

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
February 7, 2023.

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Members present: Commissioners Shoff, Kaasa, Eckstrom, Edwin and Forman.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The County Administrator offered the following changes to the agenda;

The addition of item D. Report of County Administrator, permission to fill Social Worker AAAD/AP position to due to the internal promotion of Nicole Christenson, to lead Social Worker effective March 3rd, 2023.

The second modification will be that closed session for the requested three-month review of Administrator Candace Pesch, will be moved to after County Commissioner Items on the agenda in the interest of time.

Commissioner Eckstrom asked to have the following items moved to the February 14, 2023 Workshop; Resolution clarifying the employment agreement, as well as the Resolution dealing with compliance regarding filling the Personnel Director position.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following motion, to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of the one item under Commissioner Forman, as well as removal of the two items under Commissioner Edwin from the agenda, moved to the February 14, 2023 Workshop for discussion.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the motion approved.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 23-037
APPROVAL OF THE FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONSENT
AGENDA AS PROVIDED
IN THE FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD RULE OF PROCEDURE 9(A)

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the governing body of Freeborn County, and;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board has implemented a Consent agenda to perform the duties of the board in a more effective and efficient manner, and

WHEREAS, the following items have been placed for approval of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners on the current Board meeting Consent Agenda as provided by the Board rules of procedure, being routine and of a regular action;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to place the following are hereby approved for appropriate action:

- 1) Approval of the January 17, 2023 minutes.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Chairman Forman asked if there was any public comment and there was none.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23- 038
COUNTY DITCH NO. J21 R&I BID AWARD

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following contractor was the lowest bid for the following project(s) and has been awarded the contract for the construction:

Mensing Construction, LLC, County Ditch No. J21 Repair & Improvement, \$514,572.37

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Cody Fox, Freeborn County Ditch Inspector spoke on the bid process for repair on County Ditch 54.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-039
COUNTY DITCH NO. 54 HEARING IMPOUND & REROUTING

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

County Ditch No. 54 Impound and Rerouting

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 8:45 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-040
COUNTY DITCH NO. 54 PARTIAL ABANDONMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

County Ditch No. 54 Partial Abandonment

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 8:45 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Edwin offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-041
FREEBORN COUNTY DITCH NO. 4 REESTABLISHMENT OF RECORDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

Freeborn County Ditch No. 4 Reestablishment of Records

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-042
FREEBORN COUNTY DITCH NO. 5 REESTABLISHMENT OF RECORDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

Freeborn County Ditch No. 5 Reestablishment of Records

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-043

FREEBORN COUNTY DITCH NO. 80 REESTABLISHMENT OF RECORDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

Freeborn County Ditch No. 80 Reestablishment of Records

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Edwin offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-044

FREEBORN COUNTY DITCH NO. 82 REESTABLISHMENT OF RECORDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County Board of Commissioners sets a hearing date, time and location for:

Freeborn County Ditch No. 82 Reestablishment of Records

As follows:

Date: March 7, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Freeborn County Government Center

411 Broadway Avenue South

Albert Lea, Minnesota

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLVED, to table Resolution 23-025 Decommit Fund Balance \$1,000,000.00 to WCTA - Broadband indefinitely.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-045
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$200 DONATION TO THE FREEBORN COUNTY CVCC
FROM EMMONS LUTHERAN CHURCH – WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center directly serves those who have been victims of crime, domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center plans events and campaigns bringing community awareness to the issues of crime, domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Emmons Lutheran Church – Women of the North American Lutheran Church has offered a donation to the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center in the amount of \$200 to be used for services provided by the CVCC; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center accepts the donation in the amount of \$200 from the Emmons Lutheran Church – Women of the North American Lutheran Church to be used for services provided by the CVCC.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-046
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023 PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE FREEBORN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND DR. ANNETTE
SMICK

WHEREAS, psychiatric services in rural Minnesota are becoming increasingly difficult to access; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is part of the 10-county South Central Community-Based Initiative (SCCBI) to provide services to persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI purchases mental health services including psychiatric services from the Freeborn County Mental Health Center for residents of counties comprising the SCCBI; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Annette Smick is able to provide quality psychiatric services for clients of the Freeborn County Mental Health Center, increasing accessibility for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Mental Health Center and Dr. Annette Smick are credentialed to bill insurance for psychiatric services; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2023 Purchase of Service Agreement between the Freeborn County Department of Human Services and Dr. Annette Smick be approved for provision of the psychiatric services to residents of Freeborn County and of counties comprising the SCCBI.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-047
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT OF KRISTEN MCGIVERN

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services has the responsibility for providing a quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees;

WHEREAS; Kristen McGivern has been employed as a Financial Eligibility Worker since August 28th, 2002 and is retiring effective February 28th 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Kristen McGivern as a Freeborn County Financial Eligibility Worker effective on or about February 28th, 2023.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Edwin offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-048
PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY WORKER POSITION

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Kristen McGivern, Freeborn County Financial Eligibility Worker will be retiring effective February 28th, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Financial Eligibility Worker position.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-049
PLACING TRACY VOKOUN, HS TECH. SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AIDE ON REGULAR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT STATUS WITH FREEBORN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEAREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Tracy Vokoun has successfully completed her required probationary employment period with Freeborn County and does provide the necessary services to her department and the public,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to place Tracy Vokoun, HS Tech. Support Enforcement Aide, on regular full-time status.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-050
PLACING RACHEL BALDWIN, ELIGIBILITY WORKER, ON REGULAR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT STATUS WITH FREEBORN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEAREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Rachel Baldwin has successfully completed her required probationary employment period with Freeborn County and does provide the necessary services to her department and the public,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to place Rachel Baldwin, Eligibility Worker, on regular full-time status.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-051
PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY DETENTION DEPUTY POSITION

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Joni Cline, Freeborn County Detention Deputy, has accepted a position as a Custodian effective February 13th, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Detention Deputy position.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-052

PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY PROBATION OFFICER POSITION

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Jacob Stockwell, Freeborn County Probation Officer, has accepted a position as a Patrol Deputy effective February 13th, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Probation Officer position.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-053

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF RITA DRESCHER

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Public Health has the responsibility for providing a quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees;

WHEREAS; Rita Drescher has been employed as a Long-Term Care RN/PHN/Social Worker since September 10th, 1984 and is retiring effective March 3rd 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Rita Drescher as a Freeborn County Long Term Care RN/PHN/Social Worker effective on or about March 3rd, 2023.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-054

PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY LONG TERM CARE RN/PHN/SOCIAL WORKER POSITION

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees,
and;

WHEREAS, Rita Drescher, Freeborn County Long Term Care RN/PHN/Social Worker will be retiring effective March 3rd, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Long Term Care RN/PHN/Social Worker position.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the follow resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-055
LETTER OF SUPPORT AARP'S AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
RESOLVED, approving a Letter of Support for the AARP's Age-Friendly Community

Letter of Support

February 3, 2023

Dear Chamber Director:

On behalf of Freeborn County, Minnesota, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing support to creating an age-friendly environment. We are excited to join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network. Freeborn County is supportive in becoming a livable community to promote health and sustainable growth and contribute to the well-being of citizens in all stages of life.

We want to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP's Eight Domains of Livability in establishing a more age-friendly city: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly, increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, supporting work and volunteer opportunities, access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older people to age in place through community support and health services.

As a participant in the AARP and the World Health Organization [WHO] Age-Friendly Community it is the intent of Freeborn County to:

- Pursue the active engagement of older adults in the planning process through outreach and inclusion by bringing events to where seniors live, work and play.
- Pursue outreach through churches, civic organizations, AARP, providers of aging services.
- Establish a plan of action that responds to the needs identified by seniors.
- Develop a means to measure out activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and plans to determine we are meeting our goals.
- Keep the public, especially seniors, informed throughout the process.

We look forward to working with AARP Minnesota staff, members and volunteers to making our county a place where we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion a vote was taken with Commissioners Shoff, Eckstrom, Edwin and Forman voting yay, and Commissioner Kaasa voting nay.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-056
TO AMEND THE LETTER FOR SUPPORT THE AARP'S AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

RESOLVED, approving The Amended Letter of Support for AARP's Age-Friendly Community

Letter of Support

February 21, 2023

Dear Chamber Director:

On behalf of Freeborn County, Minnesota, I am pleased to offer this letter of our support to creating an age-friendly environment. We are excited to join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network.

Freeborn County is supportive in becoming a livable community to promote health and sustainable growth and contribute to the well-being of citizens in all stages of life.

We want to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP's Eight Domains of Livability in establishing a more age-friendly city: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly, increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, supporting work and volunteer opportunities, access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older people to age in place through community support and health services.

We look forward to making our county a place where we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion a vote was taken with Commissioners Shoff, Eckstrom, Edwin and Forman voting yay, and Commissioner Kaasa voting nay.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-057
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF CHAD BENDICKSON

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway Department has the responsibility for providing a quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees;

WHEREAS; Chad Bendickson has been employed as the Highway Maintenance Supervisor since November 3rd, 1997 and is resigning his position effective March 3rd, 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Chad Bendickson as a Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Supervisor effective on or about March 3rd, 2023.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-058
PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR POSITION

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees,
and;

WHEREAS, Chad Bendickson, Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Supervisor has resigned his position effective March 3rd, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Supervisor position.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23-059
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JULIE KOHL

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Medical Examiners has the responsibility for providing a quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees;

WHEREAS; Julie Kohl has been employed as a Medical Death Investigator since January 1st, 2013 and is retiring effective March 31st 2023,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Julie Kohl as a Freeborn County Medical Death Investigator effective on or about March 31st, 2023.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 23- 060
PERMISSION TO FILL VACANT SOCIAL WORKER POSITION, ADULT PROTECTION

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.
After discussion a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners went into a closed session at 9:33a.m. until approximately 10:31a.m. The meeting was closed as permitted by Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) to evaluate the

performance of an individual who is subject to its authority, specifically Candace Pesch, County Administrator.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-061
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before February 7, 2023.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 1,012,195.89
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 126,806.35
05	Human Services	\$ 170,974.21
06	Public Health	\$ 65,390.46
31	Capital Improvement	\$ 79,847.67
40	County Ditch	\$ 30,055.13
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 135,952.68
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 21,935.64
80	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 57,200.00
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 1,700,358.03

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 73

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$9,331.70

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Chair, Commissioner Forman adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

By: _____

John Forman
Chair

Attest: _____

Candace Pesch
Clerk/Administrator