

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 12, 2024

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on March 12th, 2024, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gerardy called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Al Remick, Eric Mickelson, Tony Gerardy, Ron Weiss, and Chuck Flage. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following changes:

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NWRDC Executive Director Darla Waldner and Community Development Director James Retka went the 2023 financials and the 2024 budget. They also shared Red Lake County's statistics on residents participating in the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging program.

SOLAR ORDINANCE

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan met with the board to discuss the implementation of a county-wide solar ordinance in response to Enbridge's planned construction of a solar farm in Emardville Township. The board agreed to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 26th at 9 a.m. to allow for public comment.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot informed the board that a resident has voiced concerns about the county using private driveways to turn equipment around while clearing snow on dead end roads. The resident believes that those residents are receiving snow removal services free of charge. Amiot stated that the only instance where this has happened was while clearing roads on behalf of the townships. Therefore, Amiot suggested the County request residents whose driveways are used for turning around to complete a liability waiver and the township boards make arrangements with the affected residents to receive compensation for the additional benefits received. The board agreed with Amiot and suggested that he begin consulting with the County Attorney.

Amiot presented the board with a resolution to request funding for re-monumentation through the State's Public Land Survey System Preservation Grants. Amiot also confirmed that if awarded, Red Lake Falls Township would be completed first as it was determined to be most in need of the service. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 03-01-24** as follows:

WHEREAS, The Federal Government surveyed all lands utilizing the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), but the preservation of the monumented corners became a local responsibility. Many Minnesota counties have rapidly deteriorating PLSS.

WHEREAS, In the state of Minnesota, there are over 312,000 original monuments, and currently less than half of those are certified monuments. Red Lake County has approximately 1,502 total Public Land Survey (PLS) Corners, 468 of which are certified, 92 of which are certified with coordinates.

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WHEREAS Minnesota counties have limited programs and funding available to re-monument and certify the PLS corners in their respective county.

WHEREAS, During the 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session, the Finance Bill included \$9.7 million for Public Land Survey System Preservation Grants (Minnesota Statutes §381.125). These grants will support the detailed work needed to certify more of Minnesota's PLSS monuments. The grant funds will be administered by the Minnesota Geospatial Information Offices (MnGEO).

WHEREAS, Red Lake County has the opportunity to request funding for the project titles "Public Land Survey System Monument Grant Program" for the Property & Public Services Department to be authorized to submit an application for up to the amount of \$300,000 with the Red Lake County Engineer acting as Fiscal Agent.

WHEREAS, Red Lake County does not have a County Surveyor's Office or have an elected or appointed County Surveyor.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §389.011, subd. 2.3 allows the Board of County Commissioners to retain a land surveyor to perform the duties of a county surveyor at the compensation set by the county board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Red Lake County Board of Commissioner authorizes the County Highway Department to submit a proposal for the project titled "Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Monument Grant Program" up to the amount of \$300,000 for grant funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to act as a fiscal agent if funding is awarded the 2024 project titles "PLSS Monument Grant Program", and will comply with all terms as stated in the fiscal agent agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners will contract with George Coulombe of Coulombe Consulting to serve as the County Survey Representative for the fulfillment of the "PLSS Monument Grant Program".

Amiot presented the board with quotes for a new skid steer for the highway department. After testing multiple options, it was decided that John Deere was the most economical choice and best suited the County's current needs. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a new John Deere skid steer for the highway department. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve bringing the highway department's current Bobcat skid steer to Ron McKercher Auctioneers in St. Hilaire.

Amiot informed the board that he was made aware that multiple truck chassis had become available that could be used for a plow truck. Amiot stated that the County will soon need to replace its spare plow truck and due to projected supply shortages and significant price increases in 2025, Amiot suggested the County take advantage of the opportunity to purchase the truck this year. The board agreed and requested Amiot provide quotes at a later meeting.

HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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HR Director Angie Lundeen met with the board to request an annual wage step increase for herself. Commissioner Weiss moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the step increase.

Lundeen informed the board that there was a concern regarding the county's Good Friday holiday policy. The county currently closes all business offices at noon on Good Friday to allow employees to attend ecumenical services. The language in the current policy was vague and did not clarify if part time employees were eligible for the half day of holiday pay. After discussing, the board determined that the policy should only apply to those employees who are regularly scheduled to work on Fridays and will receive holiday pay equal to the number of hours scheduled to work after noon. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage and carried unanimously to change the wording of the policy.

MINUTES

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 27th, 2024.

EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Consolidated Plastics Company, Inc.	\$3,452.00
Roger's Two Way Radio Inc.	\$3,339.21
Triangle Tire Sales & Service, LLC	\$4,135.12
22 payments less than 2000	<u>\$9,517.59</u>
TOTAL	\$20,443.92

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick- Alluma, Tri-County Community Corrections, Safety Committee

Flage- Minnesota Rural Counties

Weiss- Canvassing Board, Northwest Regional Development Commission, Tri-County Community Corrections

Gerardy- Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Canvassing Board

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais informed the board that the Presidential Nomination Primary Election held on March 5th was overall a success. The next election will be the Primary on August 13th, followed by the General Election on November 5th.

Chief Deputy Auditor Kyle Thibert presented the board with a list of properties in the county that are eligible for tax forfeiture. The property owners will be notified within the next week that they will have 60 days to pay their delinquent taxes or forfeit their property to the State.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Flage, seconded by Commissioner Weiss, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th, at 10:00 a.m.

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Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Tony Gerardy, Chairman
Board of Commissioner