

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday, June 17th, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting opened with a prepared statement written by the County Administrator, expressing our deepest and most heartfelt condolences following the tragic events that have shaken our state. We mourn the loss of Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband. In addition, our thoughts are with Minnesota State Senator Hoffman and his wife who were wounded in the same incident that took place in the cities. We as a Board stand in solidarity with our fellow elected officials and all those who continue to serve despite the risk in adversity. We condemn violence in all its forms and reaffirm our commitment to the democratic process and to the values of integrity, dialog and unity. Freeborn County joins the entire state in mourning, in prayer and resolve.

The Board chair also wanted to acknowledge the recent shooting that we had here with our own law enforcement. He would like to say that he is very proud of all of those that were part of that, from dispatch to patrol and every individual.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda with the following additions; to accept the resignation of Joshua Knudtson, Patrol Deputy, effective June 25th, 2025; and to fill the vacant Patrol Deputy position.

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. 25-190
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 June 3rd, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees;
- 3) Approval of Drainage Repairs

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-191

TITLE: APPROVAL OF ABATEMENT OVER \$10,000.00 - PEMBINA COCHIN, LLC

WHEREAS, written application by a representative of Pembina Cochin, LLC for the parcels identified on the attached Exhibit “A” was made pursuant to an appeal of value

WHEREAS, written application by a representative of Pembina Cochin, LLC for the parcels identified on the attached Exhibit “A” was made pursuant to an appeal of value;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §375.192 allows for reductions or abatements of valuation or taxes which have been erroneously or unjustly paid. The county board may consider and grant reductions or abatements on applications only as they relate to taxes payable in the current year and the two prior years; provided that reductions or abatements for the two prior years shall be considered or granted only for (i) clerical errors, or (ii) when the taxpayer fails to file for a reduction or an adjustment due to hardship, as determined by the county board;

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Abatement Policy states that Abatements of \$10,000.00 or more, will be brought before the County Board of Commissioners for majority vote;

WHEREAS, the minimum requirements of the aforementioned statutes have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. That the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Abatement in the total amount of \$21,064.00 for Property Taxes Payable in 2025 for the parcels identified in Exhibits “A”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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 - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-192

TITLE: APPROVAL OF ABATEMENT OVER \$10,000.00 - ALLIANCE PIPELINE, LP

WHEREAS, written application by a representative of Alliance Pipeline, LP for the parcels identified on the attached Exhibit “A” was made pursuant to an appeal of value

WHEREAS, written application by a representative of Alliance Pipeline, LP for the parcels identified on the attached Exhibit “A” was made pursuant to an appeal of value;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §375.192 allows for reductions or abatements of valuation or taxes which have been erroneously or unjustly paid. The county board may consider and grant reductions or abatements on applications only as they relate to taxes payable in the current year and the two prior years; provided that reductions or abatements for the two prior years shall be considered or granted only for (i) clerical errors, or (ii) when the taxpayer fails to file for a reduction or an adjustment due to hardship, as determined by the county board;

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Abatement Policy states that Abatements of \$10,000.00 or more, will be brought before the County Board of Commissioners for majority vote;

WHEREAS, the minimum requirements of the aforementioned statutes have been met

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. That the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Abatement in the total amount of \$48,760.00 for Property Taxes Payable in 2025 for the parcels identified in Exhibits “A”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-193

TITLE: FREEBORN COUNTY NOTICE TO WITHDRAWAL FROM GBERBA

WHEREAS the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners are a member of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.

WHEREAS, the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Joint Powers Agreement permits a member to withdraw through resolution, submitted by cover letter and sent via certified mail to the Board Chair and Chief Executive of each party of the agreement and to Board chair and Administrator of GBERBA with a six months’ notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The Board hereby submits a notice of withdrawal to the Board Chair and Chief Executive of each party of the agreement and to Board chair and Administrator of GBERBA, which authorizes the Notice of Withdrawal from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance by the 1st of July 2025, effective by the 31st of December, 2025.
2. The Board authorizes the County Environmental Health Coordinator to submit all necessary documents related to this decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-194

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 025-LINE-999

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining the county highway system; and,

WHEREAS, the work to clean and line specific culverts on various highways in Freeborn County as been completed in a satisfactory manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The Board authorizes the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer to make final payment in the amount of \$44,486.85.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-195

TITLE: Approve Cooperative Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for Improvements on SAP 024-648-005 on CSAH 48 (Margaretha Avenue) in Albert Lea

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining the county highway system; and,

WHEREAS, Freeborn County was the recipient of a Local Partnership Program grant to make pedestrian improvements at the intersection of CSAH 48 (Margaretha Avenue) and US Highway 65 in Albert Lea; and,

WHEREAS, the project became necessary due to the replacement of the railroad warning signals by Union Pacific and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT); and,

WHEREAS, the attached agreement sets forth the terms of the agreement and shall reimburse the County for eligible costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The Board shall enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 4059449 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation to provide for payment by the State to the County for the State's share of eligible project costs at Rail Crossing No. 876265X and other associated construction upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 65 and CSAH 48, between East 11th Street and Trunk Highway No. 65 within the corporate limits of the City of Albert Lea in Freeborn County under State project No. 5404-46.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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:

RESOLVED AS, approving the Joint Powers Agreement – Region One – Southeast Minnesota Homeland Security Emergency Management agreement

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 25-197

To Participate in the 2025 State of MN Performance Measurement Program

WHEREAS, Benefits to Freeborn County for participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's comprehensive performance measurement program are outlined in MS 6.91 and include eligibility for a reimbursement as set by State statute; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Local Results and Innovation developed a Performance Measurement Program that is voluntary for counties and cities to participate in; and

WHEREAS, Any county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program is also exempt from levy limits for taxes, if levy limits are in effect; and

WHEREAS, The County Board adopted and implemented at least 10 of the performance measures, as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and a system to use this information to help plan, budget, manage and evaluate programs and processes for optimal future outcomes; and

WHEREAS, The 10 performance measures are identified as: Part I and II Crime rates, Pavement Condition Rating, Tobacco and Alcohol use, Maltreatment of Children, Collection of Hazardous household waste and electronics, Workforce Participation rates, Bond rating, Level of assessment ratio, Debt service levy/debt per capita and Accuracy of Post-election Audit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Freeborn County will continue to report the results of the performance measures to its citizenry by the end of the year through posting on the county's website.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Freeborn County will submit to the Office of the State Auditor the actual results of the performance measures adopted by the county.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-198

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JOSHUA KNUDTSON

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; Joshua Knudtson has been employed as a Freeborn County Patrol Deputy since August 12th, 2024 and is resigning his position effective June 26th, 2025,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Joshua Knudtson as a Freeborn County Patrol Deputy effective on or about June 26th, 2025.

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 25-199

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, Joshua Knudtson, Freeborn County Patrol Deputy has resigned his position effective June 26th, 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 Shoff.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the resolution approved.

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, approving the contract agreement with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. for Commercial Reappraisal Services

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.
After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioners Severson, Kaasa, Eckstrom and Edwin voting yay, and Commissioner Shoff voting nay; the Chair declared the resolution approved.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 25-201
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before June 20th, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 454,171.48
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 1,401,903.00
05	Human Services	\$ 200,420.05
06	Public Health	\$ 75,334.03
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 383,588.18
40	County Ditch	\$ 26,852.35
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 99,478.98
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 9,997.80
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 5,078.00
79	Social Services Collab	\$ 41.39
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 2,656,865.26

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 51

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$6,574.16

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioners Severson, Kaasa, Eckstrom and Shoff voting yay;
Commissioner Edwin voting yay, but abstaining from the claims for Credit Bureau of Albert Lea; the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 1st, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk