

**SWIFT COUNTY REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 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, Parks, Drainage, Wetlands Supervisor Kody Fossum, Environmental Service Director Scott Collins, Trista Nelson, and members of the public.

Citizen comments Tim Nagler was the designated spokesperson for several members of the public to address the board about concerns on the Wind and Solar Energy topic and is requesting a Renewable Energy Moratorium. Tim asked to be put on the agenda for today. Commissioner Rudningen responded to the citizens letting them know that due to the open meeting law and this being such a controversial issue and putting the board in a hard position, he feels it would be best not to have it on the agenda for today and add it to a future meeting agenda to give all citizens and parties involve an opportunity to be present. Chairman P. Peterson agreed. Administrator Tomaschett asked if they have to do another public hearing notice if they are looking into doing another moratorium. Commissioner Mahoney disagreed and believed that this was testimony that there is enough to not hold another hearing. Administrator Tomaschett suggested having the County Attorney advise them on how to handle the issue. Mahoney wants to add it to the agenda. Commissioner Hendrickx asked what the difference is if it is put on the agenda today or next agenda and Mahoney responded that it is a time-sensitive reason.

There were no other citizen comments.

Chairman P. Peterson added the Human Service Workshop after Other Business on the agenda. Commissioner Mahoney requested having a discussion on the Wind Moratorium on the agenda on Regular Agenda before item (b) making agenda item (a1).

Commissioner Mahoney moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the Human Service Workshop after other business and adding item (a1) Discussion on the Wind Moratorium to the regular agenda. The motion failed with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner's Rudningen and Hendrickx, and Chairman P. Peterson voting against it.

Commissioner Hendrickx moved, and Commissioner E. Pederson seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the Human Service Workshop after other business. The motion carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Mahoney voting against.

- Consider approving the September 17, 2024, board minutes.
- Revised Human Services Policy 1.310 Federal Information Security.
- Approval of Visitor and Security Policy number 512

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

Commissioner Warrants are as follows:

230,794.41 County General Revenue

30,836.68
692,844.21
500.00
1033.20
1639.50

Solid Waste Fund
County Road & Bridge
County Ditches Fund
County health insurance
State Fund

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ascherman Oil	2,741.14
Bouwman/Barry	2,000.00
City Of Appleton	20,000.00
Duininck Inc	683,028.53
Gerald Swenson & Bonnema Excavating	13,415.00
Geyer Recycling	6,800.00
John Deere Financial	4,128.32
LEGACY PRINTWEAR	3,469.50
NEOGOV	11,942.93
Prairie Playhouse Childcare	14,285.00
Renville County Sheriff's Dept	2,339.96
SeaChange Printing & Marketing Services	2,501.55
Thomas J. Nolan, Jr.	3,740.00
Treasurer, City of Holloway	10,698.00
VanHeuveln/Kirby	148,250.00
Waste Management Of WI-MN	9,974.48
45 Payments less than 2000	18,333.59
Final Total:	957,648.00

Commissioner E. Pederson moved, and Commissioner Rudningen seconded to approve the Commissioner warrants and the Auditor Warrants Paid on 9/23/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Parks, Drainage, and Wetland Supervisor Kody Fossum requested approval for the 2025 County Ditch Levy for \$1,155,000.00.

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner Hendrickx seconded to approve the 2025 County Ditch Levy of \$1,155,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Service Director Scott Collins presented to the board for discussion of pesticides and herbicide container recycling and that the county no longer does the container collection anymore, it has been 10 years if not longer since they had. Back in the day, they received thousands of them and it was time-consuming and dangerous and not efficient. The county went away from it because the new rules came out that the dealers are responsible for container collection. Collins said it was brought to his attention that these containers a more than likely being burnt and the county does not want that to continue. Collins visited with Stevens County and they had their container collection in August he was told it was the smoothest collection they have had in history and they figured they did roughly 10,000 containers. A packer garbage truck comes up from Iowa that they are contracted through to take care of these containers. Collins said Swift County would have to provide a neutral location and provide our site for that and Collin's time to coordinate the truck. Commissioner Rudningen mentioned that there should be more than one Swift County site available to make it more convenient for farmers to want to dispose of their containers. Collins said that the dealers are to pay for the cost and the county has time put into it.

Commissioners agreed that they would like Collins to go ahead with the pesticides and herbicide container collection and research it further.

Chairman P. Peterson moved on to the Commissioner Board Reports before Doug Host with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP arrived to the board meeting.

Commissioner Mahoney reported on the Woodland Centers, Chippewa River Water Shed, Renewable Energy, and ARPA meetings. Commissioner E. Pederson reported on the DAC, CPT, ARPA, Historical Society, RDA and HRA meetings. Commissioner Rudningen reported on the Prairie Lake Youth Program, Central MN Emergency Service Radio Board, Renewable Energy meetings, and Benson Hospital Presentation. Thank you to Administrator Tomaschett and County Engineer Baumchen for meeting with KMS Elementary Principal Keil about the safe routes to school. Commissioner Hendricks reported on 6W Correction, Woodland Centers, and the RDC meeting. Chairman P. Peterson reported on Countryside Public Health, HRA/RDA, and Prairie Five meetings.

Administrator Tomaschett reported on the ARPA, Renewable Energy, MCIT, MACA Conference, and KMS Elementary Safe Routes to School. Tomaschett requested a potential work session to discuss more on a Cannabis Ordinance, Committee Expectations, and the 2025 Budget. The commissioners agreed to have a work session after the regular board meeting on November 5, 2024.

Commissioner Mahoney requested that the Discussion of the Renewable Energy Moratorium be added to the October 15, 2024 agenda.

The board recessed at 10:33 AM.

The board reconvened at 10:50 AM.

Doug Host and Becca Nielsen with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented to the board the 2023 Audit Report. Host stated there were no difficulties with management, there were no difficulties performing the Audit, commenting the process was smoother than previous years. Financially Swift County ended 2023 with healthy fund balance levels. Swift County's Revenues were \$30,027,484 and Expenditures were \$33,934,723 for the year. The Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$3,907,239 after transfers, issuance of loans, and proceeds from sale of assets. General Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$849,567 and overall General Fund Balance increase from 2022 was \$139,696. General Fund Balance is above more than five months of expenditures. There was a lengthy discussion about the Audit.

Commissioner Rudningen moved, and Commissioner Mahoney second to approve the 2023 Audit Report. The motion carried unanimously.

The board recessed at 11:24 AM for the Health and Human Service Work Session.

The board reconvened at 1:12 PM.

Chairman P. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM

WITNESSED:
P. Peterson, Board Chair

ATTEST:
Tesa Tomaschett, County Administrator
(Published 10-23-24 in The Appleton Press)