

SWIFT COUNTY REGULAR BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 7, 2025

Swift County Auditor/Treasurer Katie Foley called the organizational meeting to order at 9:00 AM with all Commissioners present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

All members were present. Also present: Administrator Tesa Tomaschett, County Attorney Danielle Olson, Auditor/Treasurer Katie Foley, County Engineer Tyler Baumchen, HR Marlene Molden, Trista Nelson, and members of the public.

County Auditor/Treasurer Foley asked for nominations for Chair of the Board. Commissioner Hendrickx nominated Commissioner Rudningen. Auditor/Treasurer Foley called for additional nominations three times. There being no further nominations a vote was called and Eric Rudningen was elected Chair of the Board unanimously.

Auditor/Treasurer Foley turned the meeting over to Chairman Rudningen.

Chairman Rudningen asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board. Commissioner Hendrickx nominated Commissioner E. Pederson. Chairman Rudningen asked for additional nominations three times. There were no further nominations.

Commissioner P. Peterson moved nomination and cease and a unanimous ballot to be cast. Commissioner Mahoney seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Commissioner E. Pederson was named Board Vice Chair for 2025.

Chairman Rudningen asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Administrator Tomaschett requested that Resolution No. 25-01-15 be added to item (m) of the regular agenda and that a new item Pre (A) be added for the Human Service Director to apply for a grant with Sauer Explore and access family, and to add the AMC appointments and designations added to item (f), also Commissioner Mahoney requested adding Work Sessions to item (c) of the regular agenda.

Commissioner E. Pederson moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to approve the agenda with the additions to the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Rudningen informed the board of two changes to the December 17, 2024, Commissioner Board minutes. Change the Health and Human Service Director title to Human Service Director and change the verbiage of Commissioner Mahoney's motion to say Commissioner Mahoney moved to approve Resolution No. 24-12-49: Adopting 2025 Salaries for Currently Elected Officials as presented. Chairman P. Peterson called for a second three times, there was no second to the motion. The motion fails due to lack of a second.

- Consider approving the December 17, 2024, Commissioner Board minutes
- Consider Approving 2025 Rinke Noonan Fee Schedule
- Consider approving Swift County Agricultural Inspector's Annual Report & Workplan Summary
- Consider approving Resolution No. 25-01-14 Appleton/DNR Trail - Final Payment Resolution

Commissioner P. Peterson moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes to the December 17, 2024, Commissioner Board minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve the Commissioner Warrants and Auditor Warrants paid on 12/31/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahoney reported on the ARPA Committee, Woodland Centers, and the Chippewa River Water Shed meetings. Commissioner E. Pederson reported on the ARPA Committee, DAC, and SWCD meetings. Commissioner P. Peterson reported on the Prairie Five meetings. Commissioner Hendrickx reported on the Woodland Centers and Building Committee meetings. Chairman Rudningen reported on the Building Committee, Prairie Lakes Youth Program, and Central MN Emergency Services Radio Board meetings.

Citizen Comments: Jannet Walsh of Murdock addressed her concern about Swift County's hiring process to the board.

Administrator Tomaschett requested approval of the organizational meeting items.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-01: Appointing Eric Rudningen 2025 Swift County Board of Commissioners Chair and Resolution No. 25-01-02: Appointing E. Pederson 2025 Swift County Board of Commissioner Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Human Service Director Catie Lee presented an opportunity to apply for a grant to the Sauer Foundation Family Resource Center Granting. Lee requested approval to apply for the Explore and Assess Grant to pursue a Family Resource Center Evaluation for the 6W County Area.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Human Service Director Catie Lee to apply to the Sauer Foundation for the Explore and Assess Grant to pursue a Family Resource Center Evaluation for the 6W County Area. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-03: to appoint Dr. A Quinn Strobl as the County Medical Examiner for 2025 and may be supported by the Anoka County Staff in the Anoka County Medical Examiner's Office. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahoney moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-04: adopting the 2025 Board Committee Representatives, Advisory Committee Representatives, and Joint Ditch Board Representatives with the necessary corrections. There was a brief discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahoney requested to have Work Sessions scheduled into the calendar year either quarterly or bimonthly. The board discussed having Work Sessions but having them set as needed. Chairman Rudningen pointed out that if Work Sessions were added to the calendar now it would allow for flexibility in discussing other topics. If it is scheduled as needed the Work Session is then a Special Meeting making the board limited to discussing the items that are published making it a more effective meeting.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve leaving the schedule as presented in the board packet. Resolution No. 25-01-05: setting the Swift County Board meetings as follows: 1st Tuesday of the month at 9:00 AM and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 AM, with these exceptions: June 17, 2025. The 2025 meeting will be moved from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for the Board of Equalization; and the December 2, 2025 meeting will be moved from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM for the TNT meeting. Swift County Board of Commissioner's meeting will be held at 301 14th St N in Benson, Minnesota. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Mahoney voting against.

Commissioner Mahoney moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to approve Resolution 25-01-06: Adopting a New Mileage Rate for 2024 from 67 cents per mile to 70 cents per mile. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-07: adopting the 2025 official newspaper. The 2025 primary official newspaper for Swift County shall be the Swift County Monitor-News and the secondary official newspaper shall be the Appleton Press. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-08: for the County Sheriff, County Attorney, and County Commissioners as the Elected Officials designated to attend the annual conferences for their offices. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve the 2025 AMC Policy Committee and Voting Delegate Appointments. Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Member-Commissioner Mahoney, General Government Policy Committee Member-Commissioner P. Peterson, Health and Human Services Policy Committee Member-Commissioner Hendrickx, Public Safety Policy Committee Member-Commissioner E. Pederson, and Transportation and Infrastructure Policy Committee Member-Chairman Rudningen. The 2025 AMC voting Delegate appointments are Commissioners, Mahoney, P. Peterson, Hendrickx, E. Pederson, Chairman Rudningen, County Administrator Tesa Tomaschett, Human Service Director Catie Lee, and County Engineer Tyler Baumchen. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner P. Peterson moved, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-09: for the 2025 bounties as follows: Beaver bounty of \$100.00 for beavers (in or out of season) in designated ditches only with the approval of the Parks and Drainage Supervisor and/or County Engineer. Pocket gopher bounty paid to the township as \$3.00 per gopher when the township pays a minimum of \$5.00 per gopher or \$2.00 per gopher when the township is less than \$5.00 per gopher. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-10: allocating the cost of the County Attorney's services to Human Services to the Social Welfare Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner P. Peterson moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-11: setting the corporate signatures for 2025 be the Board Chair, Finance Technician Alyssa Kurkosky County Administrator Tesa Tomaschett, and County Auditor/Treasurer Katie Foley. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-12: for the designation of corporate depositories for 2025 with the correction of the Financial Security Bank of Kerkhoven name change to Bravera Bank. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner E. Pederson moved, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-13: Workers' Compensation Coverage for Elected Officials. The motion carried unanimously.

Swift County SWCD District Manager Andy Albertsen requested approval from the board to cover the remaining 50 percent of the purchase of the Truax No-Till Drill not covered

by the grant they received. The estimated amount of the No-Till Drill is \$48,405.14.

Commissioner E. Pederson moved, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded to approve the 50 percent match of the purchase of the Truax No-Till Drill taking it out of the Reparation Aid Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

HRA/RDA Director Leanna Larson requested approval of the local committee to make recommendations for potential HRA/RDA board merger and Resolution No. 25-01-15: Committee to Research and Recommend Options for a County Economic Development Service Provider.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Resolution No. 25-01-15: Committee to Research and Recommend Options for a County Economic Development Service Provider. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Tomaschett presented the correction to the Swift County Ordinance 2024-01: Cannabis-Oriented Business and Land Use. Countryside Public Health Assistant Administrator of Programs and Services Laura Larson presented additional information about Countryside's involvement and the difference in our Ordinance compared to surrounding Counties.

Commissioner Mahoney moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve Swift County Ordinance 2024-01: Cannabis Oriented Business and Land Use. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Hendrickx voting against.

David Drown & Associates Tessa Melvin presented the routine ongoing maintenance reviews of non-union positions, Job descriptions, and salaries to the board.

Commissioner Mahoney motioned to table the salary increases and bring the discussion to the Personnel Committee. Commissioner E. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote with Commissioners Hendrickx, P. Peterson, and Chairman Rudningen voting against.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to approve DDA's recommendations for the Grade increase for the non-union positions. The motion passed on a 3-2 vote with Commissioner's Mahoney and E. Pederson against.

Administrator Tomaschett requested approval to update Policy 503: Posted licenses, fees, and service charges for 2025.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to approve updating Policy 503: Posted licenses, fees, and service charges for 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Tesa asked the board what date they would like the non-union salary grade change to be effective for payroll purposes. There was a discussion on retro pay to January 1, 2025, or having it today's date January 7, 2025, being that was when it was presented. The presentation was originally scheduled for December 17, 2024, Tessa Melvin could not make it to that meeting and the board voted to table the presentation to today.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to retro pay back to January 1, 2025. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Mahoney voting against.

The board recessed at 10:51 AM.

The board reconvened at 10:56 AM.

Swift County retained for representation in pending litigation Pemberton Law Attorney Kendra Olson. Attorney K. Olson suggested the board go into a closed session to discuss matters that are currently pending against Swift County, going into a closed session will be of benefit to the taxpayers because it will preserve attorney-client privilege and the only matters that will be discussed are the pending litigation against the County.

Commissioner P. Peterson moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to go into closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

Swift County Attorney Danielle Olson stated for the record that the correct Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd.3 B.

The board went into closed session at 10:57 AM.

The board came out of closed session to the regular board meeting at 11:55 AM.

Chairman Rudningen stated that they were in closed session for attorney-client privileges and no action was taken by the board in closed session.

There was no other business.

The next board meeting is January 21, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner P. Peterson moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to close the regular board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Rudningen adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

WITNESSED:

Eric Rudningen, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Tesa Tomaschett, Clerk of the Board

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