

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: TUESDAY, January 2, 2024, at 8:15 am
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

Call the Board Business Meeting to Order: County Administrator Pat Oman

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Board Chair for 2024

1. Nelson nominates Okeson.
2. Motion and second to elect John Okeson Board Chair (Meyer, Vareberg) carried.

New Board Chair calls for Nominations for Vice-Chair 2024

1. Jepson nominates Meyer.
2. Motion and second to elect David Meyer Vice-Board Chair (Jepson, Nelson) carried.

2024 Committee Assignments

1. Motion and second to continue with 2023 assignments until the next board meeting on January 16 and adding Commissioner Meyer to the Lakes Country Service Co-Op (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve AMC Delegates (Jepson, Meyer) carried.

Regular Business

1. Agenda Confirmation – Motion and second to approve agenda as presented (Jepson, Nelson) carried.
2. Minutes – Moved and seconded to approve minutes of December 19, 2023, with the requested changes (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the claims to show 2023 AMC Annual Conference (Nelson, Jepson) carried.
4. Motion and second to table the County Administrator's Performance Review until February 6 meeting or to call for a meeting earlier if needed (Nelson, Jepson) carried. Roll call vote called by Commissioner Okeson: Nelson – In favor, Jepson – In favor, Meyer – In favor, Okeson – Opposed, Vareberg – Opposed.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum.
 - Duane Erickson – Becker County Wild Rice Watershed District Appointee – Term up in April.
 - Joe Stenger – Support for Pat Oman.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Commissioner Jepson – EDA.
 - Commissioner Nelson – Comp Study.
 - Commissioner Okeson – Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority.
 - Commissioner Meyer – Transit update.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – Comp Study.
3. Appointments:
 - Motion and second to appoint Tony Nistler to the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District to replace Lyle Hansen who retired (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

County Administrator: presented by Pat Oman

1. CHIP Contract: Motion and second to approve contracts in the amount of \$3,000 per month for Beth Walker and Joshua Haugen, and \$3,200 per month for Timothy Dodd (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
2. Coroner contract is still in the process of being finalized.
3. Becker County Groundwater Atlas – presented by Scott Pearson – MN DNR. Plans to set up a workshop in the coming months.
4. Classification and Compensation Study – presented by Tessa Melvin with DDA.
 - Showed 4 options for implementation. Will send out more information for Options 1 and 2.

Auditor – Treasurer: presented by Mary Hendrickson

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1A – 2024 Publications Bid Option 1 (Jepson, Nelson) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1B – Charitable Gambling for Blue Ribbon Charities at Roadhouse on July 13, 2024 in Cormorant Twp (Nelson, Jepson) carried.

3. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1D – Charitable Gambling for Blue Ribbon Charities at Roadhouse on December 7, 2024 in Cormorant Twp (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Probation: presented by Brian Rubenstein

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1E – Transfer Becker County Probation support services to State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections (MN DOC), pursuant to MN Statute 244.19 subd 5a. (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

EDA: presented by Cody Piper

1. Motion and second to approve the Housing Management Contract with MMCDC (Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation) for one year in the amount of \$215,500 (Jepson, Vareberg) carried.

Veterans Services: presented by Matt Erickson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1F – Accept donation from Damien Society of 100 Becker County Transit Tokens for Veterans use (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Human Services – Presented by Christy Ramsey.

1. Motion and second to authorize the Human Services Committee to move forward with purchasing a vehicle using 2023 Human Services budget savings up to \$35,000 (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Highway: presented by Jim Olson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1C – Annual Advertising for Highway Construction Projects (Jepson, Vareberg) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1H - DNR Amendment to Heartland Trail (Vareberg, Okeson) carried.
3. Discussion – Heartland Trail Update/Easement.
 - Working to acquire an easement.
 - Review options at a later board meeting.

Sheriff: presented by Todd Glander.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-24-1G – 2024 Supplemental Boating Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$66,198 to purchase a 22' Seaborn Boat (Meyer, Jepson) carried.

Planning and Zoning: presented by Kyle Vareberg.

1. Comprehensive Plan Update

- Motion and second to approve a GIS Layer Investment up to \$3,174 (Jepson, Vareberg) carried.
- Adding Becker County Public Lake Access Map online.
- A little over 500 surveys were filled out.
- Workshop is January 9.

2. Planning Commission Recommendation 12/20/2023

- Motion and second to approve the St. Claire Family Revokable Trust – Request a Condition Use Permit for retail sales in concurrence with the Planning Commission recommendation (Jepson, Nelson) carried.
- Kohl and Sarah Skalin – Request a Change of Zone from Agricultural to Residential.
 - Kohl Skalin – Applicant – For potential use in the future.
 - Jeff Lewis – Opposes change of zone.
 - Don Skarie – Opposes – should have a plan.
 - Richard Grossman – Adjacent property owner – opposes.
 - Motion and second to approve the change of zone from agricultural to residential in concurrence with the Planning Commission recommendation (Vareberg, Jepson) carried.
- Eric and Alissa Hoban – Request a Change of Zone from Agricultural to Residential.
 - Eric Hoban – Applicant.
 - Opposition is the same as the Skalin application.
 - Motion and second to approve the change of zone from agricultural to residential in concurrence with the Planning Commission recommendation (Vareberg, Jepson) carried.

Being no further business, Chair Okeson adjourned the meeting at 10:51 am.

/s/ _____

Pat Oman
County Administrator

/s/ _____

John Okeson
Board Chair