

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

**AGENDA**

Motion by Roskamp, seconded by Hollingsworth to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Approve Commissioners Minutes: 10/10/23, 10/17/23
2. Approve Commissioners Warrants in the amount of \$168,173.75
3. Approve Auditors Warrants: 10/13/23, 10/20/23
4. Approve Hospital Warrants \$863,390.06

Motion carried unanimously.

As per Minnesota Statute 375.12 the following Commissioner Warrants information is presented:

<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Southwest Health & Human Services	\$33,573.00
Ihlen/City Of	\$30,000.00
3D Security Inc	\$20,082.61
Heppner Consulting Inc	\$10,965.01
Bolton & Menk Inc	\$8,344.50
HEAT Tactical Team	\$7,500.00
Pipestone County Medical Center	\$5,913.35
Legacy Services Corporation	\$4,870.00
Chandler Co-Op	\$4,033.65
Pipestone Deputy Registrar	\$3,934.35
Stout & Evink Plumbing & Heating Inc.	\$3,334.77
Penguin Management Inc	\$2,520.00
Erickson Engineering Co Inc	\$2,360.00
Surplus Warehouse of Willmar Inc	\$2,215.00
Commissioner of Transportation	\$2,123.35
Warrants over \$2,000	\$141,769.59
Number of Claims under \$2,000	58
Warrants under \$2,000	\$26,404.16
Total	\$168,173.75

**NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION**

Mary Madetzke introduced herself to Commissioners. Mary started as the full-time Deputy Auditor II in the Auditor/Treasurer department on October 16, 2023. Commissioners wished Mary well in her new position.

### **ROAD AND BRIDGE ITEMS**

County Engineer Nick Bergman gave an update on the used roller purchase, he stated they are pleased with the quality of the roller. Bergman reported that the maintenance crew completed some patches by Edgerton.

The Road and Bridge Committee held a meeting with the City of Pipestone on turnback roads. They have a tentative agreement on funding moving forward. Bergman will make an official recommendation at a future board meeting.

### **RECORDER'S OFFICE PURCHASES**

Recorder Emaleigh Rippentrop requested approval of a software system from Tyler Technologies which enables local and small filers to electronically submit documents to the County Recorder's Office. The feature allows the local community to file documents online with credit card and eCheck options to streamline recordings and increase online offering and automated processes. Cost for setup is \$3,600 with a recurring fee of \$1,000 annually.

Recorder Rippentrop also requested approval of a software from Tyler Technologies for Document Pro Document Alert for iDoc Market which keeps constituents informed of when documents are recorded using their information. The system is a fraud prevention tool that constituents can sign up for free. County cost to implement is \$3000 for software purchase, \$720 for maintenance, and \$1,200 for Project Management Implementation. Rippentrop stated that there is money available in the Recorder Technology Account to pay for both purchases.

Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Roskamp to approve both software purchases from Tyler Technologies with funds to be expended from the Recorder Technology Account. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PERSONNEL**

Human Resources Coordinator Cathy Feste reported that Jessica Koprek started today, October 24, 2023, as the part-time Deputy Auditor/Treasurer III.

### **WOODSTOCK TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIBER PROPOSAL**

Woodstock Telecommunications General Manager Terry Nelson joined the meeting to present information on a potential fiber optic internet project near Hatfield. This project would

be the first phase of expanding fiber internet to all rural parts of Pipestone County, which is estimated to cost \$15,733,299.00. The proposed phase 1 Hatfield project has an estimated cost of \$2,150,574.00 and would serve approximately 130 rural residents. Woodstock Communications plans to seek a Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant that would cover up to 75 percent of the cost, or \$1,612,930.50. Nelson proposed that Woodstock Communications and Pipestone County could split the remaining \$537,644.00 at 50% each, for a cost to the County of \$268,822.00. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Roskamp to approve County funding for the Hatfield fiber optic internet installation project in the amount of \$268,822.00 to be expended from the old Family Services Fund. This funding is contingent on Woodstock obtaining the Border-to-Border grant. Motion carried unanimously.

**NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT AGREEMENT 2024-2025**

Environmental Administrator Kyle Krier presented the fiscal year 2024 and 2025 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement.

Total grant awarded is \$119,950.00 in the following categories:

Grant ID	Grant Title	Awarded Amt
P24-0370	2024 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$20,815.00
P24-0457	2024 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$11,984.00
P24-0543	2024 - Shoreland-NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$3,570.00
P24-0629	2024 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$21,200.00
P24-0692	2024 - Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$26,012.00
P25-0239	2025 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$20,815.00
P25-0326	2025 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$11,984.00
P25-0412	2025 - Shoreland-NRBG (Pipestone County)	\$3,570.00

Motion by Nagel, seconded by Wildermuth to approve the 2024 – 2025 Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement and authorize Kyle Krier to sign the agreement on behalf of the County. Motion carried unanimously.

**SOUTHWEST 18 MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM JPA**

Chairman Dan Wildermuth reported that the Southwest 18 Mental Health Consortium Joint Powers relies on grants for their programs, and due to the timing of grant reimbursements, they need some contingency funding to carry their balances through to the grant reimbursement funding. Chairman Wildermuth stated that the Southwest 18 Mental Health Consortium is requesting \$20,000 from each of the 18-member Counties to create a reserve fund. The money is still attached to each County, so if the consortium is ever dissolved, each County will get their money back. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Nagel to approve the Southwest 18 JPA Funding request of \$20,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II JPA RENEWAL**

Commissioner Johnson presented the Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Continuing Operations of AREA II Minnesota River Basin Projects as a Joint Powers Entity under Minnesota Statutes 471.59. Johnson stated that this is a renewal of the current agreement and is in effect until December 31, 2025. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hollingsworth to approve the AREA II Joint Powers Agreement effective from now until December 31, 2025 and authorize Commissioner Luke Johnson's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

**2022 AUDIT PRESENTATION EIDE BAILLY**

Auditor Treasurer Amanda Sandy and Jamie Fey from Eide Bailly presented the Pipestone County 2022 Year End Audit Report. Ms. Fey reported that Pipestone County is following State and Federal requirements. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Johnson to accept the 2022 Audit Report. Motion carried unanimously. Copies of the Audit Report are available on the county's website at <https://www.pipestone-county.com/board/auditor.php>

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Roskamp to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

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Dan Wildermuth  
Pipestone County Board Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Ewing  
County Administrator