

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
8:30 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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 (Virtual Technology), 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 Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Recognition of Gerald Van Amburg

Gerald Van Amburg was recognized for his 40 years of outstanding and dedicated service to Clay County and its citizens by serving on the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Board.

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 Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bills and vouchers totaling \$1,113,969 from 136 vendors. There were 87 warrants issued under \$2,000 (\$49,066) and the following 49 were over \$2,000.

Internal Revenue Serv	\$ 289,923	Otter Tail Public Health	\$ 6,987
Becker County Public Health	\$ 108,963	SeaChange Print Innovations	\$ 6,665
Earthwork Services Inc.	\$ 105,370	Carr's Tree Service, Inc.	\$ 6,300
Clay Co Public Health	\$ 60,521	ANJAAM HOLDINGS, LLC	\$ 6,189
Enterprise FM Trust	\$ 53,312	LELS	\$ 5,981
Mn Dept Of Revenue	\$ 41,172	Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.	\$ 4,650
Trinity Services Group, Inc.	\$ 37,570	Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A.	\$ 4,000
VEBA Select Account	\$ 36,472	M-R Sign Company Inc	\$ 3,988
SHI International Corp	\$ 33,315	Fevig Oil Co	\$ 3,975
Moorhead Public Service	\$ 29,042	Reliance Telephone	\$ 3,497
		Valley Mortuary Transportation	
City Of Dilworth	\$ 23,481	Services	\$ 3,263
West Central Regional Juvenile Center	\$ 20,150	Mille Lacs County Probation Justice Ctr	\$ 3,200
Department Of Corrections	\$ 19,530	Clay Trail Alliance	\$ 3,186
Turnkey Corrections	\$ 16,913	City of Pelican Rapids	\$ 3,061
City Of Fargo	\$ 14,175	Wex Bank (fleet)	\$ 3,057
Sanford Health	\$ 12,901	Minnkota EnviroServices, Inc.	\$ 2,963
NACO	\$ 10,816	Secure Title	\$ 2,576
NDSU	\$ 10,000	Johnson's Auto Repair LLC	\$ 2,530
Xcel Energy	\$ 9,614	State of MN Health Care Savings Plan	\$ 2,490
Nitzkorski, Inc.	\$ 9,579	Mezclada	\$ 2,401

Olympic Sales Inc	\$ 8,300	Barnesville C-Store	\$ 2,328
Diamond Drugs Inc.	\$ 7,730	BDT Mechanical, LLC	\$ 2,113
KLJ Engineering LLC	\$ 7,458	Wilkin Co Public Health	\$ 2,058
Sabin C Store	\$ 7,025	Office of MNIT Services	\$ 2,052
		Disposal Services Inc	\$ 2,040

Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2026

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the minutes from August 4, 2026.

Request Approval of MOU with MNDOT for Grad Engineer

County Engineer Justin Sorum requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MNDOT for a Grad Engineer MOU. As part of the Grad Engineer Rotation, MNDOT likes to have the grad engineer work with a local government for 4 months. This individual would be utilized to help with design and project-related submittals. The County Engineer would work with Nathan Gannon to develop a work plan and will work closely with this individual. There is no additional cost to the County for this.

Commissioner Mongeau stated this was discussed at Highway Tracking.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Ebinger, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the MOU with MNDOT for Grad Engineer Rotation.

Request approval of Final Contract Voucher for SAP 014-597-003, 014-597-004, HEI 1915-0083

Mr. Sorum requested approval of the Final Contract Voucher for SAP 014-597-003, SAP 014-597-004, and HEI 1915-0083. This was the box culvert project through Dilworth, where 2 boxes were funded with bridge bonding, and the additional one was Watershed funded. The initial bid and final amounts to be approved are listed below.

Contract Voucher	Initial Bid	Final Amount to be approved
SAP 014-597-003	\$226,090.00	\$241,144.50
SAP 014-597-004	\$240,068.50	\$245,027.50
HEI 1915-0083	\$202,844.50	\$202,520.50

Commissioner Mongeau asked where the funding would come from for the difference between the initial bid and the final amount to be approved. Mr. Sorum stated some would come from bridge bonding, and the rest would be charged to the City and the Watershed, there would be no County share.

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Contract Voucher for SAP 014-597-003 in the amount of \$241,144.50

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Final Contract Voucher for SAP 014-597-004 in the amount of \$245,027.50

On motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously

carried, the Board approved the Final Contract Voucher for HEI 1915-0083 in the amount of \$202,520.50

Request Approval of MOU with City of Moorhead

Mr. Sorum requested approval of the MOU with the City of Moorhead. This MOU pertains to the County's Mandatory Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit. This permit covers the County's permit within the City of Moorhead. This MOU covers the new MS4 permit and does save staff a lot of work. It allows Moorhead's regulations regarding the MS4 permit to be in place within City Limits.

Commissioner Mongeau stated this was also discussed at the Highway Tracking meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Ebinger, seconded by Commissioner Baer, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the MOU with the City of Moorhead for the Mandatory Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.

Budget Presentation - Solid Waste

Solid Waste Manager Corey Bang presented the Solid Waste budget for 2027. Solid Waste has a Capital Budget and an Operations Budget.

The operating budget is broken down by solid waste, composting, recycling, public education, household hazardous waste (HHW), existing landfill, and the Resource Recovery Center (RRC). Mr. Bang discussed revenues including special assessments, miscellaneous recycling income, and landfill fees. Expenditures included other professional services for HHW, the Landfill, and the RRC, engineering & consultants, equipment repair & maintenance, fuel lubrication for vehicles at the landfill, and salaries. There are three requests including an increase in parcel fees for special assessments, an increase in landfill fees, and a semi tractor. Mr. Bang briefly discussed organics composting. Discussion ensued regarding recycling, tipping fees, and cell expansions.

BREAK

The Board took a break from 9:21 a.m. to 9:29 a.m.

Budget Presentation - Social Services

Social Services Director Quinn Jaeger presented the Social Services budget for 2027 and first gave an overview of 2025, including revenues and expenditures, the 2025 revenue sources, administrative expenditures, program expenditures, and Out-of-Home placements (OOHP). Discussion ensued regarding OOHP, Minnesota Sex Offender Program/Does not Meet Medical Criteria (MSOP/DNMC).

Mr. Jaeger discussed the 2027 levy summary, what budget items most impact the levy including LTSS County cost share, OOHP, SNAP administrative loss, SNAP error rates, revenue decreases, salary/steps/insurance, healthcare unwinding funds, commitment & hold order, provider contracts, PFML, Detox, County share nursing homes, admin increases, and offsets. Mr. Jaeger further discussed the Healthcare Unwinding fund balance, provider contracts, Detox funding, commitment & DNMC costs impact, revenue decreases, County share nursing home, OOHP trends, and the 2026-2027 budget offsets. Discussion ensued regarding County Program Aid, provider contracts, detox funding revenues, nursing homes, and SNAP error rates.

Commissioner Mongeau asked for this presentation to be sent to all state legislative leaders of Clay County.

Committee Reports/County Administrator Update/Discussions

- Commissioner Ebinger reported on meetings for Clay County EDC/EDA Quarterly meeting; meeting with the Sheriff and AMC regarding medical bills for inmates; Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; Partnership4Health CHB Special Meeting regarding Kratom.
- Commissioner Krabbenhoft reported on meetings for SWCD; and Election Canvassing.
- Commissioner Campbell reported on meetings for Clay County EDC/EDA Quarterly meeting; FM Diversion Planning Committee; and Lakes Country Service Coop.
- Commissioner Baer reported on meetings for Clay County EDC/EDA Quarterly meeting; Wild Rice Watershed District Board; SWCD; Election Canvassing; and Partnership4Health CHB Special Meeting regarding Kratom.
- Commissioner Mongeau reported on meetings for Clay County EDC/EDA Quarterly meeting; Roundtable with Senator Kupec and majority leader Senator Murphy; Barnesville Community Roundtable regarding community/programming space; AMC Executive Committee meeting; interview discussion with Steve Hallstrom; and FMWF Chamber Insider Access regarding the working family tax credits.
- County Administrator Stephen Larson reported on meetings for met with Brian Melton and Sheriff Empting regarding the RRRDC; Clay County EDC/EDA Quarterly meeting; Clay County Management; met with Josh Swanson at the WCRJC regarding issues at the facility; met with Darren Brooke and Anna Moore regarding hiring policies and badge access; met with Jason McCoy regarding Credible Minds; met with Quinn Jaeger and Dara Lee from the HRA; had the first review of Auditor/Treasurer applications; Partnership4Health CHB Special Meeting regarding Kratom; Regional MACA meeting; met with Quinn Jaeger on a series of issues; and met with Steve Nelson Executive Director of MCIT.
- Assistant County Administrator Darren Brooke reported on meetings for met with Deputy Business agent and Chief Deputy Martin regarding an employee issue; phone call with Labor Attorney; met with Anna Moore and Stephen Larson regarding various issues.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Jenny Mongeau, Chair
County Board of Commissioners

Stephen Larson, County Administrator