

August 27, 2019

The Pipestone County Commissioners met with Chairman Chris Hollingsworth, Commissioners Luke Johnson, Bruce Kooiman, Les Nath, and Dan Wildermuth. County Administrator Steve Ewing was also present. Chairman Chris Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AGENDA**

Additions to agenda.

- Highway Engineer Nick Bergman.
- Approve Auditors Warrant 8/26/19 for partial payment to Martinez Concrete for courthouse parking lot project.

- Delete Recorder MaryAnn DeGroot budget session.

- Discussion to join Minnesota Rural Counties Association

Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Kooiman to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nath to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Approve Minutes Special Budget Meeting 8/12/19
- Approve Minutes Commissioners Meeting 8/13/2019
- Auditors Warrants 8/16/19, 8/23/19, 8/26/19
- Hospital Warrants \$521,881.87.42

Motion carried unanimously.

**SHERIFFS OFFICE, VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Lieutenant Edison Dengler presented a request on behalf of Sheriff Vreeman to purchase a new 2020 Dodge Durango Pursuit SUV. Mr. Dengler reported that the 2003 Crown Victoria used for jail duties will be retired and one of the older patrol pickup trucks in the fleet will take its place. The new Durango will be used for patrol duties. Quotes were received from Papik Motors, Luverne Mn. \$29,800 and Lockwood Motors, Marshall, Mn. \$30,062. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nath to approve the purchase from Papik Motors, Luverne, Mn as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

**NICK BERGMAN, HIGHWAY ENGINEER**

County Engineer Bergman requested to set bid letting date of October 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM for projects SAP 59-599-101, SAP 59-599-108, SAP 59-616-34, and SAP 59-616-36. He reported that approval/funding has been received. The existing structure on project SAP 59-599-108 is washed out and the road is impassable. If the contract is let now there is a possibility that this small structure can be replaced and the road re-opened before winter. The contracts will have a completion date of Fall 2020. Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Nath to set the bid letting as recommended for October 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Bergman requested that the board approve a Resolution for Agreement to the State Transportation Fund (Bridge Bonds) Grant Terms and Conditions for box culvert replacement on County Road 2 East of County Road 16, SP 059-602-026. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nath to approve Pipestone County Resolution 59-30-19 for construction of bridge 59J82 and accept grant funds in the amount of \$121,421.87 that have been allocated for this project. Motion carried unanimously.

**PIPESTONE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVAL**

Administrator Ewing presented the Pipestone County Strategic Plan documents from the July 30, 2019 planning session that was held with commissioners and department heads for approval. Organizational values and strengths included: Fiscal Responsibility, Dedication to Service, and Open to Ideas and Teamwork. Four priority topics were developed from a work group outline: Recruitment and Retention of County Workforce, Focus on Technology Needs, Changing County Population, and an immediate need was identified as Advocacy and Educating the Public. Motion by Nath, seconded by Kooiman to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINETT-KRANTZ RESERVIOR INSPECTION**

Administrator Ewing presented the Annual Operation and Maintenance Observations Checklist on the Minnett-Krantz Dam and Reservoir that was completed on June 28, 2019. Several maintenance items were noted on the inspection report that need to be addressed including spraying thistles, adjusting the trash rack and removing of cattails, epoxying to cover rebar reinforcement at end of the water outlet conduit, and spraying trees/brush surrounding the plunge pool. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wildermuth to accept the report and authorize Administrator Ewing to sign report and send to Area II. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINNESOTA RURAL COUNTIES ORGANIZATON**

Commissioners discussed joining the Minnesota Rural Counties Association (MRC) consisting of 33 Minnesota Counties. Most recently the counties of Cottonwood, Redwood, and Watonwan joined the association. MRC acts as a voice between rural counties and the State Legislature on topics including transportation funding, sustaining healthcare access, broadband funding, county-based purchasing of health, land use, and others. Meetings are held several times per year with three meetings at Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) conferences. Annual dues are \$2,200. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wildermuth to join MRC for the remainder of 2019 and full year of 2020. Ayes, Johnson, Wildermuth, Nath, Hollingsworth, Nays, Kooiman. Motion carried.

Commissioners will appoint representatives to MRC at the September 10, 2019 meeting.

**JIM ACURSO, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

Mr. Acurso presented information to the board on the upcoming 2020 national census.

He suggested that the county consider organizing a Complete Count Committee (CCC) that would work with the City of Pipestone and the other cities in the county, and other entities such as non-profits, healthcare, health and human services to help assure a complete count of residents in Pipestone County. He also mentioned that there are temporary jobs available with the census bureau. The job listing can be obtained at <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>. Commissioners thanked Mr. Acurso for the information.

**JEFF ARENDT, CORRECTION DEPARTMENT, BUDGET MEETING**

Mr. Jeff Arendt from the Corrections (Probation) Department appeared to present the proposed 2020 budget to the board. No action was taken. Commissioners thanked Mr. Arendt for attending the meeting.

**RENAE SCHUCH, COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER, BUDGET MEETING**

Renae Schuch, County Veterans Service Officer appeared to present the proposed 2020 budget to the board. No action was taken. Commissioners thanked Ms. Schuch for attending the meeting.

**RECORDERS OFFICE BUDGET**

Recorder Mary Ann DeGroot was unable to attend the meeting. Administrator Ewing reported that he had spoken with Recorder DeGroot about the possibility of utilizing Recorder Compliance Funds in the 2020 budget for the digitization of County Commissioners' records, Auditor's records of railroad maps, judicial ditch maps and courthouse building blueprints by ArcaSearch, Cold Spring, Mn. Cost of the project for in house scanning and digitizing is \$17,305. An on-going annual fee of \$1,494 per year for Compass Eclipse public on line access for commissioner records from 1879 through the current year would be paid for by the county budget. The project will be added to the 2020 proposed budget. Recorder DeGroot will be rescheduled at a later date for a budget meeting with the board.

Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Nath to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Chris Hollingsworth  
Pipestone County Board Chairman

ATTEST: Steven Ewing  
County Administrator