

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

8:30 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

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, Ezra Baer, Jenny Mongeau, Kevin Campbell, and David Ebinger. Others present: County Administrator Stephen Larson, County Attorney Brian Melton, Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke, and Senior Administrative Assistant Sarah Hellem.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Mongeau, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Tax Abatements for the City of Moorhead due to Exemption Status

By consent, the Board approved the tax abatements for the City of Moorhead in the amount of \$602.00.

Tax Abatement for Lashr Properties LLC Due to a Clerical Error

By consent, the Board approved the tax abatement for Lashr Properties LLC due to a clerical error, in the amount of \$162.00.

Tax Abatement for S/C.Ystebo Due to a Clerical Error

By consent, the Board approved the tax abatement for S/C Ystebo due to a clerical error, in the amount of \$70.00.

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 Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bills and vouchers totaling \$846,945 from 104 vendors. There were 72 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$31,821) and the following 32 were over \$2,000.

Clay Co Public Health	\$ 214,356	CoreLogic	\$ 6,640
Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 142,403	Squires, Waldspurger, & Mace P.A.	\$ 5,750
Becker County Public Health	\$ 108,634	NBS/WahlTek	\$ 4,947
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$ 70,188	New Roots Midwest	\$ 4,370
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 68,075	Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.	\$ 3,897
Advanced Engineering & Environmental	\$ 23,782	Rose Bergan Trust	\$ 3,875
Moorhead Public Service	\$ 19,048	Minnkota EnviroServices, Inc.	\$ 3,438
Lutheran Social Service Of Mn	\$ 17,375	Goodin Co.	\$ 3,433
Turnkey Corrections	\$ 16,778	Flaherty & Hood, P.A.	\$ 3,243
Lereta, LLC	\$ 16,628	Valley Mortuary Transportation Services	\$ 3,154

MN Counties Computer Coop	\$ 14,854	Johnson/Ryan	\$ 3,130
Xcel Energy	\$ 14,730	Green View Inc.	\$ 2,574
Mn State Auditor	\$ 9,108	Dakota Development Construction	\$ 2,327
Elan Financial Services	\$ 7,989	Uline	\$ 2,148
City Of Fargo	\$ 7,056	Stein's Inc	\$ 2,104
ANJAAM HOLDINGS, LLC	\$ 6,988	Oberg LLC	\$ 2,095

Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2025

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from May 6, 2025.

Request Approval to Hire Two (2) FT Deputy Auditor - Motor Vehicle

County Auditor Lori Johnson requested approval to hire two full-time Deputy Auditors for the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) due to recent resignations, with backfill.

Discussion ensued regarding compliments surrounding the DMV, Wilkin County discontinuing the issuance of driver's licenses, and Real and Enhanced Identification.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to hire two full-time Deputy Auditors for the Department of Motor Vehicle with backfill.

Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) Annual Report

Social Services Supervisor Kirstin LePard, and Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) Secretary Brea Krause, presented the Adult Mental Health LAC annual report.

Ms. Krause discussed crisis services, what doesn't meet medical criteria for continued inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, housing, mental health workforce shortage, Mental Illness with co-occurring Substance Use Disorders (Dual Diagnosis), and Reduce Waste in Public Programs through Technology.

Commissioner Mongeau thanked the Adult LAC for being thoughtful about identifying areas in which the County can make a difference to help facilitate better support for those with mental illness, and stated how it would be a good idea to forward this annual report onto the individuals who are on the Human Services committee.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) Membership.

Update on Measles Outbreak

Public Health Administrator Kathy McKay, introduced Public Health Nurse Cheryl Sapp, Family Health Supervisor Liz Burj, and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) West Central District Epidemiologist Isaac Triebold and stated Mr. Triebold would be providing a brief presentation on Measles.

Mr. Triebold discussed and overview of measles, complications & treatment, measles impact & COVID on a global level, illness timeline, symptoms, measles impact & COVID on a local level, determining immunity, measles cases/outbreak in Texas and New Mexico, and the North

Dakota outbreak.

Commissioner Ebinger asked if there was any reason for a child to get vaccinated after they've contracted the disease. Mr. Triebold stated no, if a child contracts the disease, there's no reason to immunize at that point.

Commissioner Ebinger asked what steps a parent should take to get their child immunized if they don't have a pediatrician. Ms. Sapp stated she just ordered additional doses of the measles, mumps and rubeola (MMR) vaccine. 7 to 10 days after it's received, Public Health will communicate that the vaccine is available, and anyone can make an appointment to receive the vaccine. Commissioner Ebinger asked if there were any other resources. Ms. Sapp stated the vaccine can be obtained through primary clinics and potentially through urgent care. Pharmacies are providing the MMR vaccine for individuals who are 19 years of age and older, but they are not vaccinating children.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft discussed the 2 cases in Cass County, ND and asked what steps are being taken in terms of prevention. Mr. Triebold stated to the best of his knowledge, both cases were interviewed, and information was gathered during the infectious stages. It was determined that both cases in Cass County went to a clinic on the Fargo side. Ms. McKay stated Fargo Cass Public Health also set up a vaccine clinic for the public. Commissioner Krabbenhoft asked when the 2 cases were identified. Mr. Triebold stated they were in healthcare on May 7, 2025.

Commissioner Campbell asked why people born before 1957 are immune and how parents receive notifications of vaccines. Mr. Triebold stated measles is so infectious that before the vaccine was invented and approved, basically everybody who was born before 1957 had an actual disease, therefore, having lifelong immunity. In terms of how parents receive notifications of vaccines, and the controversy surrounding vaccines in today's society correlates to the risk perception and how that has changed. Therefore, the risk perception of vaccination versus dealing with the disease is skewed. Discussion ensued regarding social media, self-selection bias, and receiving one dose versus both doses. Ms. Sapp discussed vaccine hesitancy and stated when it comes to the MMR vaccine there is speculation that children will develop autism after receiving the vaccine. Discussion ensued regarding the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC), vaccine schedules, and child & teen checkup outreach programs through Clay County Public Health.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft asked what information has been given to the school districts. Ms. McKay stated information is being distributed to the school districts through the Public Health nurses.

Discussion ensued regarding the comparison between the Texas outbreak and the North Dakota/West Central Minnesota outbreak.

Ms. McKay stayed after the presentation and provided the board with a brief update regarding Partnership4Health Community Health Board (CHB).

Approve Letter to Legislators Identifying Clay Counties' Concerns with the Implementation of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act (MAAFPA) as Proposed

County Administrator Stephen Larson requested approval of the letter to Legislators identifying Clay Counties' concerns with the implementation of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act (MAAFPA) due to the many pieces of legislation that focus on the Social Service/Human Service funding that would result in a cost shift from the state and require the county to increase levy funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the legislative session.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the letter to Legislators identifying Clay Counties' concerns with the implementation of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act (MAAFPA).

BREAK

The Board took a break from 10:03 a.m. to 10:07 a.m.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for NW Emergency Communication Board; Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board; Partnership4Health CHB; and Restorative Practices Advisory Committee.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for Cass-Clay Food Commission; Historical & Cultural Society; and AMC Day on the Hill.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; Extension Committee; Capitol Investment Work Group Committee meeting in St. Paul; Legislative Coordinating for Infrastructure requests; Rollag Seniors Meeting; Capitol Investment Committee meeting in St. Paul; Metro COG Policy Board; attended a breakfast for Admiral Munsch; presented at the CAPLP SENDCAA immersing leaders training; conversation with Administrator Larson and Quinn Jaeger regarding the MAAFPA letter; Lakeland Mental Health Center; and Metro COG TDP meeting.
- Commissioner Baer reported on meetings for County Owned Property; Wild Rice Watershed District; and Partnership4Health CHB.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for meeting discussion prep with Comstock regarding Highway 2; RRRDC Budget & Finance; Lakes Country Service Co-Op; Public Policy meeting for legislative asks - Flood Mitigation.
- County Administrator Stephen Larson reported on meetings for County Owned Property; Comstock Highway 2 meeting; met with Brian Melton on a series of issues; County Management; met with Richard Hanks from White Earth Nation regarding Clay County and ideas/discussion on the casino; met with Dan Mahli, Peyton Mastera, Derrick LaPoint regarding the casino; MCCJPA Prep meeting; met with Joe Olson, and Mark Sloan regarding capital improvement documents; met with Jason Benson, Commissioner Mongeau, and Lisa Bode regarding Flood Mitigation; met Quinn Jaeger, Commissioner Mongeau regarding the Non-Secure Detention facility; Metro COG Transportation meeting; met with Darren Brooke an Sheriff Emptying regarding a series of issues; met with James O'Donnell regarding the JAG grant; and there is an upcoming open house for the Highway 10 Re-Design put on by MNDOT which will be held at the DGF Elementary school in Dilworth on May 20th from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke reported on meetings for County Owned Property; County Management; MnCCC HR Payroll group; DOL Investigation; Department Head Evaluation; met with Sheriff Emptying regarding a personnel issue; continued DOL Investigation; RFP meeting with MnCCC.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Kevin Campbell, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator