

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Courthouse in the City of Blue Earth at 9:00 a.m. on November 21, 2023. The following members were present: Tom Loveall, Bruce Anderson, Bill Groskreutz, John Roper, and Greg Young Commissioners. County Coordinator Brian Hov, Deputy Tom Elmer, Acting Clerk to the Board Sarah Van Moer, and members of the public A. Schonborn, B. Schonborn, N. Walton, M. Walton, K. Mertens, and M. Steele also attended. Participating virtually were Faribault County employees B. Rauenhorst, A. Wachlin, C. Davis, T. Hanevik, M. Lore, L. Mehrhof, L. Frommie, E. Skaden, S. Hauskins, M. Sonnek, and B. Douglas.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the synopsis and official proceedings of the November 7, 2023 regular meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Groskreutz/Roper motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda of November 21, 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*

The calendar was updated.

Public comment was received from A. Schonborn, B. Schonborn, N. Walton, and M. Walton regarding road construction dust.

\* \* \* \* \*

Committee reports were given. Groskreutz reported on transit executive, radio advisory committee, south central EMS, a planning & zoning meeting, and MVAC. Roper reported on the human services stronger together coalition, and an upcoming Kiester weather radar meeting. Young reported on planning & zoning, the Ag Society annual meeting and fair board meeting. Anderson reported on personnel committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

Property Appraiser Brady Rauenhorst met to discuss the property tax system.

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the Property Tax System Maintenance and Support Agreement Amendment ratifications between Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MnCCC) and Avenu for property tax system support for 2024 and 2025.

\* \* \* \* \*

A second public hearing was held regarding the proposed Faribault County Sheriff's Office Body Worn Camera Policy. Chief Deputy Scott Adams attended. The policy was read by the board chair, who then called for public comment. No public comment was received.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saxon Warmka met regarding buildings & grounds business.

Roper/Loveall motion carried unanimously to approve the bid from Flatline Design, LLC in the amount of \$16,393.00 for signs for the Faribault County Law Enforcement Center.

Loveall/Roper motion carried to approve the bid from Stateline Tuckpointing in the amount of \$6,360.00 for brick repair and tuckpointing the attorney's office building.

Groskreutz/Young motion carried to table action on the courthouse retaining wall pending clarification on the bid from G&S Drainage.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mark Daly met regarding public works business.

Discussion was held regarding recommendations to attract a new county engineer.

Young/Groskreutz motion carried to approve Resolution 23-RB07-85 for the purchase of an electric vehicle using Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding. Commissioner Roper voted no, Groskreutz, Loveall, Young, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **For Carbon Reduction Program EV Partnership Agreement**

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the County of Faribault enter into a Partnership Agreement with the County of Blue Earth for the following purposes:

To provide for the cooperative purchase of an electric vehicle (EV) using Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chair and the County Coordinator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Roper/Young motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 23-RB08-88 for the Rice and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets Reconstruction Project. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF BLUE EARTH'S PURSUIT OF 2023 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

**PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RICE STREET AND 17<sup>th</sup> STREET  
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Blue Earth wishes to apply for funding through the Local Road Improvement Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for street improvements by reconstructing Rice Street from 14<sup>th</sup> Street East to 17<sup>th</sup> Street East and 17<sup>th</sup> Street East from Rice Street to Ramsey Street,
- WHEREAS,** the proposed project includes reconstructing an existing rural section of roadway to a 36-foot-wide urban roadway with curb and gutter,
- WHEREAS,** Rice Street includes the only access to a multi-field baseball complex and home of the Blue Earth Junior Pirates baseball team,
- WHEREAS,** Rice Street provides the only access to the Blue Earth High School football field and track and field complex which is the primary playing and competition facility the local high school football, soccer, and track and field teams,
- WHEREAS,** Rice and 17<sup>th</sup> Street East provides access the St. Luke's Lutheran Care Center which provides assisted living, subsidized housing, and adult day care services to approximately 150 residents and is staffed by approximately 200 full and part-time employees,
- WHEREAS,** the proposed project will promote pedestrian safety and provide multimodal transportation options with the construction of sidewalk along the west side of Rice Street and north side of 17<sup>th</sup> Street East,
- WHEREAS,** the proposed sidewalk facility will provide St. Luke's Lutheran Care Center employees a safe and accessible option for walking to work, and its residents safe and accessible outside walking and recreation opportunities,
- WHEREAS,** the proposed sidewalk will provide safe and accessible options for pedestrian travel to sporting and practice events at the nearby high school sports facility and the baseball complex,
- WHEREAS,** the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a city, such as Blue Earth, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board,
- WHEREAS,** the proposed year for said project construction is 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FARIBAULT COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS; that**

1. The County supports the City of Blue Earth's pursuit of LRIP funds for the reconstruction of Rice Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Blue Earth's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

Roper/Young motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 23-RB09-89 for the Sailor and 8th Streets Reconstruction Project. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF BLUE EARTH'S PURSUIT OF 2023 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE S SAILOR STREET AND E 8TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS,** the S Sailor Street, S East Street, and E 8th Street Reconstruction Project will update the pavement, add pedestrian amenities, and construct curb and gutter along S Sailor Street and E 8th Street, and

**WHEREAS,** the S Sailor Street and E 8th Street Reconstruction Project will improve connectivity for many Blue Earth businesses and increase safety for pedestrians within the project area, and

**WHEREAS,** the surface of Sailor Street and 8th Street was damaged during the T.H. 169 Reconstruction project in 2013 due to the project's traffic control plan, and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed reconstruction project will benefit nearby businesses including the Blue Earth Stockyards which hosts livestock auctions once a week, and

**WHEREAS,** the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and

**WHEREAS,** the LRIP requires a city, such as Blue Earth, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and

**WHEREAS,** Faribault County is planning to reconstruct T.H. 16 adjacent to the proposed project in 2026, and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed year for project construction is 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FARIBAULT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS;** that

1. The County supports the City of Blue Earth's pursuit of LRIP funds for the reconstruction of S Sailor Street and E 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Blue Earth's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

Groskreutz/Loveall motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 23-RB10-90 for the Wells Industrial Park Expansion Project. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF WELLS IN ITS PURSUIT OF 2023 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

- WHEREAS,** the South Industrial Park Expansion and Reconstruction Project includes concrete paving of 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE and the reconstruction of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. An expansion of the roadway will also be constructed, as 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE, that will complete the South Industrial Park expansion, and
- WHEREAS,** the South Industrial Park Expansion and Reconstruction Project provides opportunity for the City of Wells to bring in new commercial and industrial uses to the area while providing safe and efficient roadway infrastructure, and
- WHEREAS,** the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and
- WHEREAS,** the LRIP requires a city, such as Wells, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed year for project construction is 2025.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FARIBAULT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS; that**

1. The County supports the City of Wells' pursuit of LRIP funds for the South Industrial Park Expansion and Reconstruction Project, and
2. The County agrees to sponsor the City of Well's LRIP application to MnDOT and act as the city's fiscal agent for this project.

Young/Loveall motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 23-RB11-91 for the Local Road Improvement Program Improvements to 345<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 85<sup>th</sup> St Project. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **Supporting Local Road Improvement Program Improvements to 345<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 85<sup>th</sup> St.**

**WHEREAS,** Jo Daviess Township wishes to apply for funding through the Local Road Improvement Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for road improvements by reconstructing 345<sup>th</sup> Ave from CSAH 16 to 100<sup>th</sup> Street and 85<sup>th</sup> Street from 330<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 360<sup>th</sup> Ave.; and

**WHEREAS**, these road improvements will enhance safety and cost effectiveness with increased sight line, drainage, snow removal and aggregate issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a township, such as Jo Daviess, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Jo Daviess Township has provided by resolution, the assurance that the Township will pay all costs associated with the project and that all aspects of LRIP funding requirements are met and the project's schedule is adhered to;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Faribault supports Jo Daviess Township's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds for the reconstruction of 345<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 85<sup>th</sup> St.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County of Faribault agrees to sponsor Jo Daviess Township's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the township's fiscal agent for this project.

Discussion was held regarding dust control options.

\* \* \* \* \*

Roper/Loveall motion carried unanimously to recess the meeting to drainage authority.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Roper motion carried unanimously to approve the request to issue a credit card to Amy Sathoff with a limit of \$25,000 for uses approved in the Faribault County Credit Card Policy and to replace Mark Daly as the Authorized Officer for the county credit card account.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the request to issue a credit card to Brian Hov with a limit of \$2,500 for uses approved in the Faribault County Credit Card Policy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously to table a resolution approving the repurchase of tax forfeited property in Bricelyn by the prior owner pending review by the county attorney.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 23-CB-87 restoring authority and responsibility to the Faribault County Auditor for processing deeds and mortgages for land transfers within its jurisdictional boundaries pursuant to 375A.11. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

### **Transfer of Duties**

Pursuant to 375A.11

**WHEREAS**, Faribault County is responsible for processing deeds and mortgages for land transfers within its jurisdictional boundaries, and

**WHEREAS**, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners and Faribault County Recorder have come to an agreement that it is in the best interest of the County in terms of workflow, procedures and documentation that the Faribault County Auditor/Treasurer assume the authority to collect State Deed Tax and Mortgage Registration Tax on documents presented for recording, to fulfill MS 287.25. This Resolution replaces the Resolution passed on August 11, 2023 that temporarily authorized the Faribault County Recorder to assume those duties until such time as an Auditor and/or Treasurer is in place.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that effective December 1, 2023, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners grant authority and responsibility to the Faribault County Auditor/Treasurer to receipt funds regarding the processing of, functions of examination, verification and certification that the appropriate taxes have been collected prior to the recording of said Deeds & Mortgages, and perform administrative duties required of the official responsible for collecting such taxes.

Further, Deed transfers will be processed by the Auditor/Treasurer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 23-CB-86 approving the repurchase of tax forfeited parcel #22.241.0550 in Bricelyn by the prior owner. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Young, Loveall, and Anderson voted yes.

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

**Whereas**, Parcel 22.241.0550 was forfeited to the State of Minnesota in favor of the Taxing Districts and

**Whereas**, the prior owner, Robert Ruble, has applied to repurchase the parcel pursuant to Minn. Stat. 282.241 to 282.324, and

**Whereas**, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has considered the application to repurchase the parcel and finds that: by repurchase undue hardship OR injustice resulting from the forfeiture will be corrected; and/or that permitting the repurchase will promote the use of the lands that will best serve the public interest.

**Be it Resolved** that Robert Ruble, the former owner of parcel #22.241.0550 described as the North Half of Lot 15 and the South Half of Lot 16 in Block 3 in Cameron's Addition to the Village (now City) of Bricelyn, Faribault County, Minnesota be allowed to repurchase said parcel with the payment in full of the reinstated taxes, assessments, fees and costs as follows:

Basic Sales Price (Tax, Special Assessments, Penalty, Interest, Fees)					3,469.89
State Deed Tax					11.45
State Deed Fee					25.00
County Service Fee					100.00
County Forfeiture Fee					120.00
County Recording Fee					46.00
2023 Taxes					800.48
Total Repurchase Price					<b>\$ 4,572.82</b>

**Be it Further Resolved** that the repurchase price was paid in full on November 3, 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the hire of Kendall Olson as Tax Accounting Clerk, Tammy Emery as Assistant Auditor/Treasurer/Accountant, Nathen Erickson as HR Director, Dean Jahnke as Parks Manager, and Taylor Doering as Staff Engineer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Roper motion died for lack of a second to set the 2024 board salary at \$31,200.00.

Groskreutz/Young motion carried to approve Resolution 23-CB-92 approving 2024 board wages, per diems, and authorized committees. Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, and Young voted yes, Loveall and Anderson voted no.

## R E S O L U T I O N

**WHEREAS,** Chapter 301 of Session Laws 1975 provides for a method of determining county commissioner's compensation, per diem and expense allowance; and,

**WHEREAS,** the resolution establishing the salary, schedule of per diem payments and expense allowances must be adopted by the County Board of Commissioners prior to January 1 of each year to become effective on January 1 of the next following year; and,

**WHEREAS,** the County Board of Commissioners of Faribault County, after due deliberation and consideration, has determined the annual salary, schedule of per diem payments and expense allowance that will be effective January 1, 2024, and thereafter until changed by resolution of the said Board in a manner as provided by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** By the County Board of Commissioners of Faribault County as follows:

1. That the annual salary of each County Commissioner of Faribault County shall be the sum of \$24,425.84 beginning January 1, 2024, payable in not less than bi-weekly increments, less deductions as authorized or required by law, and shall be paid to such Commissioner during the interval as he or she is qualified to hold office.



2. That each individual County Commissioner shall be paid a per diem of \$ 80.00 per day, after making application therefore, who, by proper designation for authorization has served on any board, committee, or commission of county government, including committees of the Board, or for the performance of services when required by law for any of the following work, service or activity:

Ad Hoc committees as appointed by the Board Chair and/or Board as necessary  
Association of Minnesota Counties committees and meetings  
Citizen Advisory committee on Court Services  
City and Township meetings with County related business  
Comprehensive Water Plan committee  
Corrections Advisory  
Drainage Authority  
Drug Court Steering committee  
Economic Development Agency/Local Redevelopment Agency  
Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers  
Environmental and Resources Management committee  
Extension committee  
Greater Blue Earth River Alliance  
Housing Redevelopment Agency  
Human Services Board, Faribault/Martin Counties  
Huntley Sewer Service District  
Insurance committee  
Intergovernmental Relations committee  
Investment Advisory committee  
Labor Management  
Law Library  
Library System committee  
Mankato Rehabilitation Center Inc.  
Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust  
Minnesota Energy Task Force  
Minnesota Transportation Alliance  
Minnesota Valley Action Council  
Parks committee  
Personnel/Labor Negotiations  
Planning and Zoning  
Prairieland Solid Waste Board  
Public Safety  
Public Works committee  
Purchasing, Building, and Building Maintenance committee  
Region Nine  
Roads committee  
South Central Community Based Initiative  
South Central Minnesota Emergency Communications Board  
Transit Board, Faribault/Martin Counties  
Veterans Court Steering committee  
Weed Control  
Wetland Bank committee

For such committee, board or commission work which may be required by law, or which is authorized by the County Board of Commissioners, providing, that such work, service, or activity is authorized by Board action to the performance of such work, service, or activity.

That in addition to the salary and per diems set forth herein, each individual County Commissioner may be paid his or her actual and necessary expenses with mileage set at the Internal Revenue Service rate for necessary travel on official business of the county by private conveyance.

The effective date of this resolution shall be January 1, 2024, and thereafter until changed in the manner provided by law.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Loveall motion carried unanimously to approve the training requests from L. Mehrhof to attend the Mn Assoc of Assessment Personnel Winter Business Meeting in Rochester; A. Sathoff to attend an Elections Security Training in Little Falls; V. Do to attend an online DMT-G (alcohol breath test machine) Recertification training; E. Beske to attend an online Releasing and Redacting Law Enforcement Records training; T. Elmer to attend the Mn South Central Investigators Coalition Winter Conference in Mankato; and M. Lore to attend the Mn Watersheds Drainage Workshop in Alexandria.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Roper motion carried unanimously to pay the following bills:

Auditor warrants for October 1 to October 31, 2023 totaling \$650,942.14 as follows:

Auditor Warrant Approval List for October 1 to October 31, 2023			
Date	Warrant #	Amount	Description
10/5/2023 Total		133,911.63	Auditor Warrants
10/9/2023 Total		71.34	Auditor Warrants
10/12/2023 Total		167,590.72	Auditor Warrants
10/19/2023 Total		192,045.68	Auditor Warrants
10/24/2023 Total		138,366.99	Auditor Warrants
10/26/2023 Total		18,955.78	Auditor Warrants
Grand Total		650,942.14	Total Auditor Warrants

ACH-EFT warrants for October 1 to October 31, 2023 totaling \$570,480.09 as follows:

ACH-EFT Approval List for October 1 to October 31, 2023			
Date	Warrant #	AMOUNT	Description
10/3/2023 Total		272,259.01	Auditor Warrants
10/5/2023 Total		37,139.39	Auditor Warrants
10/12/2023 Total		79,163.85	Auditor Warrants
10/17/2023 Total		161,150.98	Auditor Warrants
10/19/2023 Total		6,645.50	Auditor Warrants
10/26/2023 Total		14,121.36	Auditor Warrants
Grand Total		570,480.09	Total ACH/EFT Warrants

Audit list and auxiliary totaling \$ 424,309.92 as follows:

GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$ 156,817.48
PUBLIC WORKS FUND	253,941.46
DITCH FUND	13,336.74
TAX & PENALTIES (ODD)	182.00
NON-REV/DISB A	32.24
	<hr/>
	\$ 424,309.92

\* \* \* \* \*

Roper/Young motion carried unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned for November 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Anderson, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Van Moer, Acting Clerk to the Board