

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 14, 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 May 14th, 2024, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Plummer Update

Huot Update

Bank Building Update

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Five employees were recognized for years of service to the county. Chairman Gerardy presented awards on behalf of the county to the following: 5 Years to Paul Carriere, 10 years to Kelly Rogalla and Steve Rhode, 25 years to Brad Johnson and Joyce Paquin.

SHERIFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheriff Mitch Bernstein met with the board to discuss the retirement of Chief Deputy/Investigator Brad Johson effective May 31, 2024. Bernstein informed the board that the position would be split between a Chief Deputy and an Investigator. There are interested parties within the Sheriff's office to fill the positions. Eventually the sheriff's office will have to hire another part-time dispatcher.

HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

HR Director Angie Lundeen met with the board to discuss the MOU with Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc., Local No. 175. LELS has signed off on the policy in reference to earned sick and safe time. Commissioner Mickelson motioned to accept the MOU and seconded by Commissioner Flage.

Lundeen also gave an update on the internal gutter that is in the boiler room, with the recent rain, water has been leaking out of the gutter and pooling in the boiler room. The board directed Auditor Gervais to contact Roto-Rooter to see if they're available to scope the gutters and see what the issues are.

Lundeen approached the board about possibly removing the bushes located on the Southeast edge of the property and replacing it with composite fencing. The board asked Lundeen to bring a quote/picture of the composite fencing to the next board meeting. Auditor Gervais will get a quote from Christensen Tree Removal on the removal of the bushes and stump grinding.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot informed the board that the Public Land Survey System Monument Grant was approved for \$300,000 for Red Lake Falls Township, by maintaining the PLSS, the certainty and stability of land boundaries will be provided. A stable PLSS will support infrastructure development, land management, and environmental stewardship.

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Amiot informed the board that Highway Department purchased an 8ft Broom Attachment for the skidsteer from Ironhide for \$6200 and a snow bucket for the skidsteer as well totaling \$2100.

Amiot gave updates on CSAH 1 Overlay, Friday they will be milling the ends to the tie in paper. The technicians will be doing the certification at the bituminous plant. Shouldering should start on Monday.

Amiot met with the City of Red Lake Falls regarding the CSAH 1 bypass alternative routes. There are three different options, Chairman Gerardy will join Amiot at the next city council meetings to discuss the options. The Bottineau Trail Project that is administered by the City of Red Lake Falls requires fulltime inspection, since it is Federal Funding, and the County is the fiscal sponsor, to avoid any federal funding issues in the future, the County Highway Department may have to start inspecting the project, depending on the City's contract with Stantec.

The Landing at the Bend contacted Amiot regarding signage for their business. Amiot informed the board that a sign cannot be placed within a right of way. There is a 150ft right of way leading up to the Landings property. The board directed Amiot to order the blue and white informational signs from the state to be placed along the highway and let The Landing know that they can post any type/size of sign on their property as long as it stays out of the right of way.

Agassiz Asphalt is doing the final lift on CSAH 52 also known as Minnesota Ave in Plummer. The driveway approaches and aprons, and the apron and alleyway by the county Highway shop bituminous will be done then H&S will come in to complete the concrete diamonds.

MINUTES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 9th, 2024.

EXPENDITURES

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Houston Engineering, Inc.	\$3,896.30
Ironhide Equipment, Inc.	\$6,900.00
Les's Sanitation	\$19,945.25
M & R Signs Co Inc.	\$8,038.65
Reber's Auto Glass and Repair LLC	\$2,411.58
Up North Equipment LLC	\$2,100.00
26 payments less than 2000	<u>\$12,456.16</u>
TOTAL	\$55,747.94

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick- Association of Minnesota Counties, Northwest Regional Development Commission Alluma,
Tri-County Corrections

Gerardy- Soil & Water, Road & Bridge

Mickelson- Opioid Committee

Flage- Minnesota Rural Counties

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AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais presented two requests from the Oklee Moonlighters Snowmobile Club and the Red Lake Falls Pathfinders Snowmobile Club. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Flage and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 05-01-2024 and Resolution 05-02-2024** “County/Club Contract”. The resolutions authorize the county to enter into an agreement for FY 2024/2025 with the State of Minnesota DNR, whereby, Red Lake County will act as the trail sponsor/fiscal agent to receive funding on the club’s behalf for maintaining their respective snowmobile trail systems. Complete documents are available at the County Auditor’s office.

Gervais informed the board that Equity Builders will be back May 15th to continue work on the Courthouse. They will be painting, replacing the six half windows in the attic, installing the finials, and fixing an existing leak. Kerry Peuser, architect from Michael J Burns Architects will be doing a site visit within the next two weeks to assess the leaking in the attic and the rain gutter issues.

Gervais gave an update on the forfeiture status, out of the twelve property owners that were served letters for notice of expiration of redemption, two residents have signed confession of judgements which allows them to pay their past due taxes in a ten-year period. Two residents are deceased, four residents paid off their delinquent taxes, three property owners have contacted the office stating they will make a payment by June 11th and only one property owner has not responded.

Gervais notified the board about First Amendment Audits. First Amendment audits are a largely American social movement that usually involves photographing or filming from a public space. These “auditors” select a public facility and then film the entire encounter with staff and customers alike. If no confrontation or attempt to stop the filming occurs, then the facility “passes” the audit; if a public employee tries to stop a filming event, it “fails” the audit. These “auditors” were recently in the Duluth area.

Peter Mattson notified Gervais that Huot Park is looking well, Spring was good to us down there. Environmentalist Kurt Casavan will install the hand pump on the lower part of the park this week along with the power being turned back on for the season.

Gervais informed the board that an employee was possibly interested in acquiring the old bank building in Red Lake Falls. County Attorney, Tanner Holten recommended auctioning off the building at the same time as the Forfeiture sale this fall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Flage, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 pm. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Tony Gerardy, Chairman
Board of Commissioner