

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 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.

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

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 \$1,089,584 from 146 vendors. There were 110 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$51,115) and the following 36 were over \$2,000.

Internal Revenue Serv	\$ 291,408	Moorhead Public Service	\$ 6,572
Becker County Public Health	\$ 214,121	City of Hitterdal	\$ 6,194
Clay Co Public Health	\$ 195,493	Schmidt/Shawn	\$ 6,180
Earthwork Services Inc.	\$ 47,571	Wold Johnson, P.C.	\$ 6,180
Mn Dept Of Revenue	\$ 38,972	School Outfitters LLC	\$ 4,686
VEBA Select Account	\$ 36,436	Tech Tronix	\$ 4,500
City Of Hawley	\$ 24,906	MN Department of Transportation	\$ 4,192
WEX Bank - Sheriff	\$ 17,678	Madlom/Alexis	\$ 4,120
Historical & Cultural Society Of Clay Co	\$ 17,284	Johnson's Auto Repair LLC	\$ 4,014
SeaChange Print Innovations	\$ 11,588	Wegner Psychological & Therapeutic Svc	\$ 3,750
NACO	\$ 11,554	Verizon 386550144-00004	\$ 3,491
Apex Water and Process, Inc.	\$ 11,244	Association Of Minnesota Counties	\$ 3,200
Town & Country Oil Inc.	\$ 9,891	JEM Property Development LLC	\$ 3,022
Dakota Plains Mechanical, Inc.	\$ 8,919	JT Lawn Service	\$ 2,958
CivicPlus, LLC	\$ 7,947	State of MN Health Care Savings Plan	\$ 2,544
Mountain West Forensic Pathology, LLC	\$ 7,200	Northwest Tire Inc.	\$ 2,363
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	\$ 7,119	Braun Intertec Corp	\$ 2,259
Solutions Behavioral Health PC	\$ 6,880	Northwest Iron Fireman Inc	\$ 2,020

Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2026

On motion by Commissioner Baer, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from July 21, 2026.

Recognition - Proclamation for Child Support, Fraud Prevention, and Collections Appreciation Month

Social Services Director Quinn Jaeger stated August is recognized nationally as Child Support Awareness Month and provides an opportunity to recognize the dedicated professionals who administer Child Support, Fraud Prevention, and Collections programs. These staff work collaboratively with families, employers, the courts, state agencies, and community partners to establish and enforce child support obligations, investigate possible public assistance fraud, recover public funds, and promote program integrity. Their work helps ensure children receive the financial support they deserve while protecting public resources and strengthening accountability within public assistance programs. Approval of the attached proclamation recognizes the important contributions of these employees and designates August 2026 as Child Support, Fraud Prevention, and Collections Appreciation Month in Clay County.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to Proclaim August 2026 as Child Support, Fraud Prevention, and Collections Appreciation Month in Clay County.

Request Approval to Reduce Retainage on SAP 014-602-031 to 1%

County Engineer Justin Sorum requested approval to reduce retainage on SAP 014-602-031 to 1%, which is the urban reconstruction project through Comstock completed by the Sellin Brothers. The project had some unique challenges but went really well. There is some minor work to be done this fall once harvest is completed. Sellin Brothers requested to reduce retainage to 1%. The value of the remaining work is less than \$10,000.

Commissioner Baer asked what is normally retained until the work is done. Mr. Sorum stated the standard is 5% until substantial completion. It's usually only on these urban jobs where things get drawn out because of concrete warranties.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to reduce retainage to 1% on SAP 014-602-031.

Budget Presentation - FMWF Chamber

FMWF Chamber President & CEO, Shannon Full, Vice President of Public Policy, Cale Dunwoody, and Vice President of Workforce, Jane Vangsness Frisch joined the Board to discuss their 2027 budget request.

Ms. Full thanked the Board for their partnership and investment in The Chamber which demonstrates a shared commitment to the long-term competitiveness of the greater Moorhead-Fargo region. Ms. Full stated the funding request supports two of the most critical regional drivers competitiveness which includes Public Policy and Workforce.

Mr. Dunwoody discussed Public Policy including Legislative Engagement and Advocacy Leadership, Regional Education and Convenings, and the Center for Civic Engagement.

Ms. Vangsness Frisch discussed Work Force including Industry Sector Alignment, Talent

Retention and Belonging, and Career Awareness.

Ms. Full stated the FMWF Chamber respectfully requests the continued investment of \$100,000.00 from Clay County.

The Board thanked Ms. Full, Mr. Dunwoody, and Ms. Vangsness Frisch for their presentation, and their continued partnership.

Budget Presentation - Public Health

Public Health Director Jessica Mickelson and Finance Manager Brandon Nelson presented the 2027 budget for the Public Health Department.

Ms. Mickelson discussed the Public Health budget overview and stated there was a potential new request for the Drug Free Communities Grant, but unfortunately, Clay County was not awarded the grant. Commissioner Mongeau asked what region of the state that the award went to. Ms. Mickelson stated she knew that Horizon Public Health received a grant but that was a renewal for them. There was only 50 of these grants being awarded nationwide, so there's no additional information at this time. Commissioner Mongeau asked what counties encompass Horizon Public Health. Ms. Mickelson stated that includes 5 counties: Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Travers.

Ms. Mickelson further discussed the changes from 2026 to 2027, and highlighted the program changes. Commissioner Krabbenhoft asked about the positions that were vacated and if they were all refilled. Ms. Mickelson stated yes they were, with one of them being refilled in social services after the position was transferred. Commissioner Campbell asked if there had been any public feedback regarding the reduction in clinic hours. Ms. Mickelson stated they have not received any negative feedback and the clinic has been a lot busier. With having the set two day availability, all appointments are being filled, and the clinic is currently booking out 3 weeks. Ms. Mickelson stated she and her Public Health Nurse Supervisor have discussed that if the booking goes out longer than a month, they will revisit and determine if the clinic should be open an additional day.

Mr. Nelson discussed Administration, MDH/CDC Infrastructure, Foundational Public Health responsibilities, immunizations, clinics, family home visits, refugee health, school health, WIC, Emergency Preparedness, EMS system management, COVID-19, Food/Pool/Lodging, onsite sewage treatment systems, demolition landfill inspections, Statewide Health Improvement Project, Health Promotion, tobacco license, child & teen checkup, opioid settlement, controlled substance use and prevention, Case Aides, Case Management, Special Needs Basic Care, and MN Choices. This results in a decrease of the County ask by \$634,009.00 throughout all Public Health programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the WIC program, the Barnesville Ambulance, the Positive Community Norms grant and the Foundational Public Health Responsibilities grant, Partnership4Health, the Early Retirement Incentive Program and backfill.

Commissioner Mongeau stated although there is a levy request reduction of 31% in the Public Health budget for 2027, it's important to know that we're maintaining the core Public Health services that are important throughout the community, while also maximizing state and federal grants.

Mr. Nelson further discussed grant funding shifts from 2026 to 2027, and the grant overview for Public Health and Partnership4Health. Discussion ensued regarding the Cannabis Prevention Grant.

The Board thanked Ms. Mickelson and Mr. Nelson for their thoughtful presentation.

BREAK

The Board took a break from 10:11 a.m. to 10:17 a.m.

The Clay County Board of Commissioners will Discuss Identifying Upcoming Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Policy Conference Priorities

County Administrator Stephen Larson stated from September 16–18, 2026, the Clay County Board of Commissioners will participate in the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Fall Policy Conference. This annual conference brings together county commissioners, administrators, and county leaders from across Minnesota to collaborate on legislative priorities and develop the AMC policy platform that will guide the Association's advocacy efforts during the upcoming Minnesota Legislative Session. As part of the conference, each Clay County Commissioner serves on one of AMC's five policy committees: General Government, Transportation, Public Safety, Environment & Natural Resources, or Health & Human Services. These committees review policy proposals submitted by counties throughout the state and develop recommendations for consideration by the full AMC membership. In preparation for the conference, the Board will discuss potential legislative platform priorities to advance on behalf of Clay County and identify issues that may warrant consideration within the AMC policy development process.

On motion to Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved to send a letter Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) discussing the continuation to be flexible as counties are being creative in streamlining services to our residents.

Commissioner Mongeau stated she is on the AMC Environment & Natural Resources committee and there's a good summary of what our priorities have continued to be in regards to how it affects the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). One thing that is going to continue to be a priority for us is the Solid Waste Management tax allocation and making sure that we're able to reallocate the majority of that to its true intention. In addition, as we continue to work through the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) there's been some proposals to streamline the process to make it more user friendly for our residents. Commissioner Mongeau stated in regard to legislation, she doesn't have any additional priorities to put forward.

Commissioner Ebinger stated he sits on the AMC Public Safety committee and discussed having issues with getting full funding for the community supervision formula, funding for the jails, next generation 911, and All-Hazard Regional Multi-Agency Operations and Response (ARMOR). There needs to be an entirely fresh look at how the 911 funds are spent. Discussion ensued regarding the rule making process for jails, and health insurance for those incarcerated.

Commissioner Baer stated he sits on the AMC Transportation committee, and AMC supports a statewide transportation system across Minnesota to move good around and he believes that

Clay County supports that wholeheartedly. What's discussed he most is to keeping funding it and finding funding for it to keep that sustainable.

Commissioner Krabbenhoft stated he sits on the AMC Health & Human Services committee, and he believes that the three priorities from last year will continue, which are Technology Modernization, SNAP/Medicaid, and the MN African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act. Commissioner Krabbenhoft stated in addition to those three he would also include the lack of mental health treatment facilities in the state. Commissioner Mongeau stated she agrees that a continuation of those top three priorities is important.

Commissioner Campbell stated he sits on the AMC General Government committee, and he doesn't have any suggested amendments to what the platform is at this time. General Government often times crosses over to all the other policy committees, therefore he doesn't have anything to propose right now in terms of changing or prioritizing what Clay County did last year.

Commissioner Mongeau stated this is helpful and once we get to September, if there's any tweaks, we can address that then. In addition, a reminder to the public, this isn't the Boards Capital Investment priorities, this is policy level.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for WCRJC meeting to review budget; Cass Clay Coalition on Homelessness; Regional Juvenile Detention Advocacy Board; and Partnership4Health CHB.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for Moorhead City Planning Commission.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for Red River Regional Dispatch Center - Board of Authority.
- Commissioner Baer reported on meetings for Public Waters Inventory update meeting.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Civic Engagement Event with the FMWF Chamber; 4-H Day Camp; FMWF Chamber July Public Policy Update; Public Waters Inventory update meeting; resident concerns regarding roads within the upstream area of Holy Cross Township; and Metro COG Executive Committee.
- County Administrator Stephen Larson reported on meetings for met with Matt Jacobson and Brian Melton regarding County property issues; met with Jessica Mickelson regarding the transition of oversight of Detox; and Pre-Budget meeting for Solid Waste.
- Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke reported on meetings for met with Stephen Larson and Anna Moore regarding Detox; met with Stephen Larson, Matt Jacobson and Brian Melton regarding County property issues; met with Stephen Larson and Anna Moore regarding personnel issues; Public Waters Inventory update meeting; worked on a Citizen Concern; Data Request; Data practices project; submitted a 2120 day union report; had an inquiry from WDAY regarding the upcoming hunting season; met with Stephen Larson; training on UKG timekeeping module; Pre-Budget meeting for Solid Waste.

Commissioner Mongeau asked if there was any interest from this Board in sending a letter to White Earth Nation for an update on the planning process. There's been a lot of questions, and we haven't heard anything officially since spring of 2025. Commissioner Mongeau discussed

how she sits on the Metro COG Board and they talk about the 5-year plan and what studies need to be out there to address traffic flow counts. And there was a concern from the Transportation Technical Committee with MNDOT to talk about what accesses could look like.

Commissioner Campbell stated he thinks this would be a good idea as there's been rumors that have been circulating about the County Board having closed meetings about this project which there hasn't been. Commissioner Campbell stated that he and Commissioner Baer were delegated to be on a committee to discuss this and of the meetings that have occurred, often times neither of them were invited to attend. But there hasn't been any discussion at the Board level in a long time, there hasn't been any public discussion with WEN and what their plans are, and this Board and the public deserve to receive an update. Commissioner Baer also supports inviting WEN to present an update at an upcoming Board meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Jenny Mongeau, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator