

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
February 18th 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, and Eckstrom. Commissioner Shoff was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda with the following update; Under Report of Auditor-Treasurer, to remove the resolution to set a public hearing for County Ditch 32; this will be brought to the Board in March.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 25-061
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 February 4th, 2025 minutes; and
- 2) Approval of the February 11th, 2025 Special Meeting minutes

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 25-062
Appointments to the Freeborn County Extension Services Advisory Board
WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioner has the authority to appoint members of the community to the Freeborn County Extension Services Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, there are currently two (2) openings for Extension Services Advisory Board members for terms of three (3) years each; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received two (2) letters of interest for these open terms;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Leiha Colby and Gordy Toenges to the Freeborn County Extension Services Advisory Board for the terms beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

**RESOLUTION 25-063
RESOLUTION APPROVING TOBACCO LICENSES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County grants tobacco licenses to the following applicants:

Hollandale Three in One Bar & Restaurant, Hollandale
Staples Enterprises, Inc, d/b/a ExpressWay-Alden, Alden
Freeborn County Co-op Oil, Inc. Alden
United Fuels Midwest LLC d/b/a Woah-n-Go Speedway Manchester Township
Dhillon Enterprise, LLC d/b/a Clarks Grove Market Clarks Grove

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

**FREEBORN COUNTY MINNESOTA RESOLUTION #25-064
A Resolution Appointing Members To The Freeborn County Planning Commission Pursuant To The Code
Of Ordinances Of Freeborn County, Minnesota, Chapter 42**

RESOLVED, that the following named person be and is hereby appointed to the Freeborn County Planning Commission Board for a first term ending December 31, 2027:

Daniel Otten 80612 200th Street, Hayward, MN 56043

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION No. 25-065
Consider a resolution to set a public hearing for the adoption of Freeborn County's Cannabis Registration
Ordinance**

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

**FREEBORN COUNTY MINNESOTA RESOLUTION #25-066
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ORDINANCE
TO ENACT CANNABIS ZONING REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the County of Freeborn, State of Minnesota ("the County") is a statutory county duly organized and existing under Article XII of the Minnesota Constitution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute (M.S.) Chapter 394 and specifically § 394.21, the County has the power and authority to conduct and implement planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, at their August 15th, 2023 meeting, directed the County staff and the Freeborn County Planning Commission to draft a Cannabis Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Planning Commission, at their November 11th, 2024 and December 2nd, 2024 meetings, held a public hearing on the Cannabis Zoning Ordinance and made a recommendation for approval of a Cannabis Zoning Ordinance to the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance addresses and meets the minimum requirements as proscribed by M.S. Chapter 342 for regulating cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and retail; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance is hereby to be incorporated into the Freeborn County Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 42), ("the Zoning Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the County hereby finds and determines that the ordinance is necessary to promote the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of the County, including the terms and regulations herein.

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 24-067

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SOLAR AGREEMENT WITH APEX FACILITY SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Board of Commissioners have evaluated the feasibility and financial benefits of installing a solar array on the roof tops of select County owned buildings; and

WHEREAS, APEX Facility Solutions has provided the data necessary to make the evaluation and has guaranteed system performance as well as utility savings and would serve as the project engineer and project manager for the project; and

WHEREAS, the project could begin in the spring of 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approve an agreement with Apex Facility solutions to install solar panels on Freeborn County Government Center, Department of Human Services, Albert Lea Highway Shop, and Environmental services.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioners Severson and Eckstrom voting yay, Commissioners Kaasa and Edwin voting nay, and Commissioner Shoff absent from the vote, the resolution failed.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 25-068

Approving the 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-069

PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST, SR 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, Emmylou Allen, Freeborn County Accounting Specialist, Sr. has accepted a new position as the Accounting Supervisor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Accounting Specialist, Sr. position.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-070

PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY APPRAISER 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, Anna Reese, Freeborn County Appraiser has accepted a new position as the Assessment Technician;

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

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 25-071

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, Miles Hurley, Freeborn County Detention Deputy has accepted a new position as an Eligibility Worker;

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

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-072

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF GARRETT EVERETT

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office 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; Garrett Everett has been employed as a Freeborn County Patrol Deputy since August 14th, 2023 and is resigning his position effective February 7th, 2025,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Garrett Everett as a Freeborn County Patrol Deputy effective on or about February 7th, 2025.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-073

PERMISSION TO FILL THE FREEBORN COUNTY PATROL 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, Garrett Everett, Freeborn County Patrol Deputy has resigned his position effective February 7th, 2025;

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

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, approving the contract with John Heeren, County Ditch Inspector, Resolution 25-074

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, approving the Employee Contract for Melanie Aeschliman, County Administrator; Resolution 25-075

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 No. 25-076

Approving and Authorizing the Placement of, and assuming all responsibility, safety and display of American Legion Riders Freedom Rock

WHEREAS, Freeborn County as created on February 20, 1855 by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has a long and distinguished history of our citizens serving in all branches of the United States Armed Forces, and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, in collaboration with the Freeborn County Veterans Service Office and several community members dedicated the Freeborn County Veterans' Memorial in honor of all those who have served, and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners strongly believes that the addition of a Freedom Rock will enhance and enrich the current Veterans Memorial, and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to assuming all responsibility and required upkeep, safety and display of a Freedom Rock, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approve, authorize, and assume all responsibility, safety and display of American Legion Riders Freedom Rock at completion of this project in 2024.

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:

RESOLUTION No. 25-077
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before February 21st, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 711,459.66
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 148,958.17
05	Human Services	\$ 190,981.66
06	Public Health	\$ 71,619.41
40	County Ditch	\$ 29,030.95
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 81,381.38
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 24,188.20
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 2,267.50
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 3,702.00
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 3,595.39
80	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 710.00
	FUND TOTALS	\$1,267,894.32

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 51

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$7,393.18

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk