

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
April 1st, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1st, 2025. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Severson offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda with the following addition under Report of the Sheriff; discussion and update on the Spearmint Energy Battery Storage Facility.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 25-119
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 March 13th, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approve of the March 18th, 2025 minutes;
- 3) Approval of Drainage Repairs

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Tracy Skaar, Joshua Chavez and Amy Gonzalez presented on behalf of Arevon, regarding the Hayward Solar Project.

Jacob Gross, on behalf of U.S. Fish & Wildlife presented on a habitat easement in Carlston Township, Section 36. This easement was certified by the Board Chair.

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 25-120
Certification of the County Board of Commissioners of T103B R23W 5th PM
Section 36: Parts of SESW4, to be determined by survey

Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service met with the Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County, State of Minnesota, on April 1st, 2025, and information the Commissioners that a Grant of Easement for Wildlife Habitat Protection has been secured from Gerald and Paula Merkouris.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 25-121

**RESOLUTION GRANTING LIQUOR LICENSE
TO FREEBORN LAKE GOLF COURSE**

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

Freeborn Lake Golf Course in Carlston Township - On Sale - 3.2 Beer License

Freeborn Lake Golf Course in Carlston Township – On Sale Wine License

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-122

Low Income SSTS Cost Share

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received a State approved and locally adopted Comprehensive Water Plan; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received a State approved and locally adopted the Cedar Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, the Shell Rock Winnebago Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, and the Le Sueur River Comprehensive Watershed Management plan; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has a State approved and locally adopted Sanitary Sewage Treatment System Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has identified a need to provide financial incentive to low income families for the replacement of non-compliant sewer systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Environmental Health Coordinator and Director of Environmental Services decision-making authority of low income SSTS cost share funding.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 25-123

Agreement between Freeborn County and Shell Rock River Watershed District for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid Funds

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Chairman Edwin asked if there was any public comment and John Kolb addressed the Board regarding receiving a decision in the Fjmerstad case. It was determined that the County did not have an interest in the easement that was subject to the lawsuit. John Kolb and the Board came to the decision to hold a Closed Session on April 8th, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. regarding Attorney-Client Privilege.

At approximately 9:01 a.m. Chairman Edwin opened the Public Hearing regarding County Ditch 32

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FREEBORN COUNTY DITCH
32

The matter of the petition for the improvement of
Freeborn County Ditch 32

Agenda for Preliminary Hearing

1. Opening of Preliminary Hearing – *Board Chairperson*
2. Examination of Petition – *John Kolb; Rinke Noonan, Ltd.*
3. Record of Notice Requirements – *County Staff*
4. Public Reading of DNR Advisory Report on the Preliminary Plan
5. Engineer’s Preliminary Report – *Steve Penkava; Jones, Haugh & Smith*
6. Discussion of Concurrent Redetermination of Benefits – *John Kolb, Steve Penkava, County Staff*
7. Public Comment and Questions - Dan Donnelly Petitioner’s Attorney
8. Board Deliberations
9. Decision of the Drainage Authority

a. Dismissal:

If the drainage authority determines that: (1) the proposed drainage project is not feasible; (2) the adverse environmental impact is greater than the public benefit and utility after considering the environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria in section 103E.015, subdivision 1, and the engineer has not reported a plan to make the proposed drainage project feasible and acceptable;
(3) the proposed drainage project is not of public benefit or utility; or (4) the outlet is not adequate.

b. Return to Engineer for more analysis:

This will only occur if changes are necessary to the project, as described in the petition and preliminary survey report, that cannot be described easily by the drainage authority in general terms or by filing a map that outlines the changes. Changes may include the alignment; cross-section; profile; hydraulic structure

locations, materials, dimensions, and elevations; or right-of-way of the drainage system improvement or changes necessary to minimize or mitigate adverse impact on the environment.

c. Order Preparation of Detailed Survey Report.

The Drainage Authority shall state, by order, its findings and any changes that must be made in the proposed drainage project from those outlined in the petition, including changes necessary to minimize or mitigate adverse impact on the environment, if it determines that: (1) the proposed drainage project outlined in the petition, or modified and recommended by the engineer, is feasible; (2) there is necessity for the proposed drainage project; (3) the proposed drainage project will be of public benefit and promote the public health, after considering the environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria in section 103E.015, subdivision 1; and (4) the outlet is adequate.

d. Appointment of Viewers for Improvement Benefits.

If the order for a detailed survey is made, the Drainage Authority shall, by order, appoint viewers consisting of three disinterested residents of the state qualified to assess benefits and damages.

e. Initiation of Redetermination of Benefits/Appointment of Viewers.

If the drainage authority determines that the benefits or damages of record determined in a drainage proceeding do not reflect reasonable present-day land values or that the benefited or damaged areas have changed, the drainage authority may appoint three viewers to redetermine and report the benefits and damages and the benefited and damaged areas.

10. Adjournment or Continuance

At approximately 10:00 a.m. the Board Chair closed the Public Hearing on County Ditch 32

Commissioner Severson offered the following motion:

MOVED, approving the Preliminary Hearing Order & Findings

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

MOVED, approving the Redetermination of Benefits

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Suzi Nerison, Human Services presented on the appreciation of the Adult Mental Health

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY MINNESOTA RESOLUTION # 25-124

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE EXISTENCE AND SALE OF SURPLUS COUNTY PROPERTY

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has an inventory of property.

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has established a rotation schedule for a portion of the existing inventory of property

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Freeborn County, by and through its Board of Commissioners consider the following property as surplus and authorize the sale of the following surplus property:

2019 Chevrolet Tahoe: VIN 1GNSKDEC1KR324481

2020 Ford Explorer: VIN 1C4SDJFT2MC696059

2021 Dodge Durango: VIN 1FM5K8AB1LGB22839

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

There was a discussion and update on the Spearmint Battery Storage

Sheriff Ryan Shea also introduction the new Emergency Management Director, Adam Hamberg.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-125

RESOLUTION APPOINTING INTERIM DEPUTY REGISTRAR

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners has accepted the resignation of Brenda Jensen as Freeborn County Deputy Registrar effective April 11, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners affirmed the appointment of Megan Reule as Interim Deputy Registrar on April 1, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County needs to have a Deputy Registrar of Vehicles in order to continue the operation of the License Center,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Megan Reule as Interim Deputy Registrar of Vehicles (hereinafter “Interim Deputy Registrar”) for the State of Minnesota under the authority of Minnesota Statutes § 168.33 or in accordance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7406.

This appointment confirms the duties and responsibilities are conferred as of April 11, 2025 and shall be effective upon execution of an agreement between the Registrar of Motor Vehicles Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, State of Minnesota, the Director of Driver and Vehicle Services and Megan Reule Interim Deputy Registrar appointee.

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 approve the amended contract of the Interim County Assessor, to allow for additional hours, moving from 16 hours a week to as authorized by the County Administrator.

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. 25-127

Labor Negotiations – Public Safety Telecommunicators

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 25-128

Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before March 4th, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 751,202.75
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 106,015.82
05	Human Services	\$ 202,175.62
06	Public Health	\$ 76,413.71
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 121,996.11
40	County Ditch	\$ 29,840.60
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 10,470.82

73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 12,534.80
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 4,950.00
79	<u>Social Services Collaborative</u>	<u>\$ 84.92</u>
	FUND TOTALS	\$1,315,685.15

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 222

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$20,785.95

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 11:06 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk