

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
November 5th, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024. Members present: Commissioners Forman, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Forman offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 24-289
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 October 15th, 2024 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Drainage Repairs

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Under Miscellaneous business the following items were discussed.

Rick Kroll, Fixed Wireless Optimization Manager at Midco presented to the Commissioners regarding fiber-based Wi-Fi.

The request to consider a resolution to approve the Joint Agreement between Freeborn County and Albert Lea Housing and Redevelopment Authority was discussed.

Commissioner Shoff entered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 24-290
Minnesota Housing - Minnesota City Participation Program Joint Powers Agreement

The Albert Lea Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) enters into this Joint Powers Agreement with Freeborn County to administer the Minnesota Housing Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) for Freeborn County for the 2025 MCP year.

The HRA agrees to coordinate program requests for 2025 under the Minnesota Cities Participation Program for Freeborn County.

In order for loans to meet the program requirements, the following criteria must be met:

- The borrower is a first-time homebuyer loan using the Start Up program.
- The borrower's income is below 80% of the area median income.
- The property is located in Freeborn County.

The HRA will forward program reports on loan activity to the county administrator.
The HRA will promote the program throughout the community using marketing information provided by Minnesota Housing.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Forman.
After discussion Commissioner Eckstrom motioned to table Resolution 24-290 Minnesota Housing – Minnesota City Participation Program Joint Powers Agreement

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

MOVED, to resolution 24-290 Minnesota Housing – Minnesota City Participation Program Joint Powers Agreement

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

**RESOLUTION 24-291
CONTRACT AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
OF REAL PROPERTY CHANGES WITH VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County hereby enters into an Agreement with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. (“VAI”) for the assistance of new construction commercial property valuations for the assessment date of January 1, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, VAI will perform the contract specifications identified in the contract attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Freeborn County Assessor or the acting Department Head of the Assessor’s Department shall obtain and provide updates to the Board as to the progress of the project.

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

Commissioner Forman offered the following resolution;

**RESOLUTION 24-292
Resolution to approve 2025 MN Department of Human Services – County
Children’s Mental Health Screening Grant Contract.**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services has the authority to enter into contracts in order to ensure mental health screenings, assessments, and referrals for diagnostic assessment and/or treatment for children within the child welfare and juvenile justice populations (prioritizing funds for uninsured and underinsured children); and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County provides mental health screenings to identify children at risk of needing or who need mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is able to contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the provision of mental health assessments, skills and specialized family therapy services; and

WHEREAS, the services provided are available to meet the needs of children and youth within the child welfare and juvenile justice populations in Freeborn County; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MN Department of Human Services – County Children’s Mental Health Screening Grant Contract 2025 be approved.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-293

Resolution to approve addendum to the 2024 Purchase of Service Agreement for Psychiatry Services between the SCCBI and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services

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 mission of the SCCBI is to facilitate each mental health consumer’s recovery by improving their quality of life, by assisting them to assume increased responsibility over their lives, and to help them function as actively and independently as possible in the community; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI is awarded grants from the State of Minnesota for the provision of psychiatric services within the 10-counties comprising the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI purchases mental health services in the form of psychiatric urgent care, psychiatric medication management services and administration of these services from the Freeborn County Mental Health Center with specified grant dollars from the State of Minnesota in order to fulfill the mission; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Mental Health Center provided psychiatry services in excess of anticipated performance for contract period 10/1/2023-9/30/2024; and

WHEREAS, another mental health clinic in the region was not able to meet anticipated service goals due to provider transition, resulting in additional funds available for distribution for contract period 10/1/2023-9/30/2024; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that an addendum is approved for the 2024 Purchase of Service Agreement between the South-Central Community-Based Initiative and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services for provision of the psychiatric services to residents of Freeborn County and of counties comprising the SCCBI.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-294

Resolution to approve the 2025 Purchase of Service Agreement for Psychiatry Services between the South-Central Community-Based Initiative and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services/Freeborn County Mental Health Center

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 mission of the SCCBI is to facilitate each mental health consumer’s recovery by improving their quality of life, by assisting them to assume increased responsibility over their lives, and to help them function as actively and independently as possible in the community; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI has been awarded a grant allocation from the State of Minnesota for the provision of psychiatric services within the 10-counties comprising the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI purchases mental health services in the form of psychiatric urgent care, psychiatric medication management services and administration of these services from the Freeborn County Mental Health Center with specified grant dollars from the State of Minnesota in order to fulfill the mission; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2025 Purchase of Service Agreement between the South-Central Community-Based Initiative and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services for provision of the psychiatric services identified in the agreement to residents of Freeborn County and of counties comprising the SCCBI

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Forman.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-295

***Resolution to approve 2025-2026 Community Support Program:
MN Department of Human Services – County Grant Contract***

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, in accordance with the “Minnesota Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Act,” has the authority to enter into contracts to create and ensure a unified, accountable, and comprehensive adult mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is able and wishes to contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the provision of mandated Adult Mental Health Services and Community Support Programming; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services provides Case Management to adults with serious and persistent mental illness and Community Support Programming that promotes safety, integrity, health and personal and cultural strengths while allowing consumers to make individual choices to develop meaningful relationships through positive interaction with others; and

WHEREAS, services provided are available to meet the needs of adults with serious and persistent mental illness within Freeborn County; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2025-2026 MN Department of Human Services – County Grant Contract for Community Support Program services and funding be approved.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Forman.

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

Suzi Nerison, Department of Human Services, presented to the Commissioners regarding Melissa Hernandez, Child Protection Investigator receiving the Civilian Partner of the Year award in October at the annual MNSCIA Conference.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-296

Resolution to accept a donation from Round Prairie Lutheran Church

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services child protection unit serves children who have been victims of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, there are instances when ensuring safety of a child requires temporary placement of the child with a relative or in a non-relative foster home; and

WHEREAS, placement out-of-home is a traumatic event for children and youth of all ages, regardless of the setting; and

WHEREAS, children sometimes enter out-of-home care without basic comfort items such as books, blankets, personal hygiene items, stuffed animals and others

miscellaneous items; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services Child Protection Unit has received a donation of 10 handmade quilts for children entering out-of-home care; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County accepts the donations to the Department of Human Services Child Protection Unit to be distributed to children and youth placed in out-of-home settings.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-297
Authorizing Final Payment of CP 023-FRG-996

WHEREAS the Freeborn County Public Works Director has the responsibility of maintaining various facilities and assets owned by the county; and

WHEREAS Freeborn County approved the construction of a restroom and shade structure at the fairgrounds with cooperation and cost participation with the Freeborn County Agricultural Society; and

WHEREAS APX Construction Group LLC of Mankato, MN, has completed the project in a satisfactory manner and fulfilled the construction contract.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to make final payment for CP 023-FRG-996 in the amount of \$4,954.63.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Forman.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution approved.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-298
Declaring the Existence and Sale of Surplus County Property

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has an inventory of property; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has established a rotation schedule for each unit in inventory that includes replacement based on a variety of factors including age, hours/mileage, use, condition, and needed functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Freeborn County has determined that a portion of the existing inventory has completed the rotation schedule and is considered to be surplus; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners consider the following property as surplus and authorize the sale of the following surplus property using an online competitive auction provided by the State of Minnesota called MinnBid:

2017 GMC Sierra #1760
2018 GMC Sierra #1868
2015 Chevrolet Equinox #3501
Backup Generator from Highway Shop
Truck Bed Tool Box
Running Boards for pickups (2 sets)

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

Commissioner Forman offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-299
Authorizing Final Payment of CP 024-M-002

IT IS RESOLVED that the Freeborn County Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining the county road system;

BE IT RESOLVED that the work to furnish and apply road striping performed by KAMCO Inc of Dassel, MN, CP 024-M-002 has been completed in a satisfactory manner.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to make final payment in the amount of \$195,310.29.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans
Resolution 24-300

WHEREAS, the residents of Freeborn County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Freeborn County hereby declares from November 4th through Veterans Day, November 11th 2024 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Freeborn County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve

freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th,

2024.

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

Commissioner Forman offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 24-301
Contracting for Actuarial Services

Whereas, the auditing firm decided that the County needed Actuarial services to estimate their Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for the County Financial Statements

Whereas, the finance manager reached put to the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and was informed that yes, the County needed an Actuarial Study because the County has over 100 Employees

Whereas, the finance manager reached out to the Auditors for a recommendation of an Actuarial Firm to contract with for this service.

RESOLVED, giving the finance manager the Authority to sign a contract for this Actuarial service with USI consulting group.

Not Budgeted, Cost: \$5,700 for 2024 \$1,200 for 2025

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, to accept the resignation of Cody Fox, Ditch Inspector, effective December 31st, 2024.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, to fill the vacant Freeborn County Ditch Inspector position

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

Commissioner Forman offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, to approve Kelly Hendrickson, Auditor-Treasurer as the Interim Supervisor of the Assessor's Office.

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners went into recess at approximately 9:10 a.m. until their closed session at 9:30 a.m.

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners will now go into closed session to consider pending litigation as permitted by attorney-client privilege pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.05, subd. 3(b).

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners returned from the closed session at approximately 10:22 a.m. and upon returning it has been decided through discussion with the Attorney that the Board will reject the settlement offer that was put before them.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 24-305
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before November 8th, 2024.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 1,017,276.45
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 523,970.46
05	Human Services	\$ 385,203.11
06	Public Health	\$ 156,126.73
31	Capital Improvement	\$ 3,040.00
40	County Ditch	\$ 218,420.45
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 91,461.02
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 28,642.16
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 25,599.12
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 3,755.00
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 2,453,494.50

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 259

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$26,268.40

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion, a vote was taken and Commissioners Shoff, Kaasa, Eckstrom, and Forman voted yay, and Commissioner Edwin abstained from the vote. The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk