services (FBHCS), a private provider, is seeking to establish integrated outpatient substance use and mental health treatment services in Clay County. To meet state certification requirements, a statement of support is needed from the county where the provider will be located (MN Rule 9530.6800 and 9530.6810). Currently, Clay County has limited outpatient providers for integrated substance use and mental health services. Supporting an additional provider aligns with the Social Service's goals to enhance access and offer clients more choices. The rationale for supporting Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services includes the following:

- **Integrated Treatment Model:** Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services offers a dual approach to treatment, addressing both substance use and mental health needs. This evidence-based integrated treatment model has demonstrated improved outcomes and aligns with best practices in mental health and addiction recovery.
- **Expanding Client Choice:** Increasing the number of qualified providers will offer clients more choices in selecting a provider that best meets their personal and therapeutic needs. Client choice is critical to ensuring engagement, satisfaction, and successful treatment outcomes.

- **Reduced Transportation Barriers:** Many clients face transportation challenges that limit access to necessary treatment services. Establishing an additional provider in Clay County, specifically in Moorhead, will reduce travel times and associated barriers, making treatment more accessible for those relying on public transportation or limited personal resources.
- **Local Treatment Option Preferred:** While other providers are available in nearby Fargo, ND, Clay County residents benefit from having accessible, local options. Proximity to services supports consistent attendance and participation, both essential for positive treatment outcomes.

The support for Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services to provide integrated services in Clay County reflects the Social Service's dedication to client-centered care, accessibility, and improved recovery pathways for residents.

Commissioner Ebinger asked how many patients/caseloads would be able to be accommodated. Mr. Bangura stated for group counseling, it's 16 per group per session. Other services that are offered are mental health assessments, individual therapy, family therapy, physical assessments, wellness plans, crisis management, and treatment of substance disorders.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft stated that he is an advocate and hopes for great success and asked if Mr. Bangura had previous experience. Mr. Bangura stated that he has 7 years of experience, and discussed how his personal experience has helped shape these services.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to provide a written statement of support from Clay County Social Services for Family Behavioral Health Counseling Services to offer integrated outpatient substance use and mental health treatment services.

Request Approval of the Two-Year Extension to the 'Make Moorhead Home' Property Tax Rebate Program and to Schedule a Public Hearing Date

City of Moorhead Government Affairs Director, Lisa Bode, requested approval of the two-year extension of the 'Make Moorhead Home' (MMH) Property Tax Rebate Program. The extension would run from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

The Board took a break from 8:44 a.m. to 8:47 a.m. to address technical issues.

Ms. Bode gave a brief overview of the request that took place prior to the break, and stated the program is a two year rebate of property taxes on newly constructed homes. The program has been in operation since 2009, and started as a state paid program that allowed residents to recover from the 2009, 2010 and 2011 floods. After the state discontinued funding the program, the local jurisdictions decided to make it a self-funded program, converting it from a credit to a rebate. The programs is every two years so local policy makers can review the program.

Commissioner Campbell stated that he strongly supports continuing this program, and asked if this program also applies to remodeling. Ms. Bode stated this program does not apply to remodeling, but in the past there was a remodeling program, but it didn't prove to be successful.

Commissioner Campbell asked if Clay County also has their own tax abatement program. County Administration Stephen Larson stated that the Board will also be asked to schedule a public hearing for the County's portion of funding.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 'Make Moorhead Home' Property Tax Rebate Program Two-Year Extension and to schedule a Public Hearing for Clay County property tax abatements for December 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Request Approval of the Amendment to the Food Services Agreement for the Withdrawal Management/Detox Facility

Detox Director, Troy Amundsen, requested approval of the amendment to the Food Services Agreement for the Withdrawal Management/Detox Facility (WMDF) and stated that the agreement was revised to reflect the transportation piece and the relocation to the new facility.

Commissioner Gross asked for clarification on the transportation of the food. Mr. Amundsen stated Trinity Services Group, Inc, the company that provides the food, will continue to prepare food at the Correctional Facility, and will then use the Public Health Emergency Preparedness vehicle to transport the food to the new facility.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Gross, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Amendment to the Food Services Agreement for the Withdrawal Management/Detox Facility.

Mr. Amundsen provided the Board a brief update regarding the anticipated open date of the new facility.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Gross reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; Clay County Highway Department Open House for CSAH 12/52 Roundabout Discussion; Wild Rice Watershed District; and Public Hearing for the West Central Regional Water District.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft congratulated Commissioner Ebinger and Ezra Baer for being elected and that he's excited for being re-elected himself as well and reported on meetings for PRTF meeting with Representative Keeler; Clay County Intergovernmental Committee; Children's Mental LAC; Clay SWCD; and PRTF meeting with Deb White and Senator Kupec.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for PRTF with Representative Keeler; Clay County Highway Department Open House for CSAH 12/52 Roundabout Discussion; conversation with the Chamber, Charlie Johnson from the Visitors Bureau, and the hotel industry, hotel owners, Quinn Jaeger, and CAPLP regarding hotel rooms for the homeless; Clay SWCD; Election Canvassing; PRTF meeting with Commissioner Krabbenhoft; Pam Anderson's retirement party; and stated it was great to see all the green lights over the weekend for Veteran's Day and thanked the Veterans for their service.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; FM Diversion Planning Committee; Public Hearing for the West Central Regional Water District; Clay County Highway Department Open House for CSAH 12/52 Roundabout Discussion; Clay County Intergovernmental Committee; Election Canvassing; Pam Anderson's retirement party; and wanted to point out that he attended Steve's mother's celebration of life, and it was a

beautiful ceremony.

- Commissioner Ebinger stated that he is excited for his re-election and to continue to work for Clay County residents and reported on meetings for NW Emergency Communication Board; and stated he would like to be put back on the Clay County Restorative Practices Advisory Committee.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to add the Clay County Restorative Practices Advisory Committee to Commissioner Ebinger's Committee Assignments and to receive per diem & mileage.

- County Administrator Stephen Larson thanked the board for allowing him to be out last week and Darren Brooke for helping cover meetings while he was out and reported on meetings for Lori Johnson, Karen Lauer, and Greg Wagner from West Central Initiative regarding the Clay County Loan Fund; met with Joe Olson and Dale Arnold (DOC) regarding probation and location; met with Trenton Gerads from Cass County Land Trust; met with City of Moorhead regarding monthly meetings and discussed the budget, PRTF, flood mitigation, and the RRC partnership; several Department Heads completed NACO leadership and will continue with the next group; of note, on Thursday and Friday this week I will be in St. Paul for AMC Futures; and the Association of Township Officers Fall Meeting will be next Monday, November 18, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and will be held at the Law Enforcement Center.

Commissioner Mongeau provided a brief update regarding the Exchange trip to Germany and stated that she decided to decline the trip to further continue the work that the county needs for the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF).

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

David Ebinger, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator