

**SWIFT COUNTY REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
JULY 16, 2024**

Chairman P. Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

All members were present.

Also present: Administrator Tesa Tomaschett, Assistant County Attorney Frank Gustafson, Auditor-Treasurer Katie Foley, Environmental Service Director Scott Collins, Parks, Drainage, and Wetlands Supervisor Kody Fossum, Sheriff John Holtz, Trista Nelson, and members of the public.

Chairman P. Peterson asked if there were citizen comments.

Marilyn Anderson and Bill Anderson of Appleton requested the board to look at the Moratorium again because the wants and needs of wind energy will cost others. Jon Boese of Holloway expressed concern about the size and the road conditions with the increase of traffic this will require. Joe and Kaye Dieter of Danvers requested the decommissioning of these turbines and would like to see a second hearing on the wind and solar ordinance due to it not being well attended. Donita Ascheman of Holloway stated that on the day of the Moratorium Public Hearing that the room was full and that there were more citizens at that meeting. Pat Ascheman of Holloway stated that in his contract the decommissioning is included and they have to buy a bond big enough to decommission them 30, 40, 50 years from now and the State of Minnesota requires it. Albert Jongewaard with APEX Clean Energy introduced himself and stated that it will be a couple of years before any ground is broken and there are many requirements for decommissioning. Grant Ascheman of Holloway stated that his concern is for the future of Swift County. After doing some research with the US Census Data it shows that Swift County is one of the poorest counties by median household income in the state of Minnesota. Grant Ascheman does not want to see a Moratorium in place to stop any development or income in Swift County and he hopes to be working in Swift County for many years to come. Denise Mahoney of Appleton stated there may be more income for the county from these Wind Turbines but with that, she also stated most people get more money you spend more money so the margin is still going to be the same, and that you're not going to have more money you're just going to spend more money.

Chairman P. Peterson ended the citizen comments.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner Rudningen seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- Consider approving the July 2, 2024, board minutes.
- Consider approving Amendment of Lease PS0326 with State of MN.
- Appointments to the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC).

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner Mahoney, seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Warrants are as follows:

220,528.27	County General Revenue
25,092.82	Solid Waste Fund
38,192.63	County Road & Bridge
200,000.00	Revolving Loan Fund - MIF
109,319.38	Debt Service
4,546.00	County Ditches Fund
436.00	County health insurance

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	5,706.58
Ascheman Oil	23,373.05
Dooley Petroleum, Inc.	2,599.53
Dude's Tiling LLC	3,446.00
Enforcement Lighting, LLC	21,720.00
KLJ Engineering LLC	26,174.42
Lincoln National Corporation	3,050.97
Northland Trust Services	109,319.38
O'Malley & Kron Land Surveyors Inc	45,420.83

Pflipsen Trucking LLC	13,529.07
Pictometry International Corp	25,106.66
Powerplan	2,289.16
Prairie Five Rides	3,500.00
Quinton Bohlman & Bohlman Ag. Service	15,956.33
Renville County Sheriff's Dept	2,265.46
SeaChange Printing & Marketing Services	7,177.41
Southside Body Shop & Glass	4,197.52
Sun Life Financial-246468	2,146.86
Swift County DAC	2,132.16
Swift County HRA	200,000.00
Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	2,681.82
Waste Management Of WI-MN	8,107.94
Whitmore Inc.	2,010.00
Wideth Smith Nolting & Assoc Inc	21,537.95
Ziegler Inc.	5,585.75
83 Payments less than 2000	39,080.25
Final Total:	598,115.10

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner Rudningen seconded to approve the Commissioner Warrants, and the Auditor Warrants paid on 7/10/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Melissa Streich and Dawn Hegland with Upper MN Valley RDC Prairie Waters provided the board with an update on the 2024 projects.

Environmental Service Director Scott Collins informed the board the plans for the building bid were not complete. He presented to the board an update on the Wind and Solar Energy Ordinance. There was a lengthy discussion and the board advised that before any motions are made the Planning and Zoning Committee needs to work together and update the Wind and Solar Ordinance. Collins stated that five of the seven committee members on Planning and Zoning don't want anything to do with the Wind and Solar issues. The board discussed separating the two ordinances.

Commissioner Rudningen made a motion to create a Wind and Solar Committee that consists of two members from the Planning and Zoning Committee, two Commissioners, two members at large, Parks, Drainage, and Wetland Supervisor Kody Fossum, Environmental Service Director Scott Collins, Administrator Tesa Tomaschett, and Assistant County Attorney Frank Gustafson. Commissioner Hendrickx seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Auditor-Treasurer Katie Foley told the board that \$24,722 was received from Refuge Revenue Sharing for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These funds are given to counties that have National Wildlife Refuge Lands. Foley proposes to allocate the funds to the Parks and Drainage Department to help fund with another agenda item - WiDSETH Master PlaA Design for the Swift Falls Park and other projects throughout the county.

Commissioner Mahoney asked if these funds were unexpected and Foley informed him that the county has been receiving them annually but they have been putting it to PILT at this point and the county can place the funds where it is desired. Commissioner E. Pederson stated that it makes sense that the funds have been going into PILT and asked why the change. Foley stated that she personally feels that the county has Wildlife Refuge Land within the county with Parks and Drainage and it should be placed back towards that.

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner P. Peterson seconded to dedicate the funds to the Parks and Drainage Department. There was a brief discussion.

Commissioner Hendrickx motioned to table it for one month until the August 20, 2024 board meeting-to collect more information on other options to divide the funds to. Commissioner Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Foley presented the Quarterly Financial Report to the board.

Parks, Drainage, and Wetland Supervisor Kody Fossum requested approval from the board to set the Redetermination of Benefits Prepayment Timeline.

Joe Dieter asked if he could make a public comment at this time. Chairman P. Peterson said that it was closed. Dieter said

this affects him. Chairman P. Peterson said it was fine to make his public comment. Dieter stated that the wording for the item (d.) Consider setting the Redetermination of Benefits Prepayment timeline was misleading and should be renamed to Consider setting the Redetermination of the Downstream Outlet Tax Repayment Timeline. He stated that it is a boondoggle and money-grab scam.

Fossum stated everything is in and the billing is done. Fossum spoke with Treasurer-Auditor Foley and Financial Technician Alyssa Kurkosky about deadlines and items that are coming up for the Auditor-Treasurers Office to be respectful of the timeline of their responsibilities as well. Foley and Fossum's recommendation, the mailing date would be August 2, 2024, and that would set August 16, 2024, as a start date for accepting payments for the Redetermination of Benefits with an ending date for payments on December 13, 2024. Fossum stated that in 2025 will be the new benefits roll that was accepted and the appeal window has closed and passed by legal. The total was \$1,023,051.16 between the viewers, legal, Huston Engineering, and publications. The total for the payment to easement with the buffer and the 16 ½ foot rod was \$2,950,885.86 which is paid back to land owners that are on the public open bottom not private for their penalty of being stricken of farming that one-rod strip. The grand total comes to \$3,973,937.02. Fossum mentioned that Auditor-Treasurer Foley suggested having an Admin Fee of 2% that Admin Fee would be put into an account to be charged for the Auditor Treasurer's Office so when their time is used for balancing the account for this and if there are any lean records then the lean is taken off the purchase price or then new owner consumes it. The fee would be applied to anyone who does not prepay. Foley mentioned the reasoning is that there is more that goes into that is extra work for that department.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve the timeline set for the Redetermination of Benefits Prepayment Timeline. The motion carried unanimously.

Fossum requested approval WiDSETH Master Plan Design for Swift Falls Park.

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to approve of the Swift Falls Park Master Plan and to fund the \$10,500 out of the General Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Tyler Baumchen requested approval to purchase a 3-axle trailer. The three bids came in as, Towmaster \$70,530.00 with a 60-week delivery time, Felling \$59,612.96 with a 55-week delivery time, and Behnke \$45,875.30 with a 16-week delivery time. Baumchen suggested going with the lowest bidder Behnke for \$45,875.30.

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded to approve going with Behnke with the sale price of \$45,875.30. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahoney reported on the Enhancing the Organization meeting. Commissioner E. Pederson reported on SWCD, Adult Mental Health, and HRA- RDA meetings, and the passing of former Commissioner Hanson. Chairman P. Peterson reported on the Countryside Public Health and Policy Committee meeting. Commissioner Hendrickx reported on 6W Corrections and Building Committee Meeting. Commissioner Rudningen reported on 6W Corrections, ETO, Well-Being, Building Committee, Policy meetings, and Prairie Lake Youth had a building struck by lightning and started on fire. All staff and children were safe.

Administrator Tomas chett reported on the Building Committee, Courthouse Tour with Discovery Kids, E911 sign installment, and the Employee Picnic.

There was no other business.

Chairman P. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 11:16 AM.

WITNESSED:
P. Peterson, Board Chair

ATTEST:
Tesa Tomaschett, County Administrator
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