

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 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 Baer, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Approval of Liquor License for Venue 31.

By consent, the Board approved the liquor license for Venue 31.

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 Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bills and vouchers totaling \$1,635,256 from 158 vendors. There were 116 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$48,260) and the following 42 were over \$2,000.

Redstone Construction LLC	\$ 499,510	Nitzkowski, Inc.	\$ 5,992
Internal Revenue Serv	\$ 280,633	R.M. Cotton, LLC	\$ 5,988
Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 161,353	Sabin C Store	\$ 5,819
Becker County Public Health	\$ 95,551	City of Audubon	\$ 5,544
Clay Co Public Health	\$ 77,202	VolP Supply LLC	\$ 5,339
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$ 69,810	CB & Sons Electric, Inc.	\$ 5,015
Turner Sand & Gravel Inc.	\$ 49,951	Farmers Coop Oil Co	\$ 4,841
Mn Dept Of Revenue	\$ 37,955	Clay County Public Health Dept (Jail)	\$ 4,816
L & M Road Services LLC	\$ 35,119	MN Department of Transportation	\$ 4,531
VEBA Select Account	\$ 31,909	TrueNorth Steel	\$ 3,839
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 29,492	Bert's Truck Equip of Moorhead, Inc.	\$ 3,589
The Carpet Garage	\$ 28,403	Kinslow/Carrie	\$ 3,450
Trinity Services Group, Inc.	\$ 20,662	Amazon Capital Services	\$ 3,311
Marco Technologies LLC	\$ 19,612	All Season's Lawncare	\$ 3,000
NACO	\$ 15,023	Pete's Gas & Service	\$ 2,653
Petro Serve Usa-Hwy	\$ 11,021	River Valley Forensic Services, PA	\$ 2,650
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	\$ 10,649	Nereson Automotive Inc.	\$ 2,554
Ott's Quality Painting Inc.	\$ 8,577	Johnson's Auto Repair LLC	\$ 2,385
Dean's Bulk Service	\$ 8,000	State of MN Health Care Savings Plan	\$ 2,356
Dakota Fence, Inc.	\$ 7,493	Powerplan	\$ 2,157
SHI International Corp	\$ 7,126	Mezclada	\$ 2,100

Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2025

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and

unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from May 27, 2025.

Request Approval of the Letter of Support for Maui Counseling

Social Services Director Quinn Jaeger requested approval of the letter of support for Maui Counseling to offer outpatient substance use disorder treatment services in Clay County and stated Social Services continues to see a growing need for accessible, culturally responsive substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services. Despite ongoing efforts, service gaps remain, particularly among immigrant and refugee communities who face unique barriers to accessing care. The need for integrated behavioral healthcare that addresses both mental health and substance use is especially critical given the complex and often co-occurring nature of these challenges.

Mr. Jaeger stated Social Services has identified a lack of outpatient SUD providers with the capacity to serve individuals in languages such as Somali, Kurdish, Swahili, and Arabic. This creates a disparity in access and limits the effectiveness of early intervention and sustained recovery for individuals within these communities. To address this need, Maui Counseling is seeking licensure to establish outpatient treatment services in Clay County. Maui Counseling is being developed as a separate extension of Metro Behavioral Health, which has provided mental health services in the region since 2018 and has established relationships and proven cultural competence within these same underserved populations.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved providing a written letter of support for Maui Counseling to offer outpatient substance use disorder treatment services in Clay County.

Metro COG Heartland Trail Presentation

Metro COG Transportation Planner Dan Farnsworth and Stewart Crosby with SRF Consulting provided the Board with an update on the Heartland Trail. Together, Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Crosby discussed the Heartland Trail Study in Clay County including what the Heartland Trail is, the extension of the trail, jurisdiction partners of the study, key study tasks, public engagement in-person, public engagement online, western segment mapping, trailhead concepts, and if the trail would be a state or regional trail.

Discussion ensued regarding land owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Buffalo River State Park, land owned by Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), 34th street bridge, and the trailhead at Centennial Park versus Downtown Moorhead.

