

The Pipestone County Commissioners met with Chairman Dallas Roskamp, Commissioners, Luke Johnson, Doug Nagel, Dan Wildermuth, and Chris Hollingsworth.

County Administrator Steve Ewing was also present. Chairman Roskamp called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AGENDA**

Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Nagel 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: 6/11/2024, CBAE 6/17/24
2. Approve Commissioners Warrants in the amount of \$63,862.51
3. Approve Auditors Warrants: 6/13/24, 6/14/24, 6/21/24
4. Approve Hospital Warrants \$886,264.19

Motion carried unanimously.

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

| <b>VENDOR NAME AT PAYMENT</b>         | <b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ACE of Southwest MN                   | 14,750.00           |
| Pipestone County Highway Department   | 11,670.78           |
| Prairie Construction LLC              | 3,808.49            |
| Stout & Evink Plumbing & Heating Inc. | 3,446.11            |
| Morris Electronics Inc                | 2,738.35            |
| Pipestone County Medical Center       | 2,726.91            |
| Cummins Sales and Service             | 2,608.53            |
| WARRANTS OVER \$2,000                 | 41,749.17           |
| NUMBER OF CLAIMS UNDER \$2,000        | 43                  |
| WARRANTS UNDER \$2,000                | <u>22,113.34</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>63,862.51</b>    |

**ROAD AND BRIDGE ITEMS**

Engineer Bergman asked the board members if they had any questions or comments on the 2023 Annual Report. No questions or comments were brought up by the board members.

Engineer Bergman reported on construction updates. The floating work platform at the Stone Arch Bridge Project was destroyed by recent rain events the weekend of June 21st. Road and Bridge staff worked with the construction company to retrieve the platforms that were washed away.

Engineer Bergman reported on the flooding update from the weekend of June 21st. No culverts were lost, many areas of the county road system sustained water damages. All roads are now open and passable. Damage estimates to date are \$140,000.

Engineer Bergman reported that gravel crushing, seal coat, and overlay projects have been completed.

**STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION RESOLUTION 59-18-24**

Emergency Management/EMS Director Casey Sievert reported on flood damages beginning on June 16, 2024 and ongoing. Damage reports to date from the county, cities and townships are estimated at \$208,000. Not all cities and townships have reported their damages as of this meeting. Director Sievert requested that the board adopt Resolution 59-18-24 Declaring a State of Emergency for Pipestone County due to flood damage to infrastructure. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Johnson to adopt Resolution 59-18-24.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PERSONNEL**

HR Director Carrie Mennis presented a request to hire a temporary staff person to work in the Records Office to accomplish scanning records/books. Position would end when the task is completed, not to exceed 67 days for the position. Recommended wage is \$16.00/hour. Costs will be paid from the Records Compliance Fund. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Nagel to approve the temporary staff request. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Mennis presented a request to hire a full time IT Technician for the Information Technology Department. The request is due to heavy compliance/workload in the department with existing staff struggling to keep up with IT security and department needs. Position is rated B22 on the pay plan. Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Wildermuth to approve the staff request. Motion carried unanimously. 2024 salary and benefits will come from the IT Department budget and reserves.

Director Mennis presented the Vacation Payout Request-Process. Due to changes in union contracts we are required to give employees with at least 120 hours of accrued vacation time the ability to cash out up to 40 hours of vacation leave once per year. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hollingsworth to approve the presented policy. Motion carried unanimously.

**RETIREMENT OF K-9, SASSY/OUT OF STATE TRAVEL/TRAINING REQUEST**

Sheriff Keith Vreeman, Lieutenant Edison Dengler, and Chief Deputy Mike Hamann presented a request to retire K-9 Sassy, and to sell the dog to Edison Dengler, the handler of the dog for \$1.00. Sassy is 10 years old, and it is time for her to retire. The dog was purchased by the Buffalo Ridge Drug Taskforce and is the property of the county. Motion by Nagel, seconded by Wildermuth to approve the request to sell Sassy to Edison Dengler for \$1.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Vreeman requested board approval for an out of state travel for a deputy to attend the 2024 International D.A.R.E. Officer Conference/School Safety Conference July 29th through August 2, 2024 in Orlando Florida. Funds are available in the budget for the conference. Cost would be time, travel, lodging and meals. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Johnson to authorize the out of state training request. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Vreeman requested authorization to allow four officers to attend the Mid States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC) conference August 27-29, 2024 in Deadwood, South Dakota. Cost would be time, travel, lodging and meals. Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Wildermuth to approve the out of state conference and training event. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER AMANDA SANDY, APPLICATION FOR NEW HOME TAX ABATEMENT RESOLUTION 59-16-24**

Auditor/Treasurer Amanda Sandy presented a request for a new home tax abatement for Ryan Meulebroeck. The required public hearing was conducted on June 11, 2024, however no action was taken as the required City of Pipestone Building Permit had not been approved by the City of

Pipestone. City of Pipestone Building Permit Number 24089 dated June 20, 2024, signed by Building and Zoning Administrator Solomon Derby was presented as proof. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Nagel to approve Resolution 59-16-24 New Home Tax Abatement.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VETERANS SURVIVOR COALITION LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Commissioner Johnson requested that the board sign on to a letter of support in changing current Veterans Administration policies regarding the signing of veteran death certificates. Currently delays of 6 to 8 weeks in getting a veteran's death certificate signed is common. This causes additional stress and strain on an already grieving family and financial hardships. The letter will be sent to the Honorable Denis R. McDonough, Secretary, Veterans Administration. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Johnson to send the letter on behalf of the Pipestone County Board of Commissioners.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2025 BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE**

Administrator Steve Ewing presented a draft 2025 budget meeting schedule for the Commissioners to review. After discussion, budget meetings will take place on August 13, August 20, and September 10. Motion by Nagel, seconded by Hollingsworth to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Dallas Roskamp  
Pipestone County Board Chairman

ATTEST:  
Steven Ewing  
Administrator