

**Carlton County
Board of Commissioners
REGULAR SESSION - Rough Draft
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
8:30 a.m.**

The Carlton County Board of Commissioners met this 8th day of September, 2020, in Regular Session at the Carlton County Transportation Building.

Chairperson Bodie called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Brenner (by video), Bodie, Proulx (by video), Thell, and Peterson. Absent: None.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The County Chairperson stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related peace-time emergency declaration an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent and declared that necessary conditions were met for remote participation.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Thell, and carried by all yea votes to approve the Agenda as amended.

Motion by Thell, seconded by Brenner, and carried by all yea votes to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2020, Adjourned Board Meeting.

Genesis Wireless was present to provide information on broadband internet service possibilities in the western portion of the county.

Motion by Thell, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes to approve a temporary workspace agreement with Enbridge Energy for water appropriation from Chub Lake for pipeline testing.

Motion by Thell, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes to approve the following resolution (20-083):

WHEREAS, the Carlton County Board desires to offer for sale, as recommended by the Land Commissioner, certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes and said parcels have been classified as non- conservation as provided for in Minn. Stat. Chapter 282.01; and

WHEREAS, these parcels have not been withdrawn from sale pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of state tax forfeited lands from sale; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Natural Resources has approved the sale of these lands, as required by Minn. Stat. § Chapter 282; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.016(c) authorizes the county auditor to prohibit persons or entities from becoming a purchaser, either personally or as an agent or attorney for another person or entity, of tax forfeited properties offered for sale if the person or entity owns another property within the county for which there are delinquent taxes owing; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 4(c), authorizes the County Board to provide for the listing and sale of individual parcels by other means, including through a real estate broker, notwithstanding the public sale provisions in Minn. Stat. § 282.01 Subd. 7. This subdivision shall be liberally construed to encourage the sale and utilization of tax forfeited land in order to eliminate nuisances and dangerous conditions and to increase compliance with land use ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 13, authorizes the County Board, or the County Auditor if the auditor has been delegated such authority, to sell tax forfeited lands through an online auction. When an online auction is used to sell tax forfeited lands, the County Auditor shall post a physical notice of the online auction and shall publish a notice of the online auction on its website not less than ten days before the online auction begins, in addition to any other notice required; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 282.135 authorizes the County Board to delegate to the County Auditor any authority, power, or responsibility relating generally to the administration of tax forfeited land, including developing the necessary policies and procedures to implement the sale of individual tax forfeited parcels by alternative methods as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 282.01 Subd. 4(c).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carlton County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Auditor to offer state tax forfeited lands for sale at public or online auction with prohibited purchaser and bidder conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Carlton County Board authorizes the County Auditor to continue to re-offer individual unsold parcels at periodically adjusted prices based on market conditions to the general public through an over-the-counter listing rather than a public sale, or through an online auction until the parcels are sold or withdrawn by the County Auditor.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Thell, and carried by all yea votes except Proulx who voted nay, to approve hiring a temporary Highway Maintenance Worker due to staff vacancies.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes to approve the following resolution (20-084):

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sections 12.27 and 12.331, allows for Local and Intrastate Mutual Aid, and direct, timely assistance between jurisdictions is critical; and,

WHEREAS, the possibility of the occurrence of natural and other disasters of major size and destructiveness exists and is increasing; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that preparations of Carlton County will be adequate to deal with disasters; generally protect the public peace, health, and safety; and preserve the lives and property of the people of the state; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the rendering of mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the state and to cooperate with the federal government with respect to carrying out emergency management functions; and,

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Minnesota that all emergency response functions of this state be coordinated to the maximum extent with the comparable function of the state government, including its various departments and agencies, of other states and localities, and of private agencies of every type, to the end that the most effective preparations and uses may be made of the state's labor supply, resources, and facilities for dealing with any disaster that may occur; and,

WHEREAS, the director of each local organization for emergency management may, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within this state, develop or cause to be developed mutual aid arrangements for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in an emergency or disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted. These arrangements must be consistent with the local emergency operation plan and, in time of emergency, each local organization for emergency management and its members shall render assistance in accordance with provision of the mutual-aid arrangements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Carlton County promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of local and intrastate mutual aid by designating the Emergency Management director, or his designee, who, in coordination with County Board, exercising discretion and considering the needs of the political subdivision and its inhabitants, to dispatch equipment and personnel as considered necessary if a danger of fire, hazard, casualty, or another similar occurrence exists outside the political subdivision and by its suddenness it would be impractical for the governing body of Carlton County itself to authorize the dispatch of equipment and personnel to combat that emergency or disaster.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Bodie, and carried by all yea votes except Thell who voted nay, to approve contracting by the hour with an architectural and engineering firm for determination of the costs of various jail alternatives, in addition to the approval on July 27, 2020, for contracting by the hour with a construction and management firm, with a cap of \$10,000 for each firm.

Motion by Proulx, seconded by Thell, and carried by all yea votes to approve the extension of the county's existing five-year strategic plan for one additional year and further to approve the scheduling of planning sessions in 2021.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Proulx, and carried by all yea votes to accept the expenditure listing for July 2020 as follows:

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|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Fund 1 | Revenue | \$2,587,192.59 |
| Fund 10 | Road and Bridge | 2,118,571.87 |
| Fund 11 | Public Health & Human Services | 2,101,281.72 |
| Fund 30 | Cap Outlay Barnum Garage Project | 61,956.23 |
| Fund 32 | 2016 Refi 2010A/B CSC CIP | 75,650.00 |
| Fund 33 | 2020 GO Imp Barnum Garage | 74,283.34 |
| Fund 40 | 2012 Refi '03 Hwy Bldg & '06 Road | 4,200.00 |
| Fund 71 | Motor Vehicle | 504,180.04 |
| Fund 73 | State Fund | 13,197.99 |
| Fund 74 | Forfeited Tax | 29,999.11 |
| Fund 75 | Economic Development (IRRRB) | 26,146.90 |
| Fund 76 | Refunding Fund | 11,981.42 |
| Fund 77 | HS Agency Fund LCTS | 8,750.00 |
| Fund 78 | Schools | 159,934.58 |
| Fund 79 | Towns and Cities | 7,334,460.82 |
| Total | | <u>\$15,111,786.61</u> |

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Brenner, and carried by all yea votes to approve the following resolution (20-085):

BE IT RESOLVED to acknowledge the receipt of the Minnesota Lawful Gambling Premise Permit Application by the Moose Horn Rod and Gun Club, for use at the Moose Horn Rod and Gun Club on December 5, 2020.

The Acting Auditor/Treasurer notified the Board that Calyne Grabias-Schwartz has taken out a Confession of Judgement for payment of delinquent taxes on property in the City of Cloquet, ISD 94 Cloquet (PIN 06-033-0120).

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes to approve, as part of CARES Act expenditures, funding for COVID-19 rapid testing equipment for the Community Memorial Hospital.

Motion by Thell, seconded by Brenner, and carried by all yea votes to authorize the Carlton County Economic Development Advisory Board to administer the distribution of grants up to \$7,500 from the portion of the CARES Act grant designated by the county for Small Business and Non-profits, up to a total of \$800,000.00.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Thell, and carried by all yea votes to authorize expenditures by Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) as recommended by the PHHS Director and staff for the portion of the CARES Act grant designated by the county for PHHS Community Assistance, up to a total of \$800,000.00.

Motion by Thell, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes to authorize the following expenditures from the portion of the CARES Act grant designated by the county for Community Communications.

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|---|-----------|
| Hardware and software technology expenditures to date | \$35,000 |
| Additional hardware and software requirements | \$87,000 |
| Regional telepresence support | \$132,000 |
| Incident Command System (ICS) technology | \$15,000 |
| Countywide electronic signature software | \$25,000 |
| Technology upgrades for 1307 Cloquet Ave. Building | \$100,000 |
| Scanning/digitizing project for Recorder's Office | \$107,000 |
| Audio-visual technology at Transportation Building | \$20,000 |
| Emergency Operations Center in 1307 Cloquet Ave. Bldg | \$200,000 |

Motion by Bodie, seconded by Brenner, and carried by all yea votes to authorize the following expenditures from the portion of the CARES Act grant designated by the county for Community Investment and Infrastructure Reimbursement.

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|--|-----------|
| COVID-19 related wages | \$500,000 |
| Heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades | |
| 1307 Cloquet Avenue Building | \$63,000 |
| Transportation Building | \$70,000 |
| Touch-free restroom facilities | \$40,000 |
| Building modification expenditures to date | \$25,000 |
| Child care providers/facilities (Northland Foundation) | \$17,000 |

Commissioners emphasized the importance of participation in the county's broadband survey and the 2020 Census and applying for the Homestead Credit Refund for property taxes.

Motion by Brenner, seconded by Peterson, and carried by all yea votes that this meeting be adjourned.

Attest: _____
Kathryn Kortuem
Acting County Auditor/Treasurer

Marv Bodie
Board Chairperson