Mr. Crosby further discussed the phasing plan, the next steps including setting up a task force, determining if the trail will be a state trail or a regional/local trail, pursue funding sources, conduct an environmental review, right-of-way acquisition, trail design, and landowner discussions, obtain funding for construction, and the start of construction.

Discussion ensued regarding trail maintenance, the task force, funding, state or regional trail, legacy funding, the Detroit Lakes to Frazee section of the trail, trail permits, environmental review, and right-of-way.

Request Approval of Resolution 2025-15 - Request Funding from the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the Non-Secure Juvenile Facility and Request Approval of Resolution 2025-16 - Request Funding from the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for Flood Mitigation Components Needed for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Water District

County Administrator Stephen Larson requested approval of Resolution 2025-15 to request

funding from the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for the Non-Secure Juvenile Facility and approval of Resolution 2025-16 to request funding from the Office of Minnesota Management Budget (MMB) for Flood Mitigation components needed for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Watershed District.

Mr. Larson stated one of the requirements from MMB was to have a resolution from the Board supporting and identifying the two areas. In addition, if there are multiple separate requests, it's required to prioritize and rank the requests. The application is due June 13, 2025, and these resolutions would be part of that application. After the application is submitted, adjustments and changes can be made up until October 17, 2025.

Mr. Larson stated the number one priority would be the Non-Secure Juvenile Facility and the second priority/raking would be the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. However, the Board can choose to rank them how they see fit.

Commissioner Mongeau stated from the beginning, she refused to prioritize these projects. These are separate standing issues that affect different areas, and a lot of effort has been put into both projects. Since this is the process to get on the tour, she will support whatever the Board wishes.

Commissioner Campbell asked if MMB is asking for prioritization to determine which project they would look at and visit or if both requests be considered. Mr. Larson stated it's his understanding that both projects would be looked at if they're put on the list. However, in the event that there would be only a certain dollar amount for funding, the funding would go to the higher raked priority.

Discussion ensued regarding prioritizing the projects, the ability to revise the requests up until October 17, 2025, and the dollar amount for each project.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2025-15 to request funding from the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for a Non-Secure Juvenile Facility.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2025-16 to request funding from the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for Flood Mitigation components needed for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Water District.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and carried, with a 4-0 vote and 1 abstention (Commissioner Mongeau), the Board approved to rank the Flood Mitigation Project as the first priority, and the Non-Secure Juvenile Facility Project as the second priority for the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget application process.

Clay County Board of Commissioners
Resolution 2025-15

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of non-secure juvenile residential placements across Minnesota, limiting the state's ability to provide timely, developmentally appropriate care for children with high-acuity, complex, and co-occurring behavioral health and social service needs; and

WHEREAS, Clay County's current Non-Secure Juvenile Facility plays a vital statewide role in the juvenile continuum of care, serving youth from counties and tribal nations throughout Minnesota who are in need of trauma-informed treatment, stabilization, and transitional services; and

WHEREAS, the demand for non-secure residential care beds continues to exceed available capacity, resulting in delayed placements, overburdened local systems, and adverse outcomes for vulnerable youth; and

WHEREAS, Clay County proposes the construction of a new, purpose-built 40-bed Non-Secure Juvenile Facility to replace multiple facilities, ensuring continuity, continued and expanded access to services that meet the highest standards of safety, trauma-informed care, and treatment effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the new facility will include Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) eligible beds, transitional housing, and enhanced supervision units for youth ages 10–21, and will support educational, therapeutic, medical, and life skills programming essential to long-term success; and

WHEREAS, repurposing the current non-secure facility into a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) will further strengthen the continuum of care; and

WHEREAS, this project has received formal resolutions of support from 28 counties and 11 tribal nations, reflecting its state-wide importance and the urgent need for these services statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners identifies the new Non-Secure Juvenile Facility as its number two (2) priority for capital investment funding, recognizing its critical role in supporting vulnerable youth and relieving systemic pressures across Minnesota's juvenile and behavioral health systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners formally requests state appropriations through the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) to support the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of a new Non-Secure Juvenile Facility in Clay County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project is essential not only to the continued success of Clay County's regional service mission, but to the broader statewide effort to build a more responsive, equitable, and effective continuum of care for Minnesota's children and youth.

Adopted this 10th day of June, 2025.

RESOLUTION OF THE CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Resolution in Support of Legislative Appropriation of 44.4 Million Dollars to Complete the Minnesota Financial Commitment for the Construct Improvements and Land Acquisitions Necessary for Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project – Clay County and Buffalo Red River Water District

RESOLUTION 2025-16

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners recognizes the critical importance of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in protecting communities from the devastating impacts of flooding; and

WHEREAS, flooding poses significant threats to public safety, property, and local economies, including extensive damage to businesses, substantial repair costs for homeowners, and burdensome recovery efforts for communities; and

WHEREAS, the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project is a vital infrastructure initiative designed to address these challenges and ensure a more resilient future for the region; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners identified their 2026 legislative priorities to include the advocating for an appropriation of bonding proceeds funds the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for flood hazard mitigation grants which would provide the necessary funding to the Moorhead-Clay County Joint Powers Authority to construct improvements and secure land acquisitions necessary for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County; and

WHEREAS, when submitting multiple requests to the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), governmental entities are required to identify the rank of these projects. Flood Mitigation ranks as Clay Counties number one (1) priority; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its support for advocating for a legislative appropriation of 44.4 million dollars to fund the necessary construction, improvements and land acquisitions for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Water District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Clay County Board of Commissioners:

1. Continued Advocacy for Legislative Appropriation: The Board of Commissioners reiterates its support for advocating for a legislative appropriation of 44.4 million dollars to fund the necessary improvements and land acquisitions for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County.
2. Continued Advocacy for City of Moorhead Projects: The Board acknowledges that 16 million dollars of this appropriation are designated for projects within the City of Moorhead, the completion of remaining components and addressing flood mitigation needs consistent with the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners formally requests state bonding appropriations of 44.4 million through the Office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) to complete the remaining flood mitigation components needed for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in Clay County and the Buffalo Red River Water District.

Adopted this 10th day of June 2025.

CLOSED SESSION for Board Discussion Re: Pending Litigation Per Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) Attorney/Client Privilege: Brian Melton, County Attorney

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to go into closed session for Board discussion regarding pending litigation per Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) Attorney/Client Privilege, at 9:31 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Mongeau, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to come out of closed session at 10:27 a.m.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Baer reported on meetings for AMC District 4 meeting; and White Earth Nation Committee.
- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for Clay County Substance Abuse Committee; NW Emergency Communications Board; and AMC District 4 meeting.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for Clay County Substance Abuse Committee; and AMC District 4 meeting.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; AMC District 2 meeting; Red River Basin Committee; AMC District 4 meeting; connected with Legislative Representatives regarding potential bills; worked on Lakeland MHC and Metro COG Executive Director reviews; AMC District 5 meeting; BRRWD; and discussed legislative asks that were received.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; meeting with members of the ND Water Commission on behalf of the WCRWD; AMC District 4 meeting; White Earth Nation Committee.
- County Administrator Stephen Larson reported on meetings for Highway Tracking; met with City of Moorhead regarding the RRC; met with Peggy Harter regarding the MMB Documents; met with Darren Brooke and Anna Moore on a series of HR issues; AMC District 4 meeting; met with Peyton Mastera and Dan Mahli regarding White Earth Tribal Nation; Capital Improvement meeting; White Earth discussion; met with Darren Brooke and Anna Moore on an HR issue; document was sent to the State Demographer regarding census numbers; reminder, the Board meeting next week is at 5:00 p.m. with Board of Appeals and Equalization to follow at 6:30 p.m.
- Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke reported on Department Head Evaluation; met with Anna Moore and Integrity Benefits regarding Paid Family Medical Leave; met with Anna Moore ongoing personnel issues; RRC meeting; MNCCC conference; meetings with Anna Moore and Steve Larson regarding personnel issues; AMC District 4 meeting; Building Committee meeting regarding Capital Improvement;

met with Troy Amundsen and Kathy McKay regarding a personnel issue.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Kevin Campbell, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator