

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

8:30 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

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 Mongeau 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 with the consent agenda addition: Approval of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Pheasants Forever.

Approval of Liquor Licenses for J&M Bar Services LLC, Mainline Bar & Grill, Buffalo River Speedway LLC, Willow Creek Golf Course, Rustic Oaks, and Venue 31

By consent, the Board approved the liquor licenses for J&M Bar Services LLC, Mainline Bar & Grill, Buffalo River Speedway LLC, Willow Creek Golf Course, Rustic Oaks, and Venue 31.

Approval of the State Auditor Engagement Letter

By consent, the Board approved the State Auditor Engagement Letter.

Notice of Intent to Sell Fargo-Moorhead Area Flood Diversion Project Excess Land

By consent, the Board approved to Notify the Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) that Clay County does not intend to purchase any Excess Lands listed in the advertised inventory.

Consent Agenda Addition: Approval of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Pheasants Forever

By consent, the Board approved the Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the June 18, 2026, Pheasants Forever Bingo night.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bills and vouchers totaling \$1,397,111 from 154 vendors. There were 109 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$42,404) and the following 45 were over \$2,000.

Internal Revenue Serv	\$ 305,956	SeaChange Print Innovations	\$ 6,975
Clay Co Public Health	\$ 255,767	RTVision Inc.	\$ 6,223
Becker County Public Health	\$ 187,257	Farmers Coop Oil Co	\$ 6,199
Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 126,176	Northland Fire Protection	\$ 6,156
Earthwork Services Inc.	\$ 60,670	Powerplan	\$ 5,940
HSBC Bank USA, Nat'l Association	\$ 52,574	Ramsey County Finance	\$ 5,095

Mn Dept Of Revenue	\$ 41,321	Pete's Gas & Service	\$ 4,010
VEBA Select Account	\$ 35,642	Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.	\$ 4,000
L & M Road Services LLC	\$ 31,717	Code 4 Services, Inc	\$ 3,873
Ulteig Operations, LLC	\$ 29,690	Barnesville C-Store	\$ 3,381
Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Auth	\$ 28,055	Verizon 386550144-00004	\$ 3,219
Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 17,731	Fuchs Sanitation Inc	\$ 3,196
Lutheran Social Service Of Mn	\$ 14,203	McKesson Medical Surgical	\$ 2,906
NACO	\$ 13,426	State of MN Health Care Savings Plan	\$ 2,767
Brandt/Landon	\$ 11,800	Rob Bentz Lock & Key, LLC	\$ 2,733
Sources of Strength, Inc.	\$ 11,000	C-W Valley Co-Op	\$ 2,239
Petro Serve USA-SW	\$ 8,611	ConvergeOne, Inc.	\$ 2,235
WEX Bank	\$ 8,476	Growing Together Community Gardens	\$ 2,177
Nitzkowski, Inc.	\$ 8,252	Interstate Power Systems, Inc.	\$ 2,140
Amazon Capital Services	\$ 7,927	Dean's Bulk Service	\$ 2,112
Knowink	\$ 7,500	Saber Shred Solutions Inc.	\$ 2,050
Forum Communications Printing	\$ 7,224	River Valley Forensic Services, PA	\$ 2,050
		Disposal Services Inc	\$ 2,040

Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2026

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from May 26, 2026.

Budget Presentation - Historical & Cultural Society

Historical & Cultural Society Executive Director Laura Forde provided a brief overview of the work being done at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC) and discussed the history of the HCSCC, what sets the HCSCC apart from others, data & statistics, community education & outreach, economic impact, current challenges, what's ahead in the future, and the 2027 budget request.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of grants, reserves, endowments, how to become a member, and the different types of memberships provided.

Commissioner Mongeau asked if there were still 2 openings on the HCSCC Board. Ms. Forde stated no, and that those were filled at the annual meeting in May.

Commissioner Mongeau thanked Ms. Forde for her presentation.

Request Approval of the Letter of Support for the Federal Rail Grant

County Engineer Justin Sorum requested approval of the letter of support for the Federal Rail Grant for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI). There are 8 crossings throughout Minnesota, and the Rail Crossing in Clay County is on CSAH 23 just north of the Landfill.

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the letter of support for the Federal Rail Administration Grant.

Request Approval of Letter of Support for CSAH 36 Bridge Replacement

Mr. Sorum requested approval of the letter of support for the CSAH 36 Bridge Replacement and stated Polk County is taking the lead on a Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Application that would bundle 3 bridges across the Red River, including Clay County, Norman County, and Polk County in MN, and Cass County and Traill County in ND. These bridge replacements would be funded with 80% federal funds, bridge bonding, and a local match on both the MN and ND side.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Letter of Support for the CSAH 36 Bridge Replacement.

Request Approval of Agreement for Bridge Design

Ms. Sorum requested approval of the Agreement for Bridge Design and stated this past year a bridge on CSAH 21 was load rated as part of MNDOTS annual load rating contract. It was previously open to legal loads, but due to severe timber deterioration, the bridge was rated down to 5 tons. CSAH 21 is on the 5-year construction program and slated to be reconstructed in 2027.

The Highway Department has been working with MNDOT and Houston Engineering on design options. Throughout that process, it was determined and a 3 span slab span bridge would be the most feasible option. Due to the accelerated timeline, and bond funds being available, we're looking to contract with Houston Engineering to design this bridge, and incorporate it into the 2027 roadway project.

Commissioner Mongeau stated this was discussed at the Highway Tracking meeting and it's also been brought to the attention of Alliance Township and residents in that area.

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agreement for bridge design with Houston Engineering.

Request Approval of the Deficient Bridge Prioritization Resolutions 2026-10 & 2026-11

Mr. Sorum requested approval of the Deficient Bridge Prioritization Resolutions 2026-10 and 2026-11 for both County and Township Structures. As required by MNDOT, the County Board of Commissioners must approve a resolution prioritizing the removal, replacement, or rehab of County and Township Structures. To be eligible to receive bond funds, the bridges must be listed on the Resolution and approved by the County Board.

On motion by Commissioner Krabbenhoft, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Deficient Bridge Resolution 2026-10 for County structures.

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Deficient Bridge Resolution 2026-11 for Township Structures.

RESOLUTION 2026-10

CLAY COUNTY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PRIORITY LIST

WHEREAS, Clay County has reviewed the pertinent data on bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal, supplied by local citizenry and local units of government, and the metropolitan council and

WHEREAS, Clay County has identified those bridges that are high priority and that require replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following bridges are high priorities for replacement, major rehabilitation, or removal, and Clay County intends to replace, rehabilitate, or remove these bridges as soon as possible when funds are available; and

Old Bridge Number	Road Number and Name	Crossing	LPI	Total Project Cost	State Bridge Funds	Federal Funds	Local or State Aid Funds	Proposed Construction Year
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					Requested			
90901	CO.RD. 51	STREAM	50	\$120,000	\$110,000	\$0	\$10,000	2026
92611	CSAH 21	STONEY CREEK	50	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000	2027
R0330	CSAH 10	DITCH #5	38	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	2027
90888	CO.RD. 69	STONY CREEK	59	\$1,200,000	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$100,000	2028
94237	CSAH 36	CO. DITCH #6	64	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	2028
94238	CSAH 36	CO. DITCH #6	64	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	2028
1897	CSAH 19	DITCH #10	66	\$150,000	\$140,000	\$0	\$10,000	2029
90913	CSAH 27	DITCH	69	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	2029
90914	CSAH 27	DITCH	69	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	2029
90869	CSAH 17	DITCH #12	71	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	2030
92453	CSAH 15	S.BR. BUFFALO RIVER	72	\$1,200,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	2030
90882	CO.RD. 69	DITCH #58	72	\$190,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$10,000	2030

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clay County does hereby request authorization to replace, rehabilitate, or remove such bridges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clay County does hereby request financial assistance with eligible approach grading and engineering costs on township bridges, as provided by law.

RESOLUTION 2026-11

CLAY COUNTY TOWNSHIP BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PRIORITY LIST

WHEREAS, Clay County has reviewed the pertinent data on bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal, supplied by local citizenry and local units of government, and the metropolitan council and

WHEREAS, Clay County has identified those bridges that are high priority and that require replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following bridges are high priorities for replacement, major rehabilitation, or removal, and Clay County intends to replace, rehabilitate, or remove these bridges as soon as possible when funds are available; and

Old Bridge Number	Road Number and Name	Crossing	LPI	Total Project Cost	Township Funds Requested	Federal Funds	Local or State Aid Funds	Proposed Construction Year
L-8228	T-31	S.BR. BUFFALO RIVER	32	\$2,100,000	\$2,080,000	\$0	\$20,000	2026
L-8275	T-76	BUFFALO RIVER	33	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	2027 ELIMINATE
L-8296	T-215	S.BR. BUFFALO RIVER	23	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	2027 ELIMINATE
3863	T-29	STONY CREEK	56	\$140,000	\$130,000	\$0	\$20,000	2027
L-8358	T-243	STONY CREEK	68	\$420,000	\$410,000	\$0	\$20,000	2028
L-8247	T-131	UNNAMED STREAM	67	\$200,000	\$190,000	\$0	\$20,000	2028

L-8359	T-243	STREAM	62	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$10,000	2028
L-8988	T-262	S.BR. BUFFALO RIVER	74	\$605,000	\$585,000	\$0	\$20,000	2029
4644	T-25	UNNAMED STREAM	55	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$20,000	2029
1850	T-183	S.BR. WILD RICE RIVER	25	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	2029 ELIMINATE
L-8294	T-403	CO DITCH #45, LAT #1	67	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$20,000	2029

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clay County does hereby request authorization to replace, rehabilitate, or remove such bridges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clay County does hereby request financial assistance with eligible approach grading and engineering costs on township bridges, as provided by law.

Request Approval of the Increase to the Social Services Change Fund

Social Services Director Quinn Jaeger requested approval to increase the Social Services Change Fund and stated the change fund is used to provide cash change to clients making payments at the Social Services office. The current \$100 change fund can be depleted when clients make payments using larger denominations, such as \$100 bills. Once depleted, staff are unable to provide change until additional funds can be obtained from the Treasurer's Office. Since the Treasurer's Office is now located at the Government Center, obtaining additional change can take 1-2 business days. Increasing the change fund to \$200 will improve customer service, reduce disruptions in payment processing, and minimize staff time spent obtaining additional change.

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the increase in the Financial Services' Change Fund from \$100.00 to \$200.00.

2026 Legislative Session Overview – Social Services Impacts

Mr. Jaeger provided the Board with a presentation on the 2026 Legislative Session Overview for Social Services and discussed how the 2026 legislative session included several significant policy, funding, and administrative changes affecting county-administered human services programs. These changes impact areas including System Modernization, SNAP, Medical Assistance, Child Welfare, Long-Term Support Services, and broader human services governance initiatives. The presentation will provide context for future budget discussions and to highlight areas where state and federal policy decisions create operational and fiscal impacts for Clay County.

Mr. Jaeger discussed System Modernization, SNAP Administrative Funding Loss, and SNAP Error Rate Fiscal Penalty.

Discussion ensued regarding the statewide error rate of 10%, workforce challenges affecting error rates, errors that are outside of county control, public release of county error rates, the shared liability among all Minnesota counties based on statewide error rate, and the system modernization timeline.

Mr. Jaeger further discussed the positive and future changes to Medical Assistance and Healthcare Eligibility, the state investment, changes, and the impact to the County from the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA), other Human Services impacts including long-term support services; waiver case management; non-emergency medical transportation; the Governors transformation initiative, and the budgetary forecast.

Discussion ensued regarding Clay County's staff to SNAP case load ratio, and the percentage of individuals who are on SNAP within Clay County in comparison to other counties.

BREAK

The Board took a break from 9:41 a.m. to 9:46 a.m.

Clay County Legislative Review - Winthrop & Weinstine

Thomas Hanson and Haley Cobb of Winthrop & Weinstine provided the Board with a legislative review and discussed an overview and political context, the state fiscal and budget outlook, major budget change items including addressing fraud; Legislator & Capitol safety and security; IT modernization; and Hennepin County Medical Center stabilization, taxes, the 2026 Capital Investment Bill at a glance and where the money went, the 2027 session outlook, and what the next steps are for the Non-Secure Juvenile Detention Facility.

Commissioner Mongeau extended her gratitude to both Mr. Hanson and Ms. Cobb for their partnership and work at the Capitol on behalf of Clay County.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for RRRDC Discussion; Community Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) meeting; Statewide Emergency Communication Board Legislative Committee; and AMC District 4 meeting.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for Public Meeting for Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project; Chamber Public Policy meeting; Clay County Collaborative prep; AMC District 4 Meeting; and BRRWD.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for met with Wilkin County Commissioners regarding the WCRWD; AMC District 4 Meeting; and Highway Tracking.
- Commissioner Baer reported on meetings for met with Wilkin County Commissioners regarding the WCRWD; Community Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) meeting; and AMC District 4 Meeting.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for met with a Landowner in the Baker, MN area regarding some drainage issues; PLMSW; Legislative Wrap-Up; FM Diversion Land Management; SWAC; MCCJPA; CAPLP; County Leadership Institute; AMC District 4 Meeting; and Highway Tracking.
- County Administrator Stephen Larson reported on meetings for RRRDC Discussion; met with Anna Moore regarding a personnel matter; met with Lori Johnson regarding taxation districts; met with a series of department heads on several county issues; Chamber Public Policy meeting; met with Cale Dunwoody from the Chamber regarding the Clay County Intergovernmental Committee; AMC District 4 meeting; and Highway Tracking.
- Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke reported on meetings for RRRDC Discussion; Performance Measurement Program; Department Head Evaluation; Public Meeting for Bison to Alexandria Second Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line Project; AMC District 4 meeting; and met with Anna Moore regarding personnel issues; and started working on two more Department Head evaluations.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Jenny Mongeau, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator