

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
DECEMBER 21, 2021

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Courthouse in the City of Blue Earth at 3:00 p.m. on December 21, 2021. The following members were present: Tom Loveall, Bruce Anderson, Bill Groskreutz, John Roper, and Greg Young Commissioners. County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Darren Esser, County Attorney Cameron Davis, Deputy Tom Elmer, Kevin Mertens, and Milt Steele were also present. Also attending virtually was Faribault County employee J. Blair.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roper. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Anderson motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda of December 21, 2021.

\* \* \* \* \*

The calendar was updated.

No members of the public appeared during public comment.

\* \* \* \* \*

Committee reports were given. Groskreutz reported on MVAC; Anderson reported on MRCI; Loveall reported on One Watershed, One Plan; Roper reported on MVAC.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sheriff Mike Gormley and Chief Deputy Scott Adams met regarding office business.

Loveall/Anderson motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 21-CB-127 for 2022 aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention. Commissioners Groskreutz, Young, Anderson, Loveall, and Roper voted yes.

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

**WHEREAS,** there are fifteen water bodies in Faribault County and it is unknown if the lakes are infested with an aquatic invasive species (AIS), and;

**WHEREAS,** Zebra Mussels, and other AIS are known to prolifically spread from lake to lake by human activities and may have detrimental impacts on the ecological, economic, and recreational vitality of lakes in this county and;

**WHEREAS,** MN Statute 477A.19 enacted by the Legislature in 2014 provides Minnesota counties a County Aid Program Aid grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. Faribault County was allocated approximately \$29,873.00 for the year 2022 and a similar unknown amount in 2023 and years following, and;

**WHEREAS,** the legislation requires that the County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds, which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the County and submit a copy of the guidelines for the use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December of the year the payments are received.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faribault County Board of Commissioners:

1. Designates oversight of AIS to the Faribault County Sheriff's Office and the Faribault County Soil and Water District and delegates them the responsibility to prepare and implement annually a plan to allocate the funding in accordance with the above legislation.
2. Directs the Faribault County Sheriff's Office and the Faribault County Soil and Water District to assemble and facilitate a County AIS Task Force consisting of local stakeholders including local residence, lake associations, sportsmen's clubs, lake property owners, and local government units.
3. Seeks to develop a County AIS plan based on the following over-arching goals:
  - a. Preserve Faribault County's aquatic recreational heritage by engaging positive approaches to address AIS that assist and educate tourists to reach 100% compliance.
  - b. Improve the efficiency of inspections so as to welcome boaters and expedite loading and launching, while ensuring watercraft are free of AIS and boaters are imbued in prevention practices.
  - c. Implement sustainable AIS prevention practices across Faribault County through partnerships with water recreation-based businesses, individual lake associations, and local government units.
  - d. Collaborate to develop and/or deliver educational curriculum and public relations messaging that reaches the broadest audience with a consistent message about AIS and how everyone can efficiently stop the spread.
  - e. Identify and implement proven and/or innovative methods to manage existing AIS infestations that limit the potential for spreading and reduce impacts of AIS on lake ecology and recreational use.
4. Supports involvement in and funding of multi-county collaborative efforts for educational and awareness campaigns, inspection and decontamination programs, and research projects related to AIS that provide benefits to Faribault County residents and resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Faribault County Sheriff Department and Soil and Water District shall establish an annual budget for, and oversee the implementation of, activities outlined in the County AIS Plan, which shall be reviewed and revised from time to time with input from the AIS Task Force, and shall report annually to the Board and the State on the progress of plan initiatives and expenditures of County Aid for AIS Prevention.

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the purchase of two 2021 Ford F150 Interceptor squad vehicles for a total of \$78,613.00 in 2021 from Woodhouse Ford in Omaha, NE utilizing 2022 budget dollars, and approval to order a 2022 Ford Explorer for the low bid of \$34,701.00 from Fairmont Ford for estimated April delivery.

\* \* \* \* \*

Annie Nichols met regarding EDA business.

Discussion was held regarding the open board seat in Commissioner Loveall's district due to Brad Wolf's decision to not continue on the EDA board.

Groskreutz/Anderson motion carried unanimously to adopt the new federal procurement policy.

Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the Broadband Expansion project request for proposal (RFP) for an internet provider and authorization to advertise for bids.

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Anderson/Young motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 21-CB-128 approving a gambling permit for the Elmore American Legion. Commissioners Groskreutz, Young, Anderson, Loveall, and Roper voted yes.

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

**WHEREAS,** the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has considered the request of the Elmore American Legion Post 192 to operate paper pull-tabs, electronic pull-tabs, electronic linked bingo, and bar bingo at the Minn-Iowa Golf Course in Elmore Township.

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Faribault County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the gambling permit to the Elmore American Legion Post 192 in Elmore Township.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to adopt the previously tabled Resolution 21-CB-116 selling tax forfeited parcel no. 21.200.5780 to the City of Blue Earth to correct blight. Commissioners Groskreutz, Young, Anderson, Loveall, and Roper voted yes.

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

**WHEREAS,** Parcel No. 21.200.5780 forfeited to the State of Minnesota in favor of the Taxing Districts on June 30, 2021, and

**WHEREAS,** the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has hereby classified the parcel as non-conservation property, and

**WHEREAS,** said parcel has structures that are in a blighted condition and said blight has caused the value of the parcel to be reduced, and

**WHEREAS,** the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has set the market value of said parcel at \$100.00, and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Blue Earth has applied to the Faribault County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Minnesota Statute 282.01, Subd. 1a, par. (d) to purchase the parcel for the price

of \$1.00 and has documented that the city plans to correct blighted conditions on the property via demolition of the house,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faribault County Board of Commissioners hereby grants the request of the City of Blue Earth to purchase Parcel No. 21.200.5780 for \$1.00 plus any associated fees involved in the transaction.

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Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously authorizing County Auditor to advance funds from the general fund to the negative ditch accounts.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Anderson motion carried unanimously to authorize the County Auditor to pay bills at year end 2021 and report those payments to the Board in January 2022.

\* \* \* \* \*

Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 21-CB-129 designating certain funds as committed as per Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) #54. Commissioners Groskreutz, Young, Anderson, Loveall, and Roper voted yes.

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

**WHEREAS,** the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has adopted a policy in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) #54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Definitions* and,

**WHEREAS,** the policy states that committed fund balance classifications include the portion of the fund balance that reflects constraints that the County has imposed upon itself by a formal action of the Board of Commissioners and that this constraint must be imposed prior to yearend but the amount can be determined at a later date,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Faribault County Board of Commissioners hereby declares that the following funds be designated as “Committed” as of the end of 2021; any unassigned and available funds in the Human Services Fund, Public Works Fund, Ditch Fund, and Debt Service Fund that are not Non-spendable or restricted according to GASB 54.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Faribault County Auditor-Treasurer shall determine the dollar amount of said committed funds and include these amounts in the financial statements of Faribault County.

\* \* \* \* \*

Public Works Director Mark Daly met regarding office business. Discussion was held regarding the pavement rehabilitation project bonding.

Anderson/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to approve the purchase of equipment as listed below in 2022:

Tandem Snow Plow	\$250,000	
Tandem Snow Plow	\$250,000	
Unit 19 Trade in	(\$30,000)	
Unit 20 Trade in	(\$30,000)	
Pup Trailer	\$45,000	
Drill Press	\$2,500	
Welder	\$3,500	
Wacker Packer	\$3,000	
Skid Steer Mower	\$10,000	
Parks Mower	\$9,000	
Unit 303 Trade in	(\$1,000)	
Drone	\$3,400	Bridge Inspections
Lab Equipment	\$1,900	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$517,300</b>	

Young/Anderson motion carried unanimously to start advertising for bids for striping, seal coating, crack sealing, overlays, and bridges.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Auditor warrants for November 1 to November 30, 2021 totaling \$ 1,139,333.30 as follows:

<b>Auditor Warrant Approval List for November 1 to November 30, 2021</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>11/1/2021 Total</b>	<b>4,025.04</b>	<b>Auditor warrants</b>
<b>11/4/2021 Total</b>	<b>442,787.79</b>	<b>Auditor warrants</b>
<b>11/10/2021 Total</b>	<b>381,734.07</b>	<b>Auditor warrants</b>
<b>11/18/2021 Total</b>	<b>193,913.52</b>	<b>Auditor warrants</b>
<b>11/24/2021 Total</b>	<b>116,872.88</b>	<b>Auditor warrants</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,139,333.30</b>	<b>Total Auditor warrants</b>

ACH-EFT warrants for November 1 to November 30, 2021 totaling \$ 1,033,722.56 as follows:

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<b>ACH/EFT Warrant Approval List for November 1 to November 30, 2021</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>11/2/2021 Total</b>	320,210.43	Commissioner warrants
<b>11/4/2021 Total</b>	163,735.67	Auditor warrants
<b>11/10/2021 Total</b>	313,429.63	Auditor warrants
<b>11/16/2021 Total</b>	223,796.60	Commissioner warrants
<b>11/18/2021 Total</b>	12,416.60	Auditor warrants
<b>11/24/2021 Total</b>	133.63	Auditor warrants
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,033,722.56</b>	<b>Total ACH/EFT warrants</b>

Audit list and auxiliary totaling \$ 280,945.71 as follows:

GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$ 158,413.71
PUBLIC WORKS FUND	79,882.71
DITCH FUND	42,090.00
DEBT SERVICE FUND	500.00
NON-REV/DISB A	59.29
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	280,945.71

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Central Services Director Lexi Scholten met regarding office business.

An update regarding MNOSHA adopting Federal OSHA rules regarding mandatory vaccination/testing was given.

Loveall/Anderson motion carried unanimously to approve the updated vehicle use policy.

Young/Loveall motion carried to set the 2022 mobile device stipend at \$50 per month. Commissioners Young, Loveall, Anderson, and Groskreutz voted yes, Roper voted no.

Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously to set the 2022 meal reimbursement at the same rates as 2021: \$11 for breakfast, \$13 for lunch, \$25 for dinner maximum.

Young/Loveall motion carried motion carried to approve Resolution 21-CB-131 setting 2022 board salary, per diem expense, and authorized committees. Commissioners Young, Loveall, Anderson, and Groskreutz voted yes, Roper voted no.

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

12-21-2021

**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, 2022, 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 \$ 22,205.31 beginning January 1, 2022, 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, 2022, and thereafter until changed in the manner provided by law.

Young/Anderson motion carried unanimously to table 2022 non-union pay and benefit changes until after union contracts are settled.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Anderson motion carried unanimously to close the meeting for discussion regarding labor contract negotiation strategy.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Groskreutz, Roper, Anderson, Loveall, and Young; County Auditor Darren Esser, Central Services Director Lexi Scholten.

Anderson/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to come out of closed session.

County Auditor Darren Esser gave recap of closed session stating that union contract negotiation strategies were discussed.

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The meeting was recessed for the Truth in Taxation hearing.

Chief Deputy Auditor Jessica Blair gave overview of 2022 budget and levy.

During the public comment period, Craig Beyer of Blue Earth questioned the 71% tax increase of one of his agriculture parcels. Auditor Esser explained that it was most likely due to a multi-property group order change and the parcel therefore lost the benefit of the homestead tax capacity rate. He recommended that Mr. Beyer talk with the County Assessor for clarification.

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Loveall/Groskreutz motion failed to adopt a resolution setting the total net levy at \$12,218,152.00. Commissioners Young, Anderson, and Roper voted no. Loveall and Groskreutz voted yes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Young/Anderson motion carried to adopt Resolution 21-CB-130 setting the 2022 budget and levy. Commissioners Groskreutz, Young, Anderson, and Roper voted yes. Loveall voted no.

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

**WHEREAS**, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners has considered the financial needs of Faribault County,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the budget of Faribault County for 2022 will be set at \$32,797,149 in revenues and transfers, \$32,665,225 in expenditures and transfers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of said budget be kept on file in the Office of the County Auditor-Treasurer for public inspection.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the levy of Faribault County for 2022 will be set at \$13,037,968 before state aid reductions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the levy after reduction of program aid of \$700,015 be appropriated to the proper funds as follows:

General (including Library)	\$ 7,653,769.00
Public Works	\$ 1,215,389.00
Human Services	\$ 2,533,922.00
Courthouse Bonds 2021	\$ 170,000.00
Courthouse Bonds 2018	\$ 115,343.00
Jail Bonds	\$ 649,530.00
Total Net Levy	<u>\$ 12,337,953.00</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of said levy will be on file with the County Auditor/Treasurer of Faribault County.

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The meeting was adjourned Sine Die for 2021.

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John Roper, Chair

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Sarah Van Moer, Acting Clerk to the Board