

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
August 19th, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19th, 2025. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda with the following addition under Report of Public Works; to consider a resolution to approve a culvert replacement project.

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. 25–239
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 August 5th, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees;
- 3) Approval of Drainage Repairs
- 4) Informational – August Policy Review 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.

Doug Host – Clifton, Larson, Allen presented the Audit Report to the Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 25-240

TITLE: Consider a Resolution to Approve Agreement with CredibleMind Behavioral Health 360 License Agreement

WHEREAS, data from Freeborn County Public Health's Community Health Assessment has consistently identified mental health as the leading health priority for the past 14 years;

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Public Health seeks to partner with CredibleMind Behavioral Health 360 to provide a comprehensive digital platform designed to promote mental well-being, reduce stigma, and connect residents with

personalized resources. This platform offers on-demand, confidential self-assessments, paired with curated, evidence-based articles, videos, podcasts, and links to local support services. With 140 topics and more than 150,000 resources available, community members will have access to an extensive library of mental health information, supplemented by resources created by Freeborn County and its community partners. Available in both English and Spanish, CredagibleMind will help reach our Latino community as well as English-speaking residents. The platform is designed to complement clinical care and provides public health departments with anonymous, aggregated usage data to guide programming and funding decisions;

WHEREAS, our community faces a shortage of clinical providers, making equitable access to mental health support a critical priority. Investing in a tool like CredibleMind is not merely about adopting technology, it is about ensuring equity, expanding access, and providing timely support. By offering resources outside of traditional clinical settings, CredibleMind enables us to serve more people without adding strain to existing providers, while helping to normalize mental health conversations across all ages and demographics in Freeborn County;

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

1. The Board hereby authorizes the allocation of Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$11,400 for the one-year implementation of the CredibleMind Platform.

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

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 25-241

TITLE: Resolution to Accept a Grant Agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative for Community Health Worker

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Community Health Board to accept a grant agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to support the Community Health Worker position;

WHEREAS, in following Minnesota Statute 145A.04 (ii) promoting healthy communities and healthy behavior through activities that improve health in a population, such as investing in healthy families;

WHEREAS, this grant agreement provides Public Health funding to serve and support the Community Health Worker to provide support and health education for the Karen community and other cultural communities.

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

1. Approve the grant agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative.

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

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 NO. 25-242

TITLE: Resolution to Accept a Grant Agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative for Family Home Visiting

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Community Health Board accept a grant agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to provide Family Home Visiting services and support to at-risk pregnant women and children until preschool or Kindergarten entrance;

WHEREAS, in following Minnesota Statute 145A.04 (ii) promoting healthy communities and healthy behavior through activities that improve health in a population, such as investing in healthy families;

WHEREAS, this grant agreement provides Public Health funding to serve and support at-risk pregnant woman and children until preschool or Kindergarten entrance. The nationally recognized evidence-based Healthy Families America model and Growing Great Kids curriculum to provide intensive health, social and parenting support, including connecting them with community services. The grant is in the amount of \$100,000.

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

1. Approve the grant agreement with Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative.

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

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 25-243, Ratification of Tax Software Program – Avenu

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After a discussion the following Motion was offered by Commissioner Eckstrom:

MOVED, to table RESOLUTION No. 25-243, until the September 2nd, 2025 Board meeting after Commissioners requested more information regarding the ratification of Tax Software Program - Avenu

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:

TEMPORARY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 25-244

TITLE: A Temporary Interim Zoning Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers in Freeborn County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 394.34, authorizes a County to adopt as an emergency measure a temporary interim zoning ordinance if it is conducting studies or has authorized a study to be conducted, or has held or is scheduling a hearing for the purpose of considering the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan or official controls or an amendment, extension, or addition to either; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners (the "County Board") recognizes the rapid advancements and evolving nature of Data Center technology and their potential impacts on land use, public health, safety, and welfare within Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has identified a need to thoroughly study the unique characteristics, potential benefits, and potential risks associated with Data Centers, including, but not limited to, fire safety, environmental considerations (e.g., hazardous materials, water usage), noise, visual impacts, land use compatibility with existing agricultural and residential areas, decommissioning requirements, and emergency response protocols; and

WHEREAS, the current Freeborn County Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan may not adequately address the comprehensive regulation of Data Center facilities to ensure the long-term protection of County residents and resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Board intends in good faith to conduct detailed studies and develop appropriate official controls, including potential amendments to the Freeborn County Zoning Ordinance to establish clear and comprehensive regulation of Data Centers within a reasonable time; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to temporarily prohibit or restrict the establishment and expansion of Data Center facilities during this study period to prevent potential conflicts with future land use regulations, to protect the planning process, and to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of Freeborn County residents; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on July 7th, 2025, after due notice, to allow all interested parties an opportunity to provide input on the proposed interim ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that the following Temporary Interim Zoning Ordinance is adopted.

TEMPORARY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 25-244A

TITLE: A Temporary Interim Zoning Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Energy Storage Systems in Freeborn County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 394.34, authorizes a County to adopt as an emergency measure a temporary Interim Zoning Ordinance if it is conducting studies or has authorized a study to be conducted, or has held or is scheduling a hearing for the purpose of considering the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan or official controls or an amendment, extension, or addition to either; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners (the "County Board") recognizes the rapid advancements and evolving nature of Energy Storage Systems technology and their potential impacts on land use, public health, safety, and welfare within Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has identified a need to thoroughly study the unique characteristics, potential benefits, and potential risks associated with both Energy Storage Systems, including, but not limited to, fire safety, environmental considerations (e.g., hazardous materials, water usage), noise, visual impacts, land use compatibility with existing agricultural and residential areas, decommissioning requirements, and emergency response protocols; and

WHEREAS, the current Freeborn County Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan may not adequately address the comprehensive regulation of Energy Storage System facilities to ensure the long-term protection of County residents and resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Board intends in good faith to conduct detailed studies and develop appropriate official controls, including potential amendments to the Freeborn County Zoning Ordinance and Renewable Energy Systems Ordinances, to establish clear and comprehensive regulation of Energy Storage Systems within a reasonable time; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to temporarily prohibit or restrict the establishment and expansion of Energy Storage System facilities during this study period to prevent potential conflicts with future land use regulations, to protect the planning process, and to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of Freeborn County residents; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on July 7th, 2025, after due notice, to allow all interested parties an opportunity to provide input on the proposed interim ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that the following Temporary Interim Zoning Ordinance is adopted.

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. 25-245

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY MCAPS CONTRACT RENEWAL

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Attorney's Office uses the MCAPS software system for casefile management, document assembly, and court filing of legal actions;

WHEREAS, the software system requires regular maintenance by trained computer technicians with specialized experience in the legal field;

WHEREAS, the system is effectively maintained by STI (Strategic Technologies Incorporated) with a three-year maintenance contract negotiated by MnCCCC;

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

1. The MCAPS maintenance and support agreement for the renewal term from 2026 through 2028 is hereby approved; and
2. Accordingly, the Board Ratification Statement for the same renewal term is to be executed without delay.

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 NO. 25-246

TITLE: Award of Contract 259998; Project Number: CP 025-LINE-998

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

WHEREAS, bids were solicited for this project and publicly opened in accordance with Minnesota Statute 471.345; and,

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for 2025 cleaning and lining culverts on various roads in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Subsurface, Inc. for \$176,670.00 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into Contract 259998 for Project CP 025-LINE-998.

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

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 NO. 25-247

TITLE: Resolution in Support of Minnesota Highway Freight Program Grant Application for the Interstate 35/Interstate 90 and Interstate 35/East Main Street Freight Safety Project

WHEREAS, Freeborn County is committed to improving transportation infrastructure in our community to enhance safety, mobility, accessibility, and economic vitality for residents, businesses, and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Albert Lea and Freeborn County staff have provided input on the reconstruction of the Interstate 35 (I-35)/Interstate 90 (I-90) interchange north of Albert Lea to ensure a local perspective was included in the development of the project; and,

WHEREAS, the I-35/I-90 interchange is a critical node in the regional, state, and national freight networks for the efficient movement of goods and people; and,

WHEREAS, the I-35/East Main Street interchange provides essential access to freight services and amenities necessary for the health of freight carriers and safety and efficiency of freight supply chains; and,

WHEREAS, this project aligns with the County's regional transportation priorities and long-term vision for safety, mobility, and connectivity; and,

WHEREAS, successful implementation of the project is contingent upon securing funding through the Minnesota Highway Freight Program; and,

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

1. The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners formally supports the I-35/I-90 and I-35/E Main St Interchanges Freight Safety Project and endorses its submission for funding under the Minnesota Highway Freight Program; and,
2. The County pledges to collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and regional partners to facilitate community engagement to ensure the successful planning, execution, and completion of the project.

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 Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-248

TITLE: Award of Service Agreement for CP 025-CULV-001

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

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited for this project and received by the County Engineer on Friday, August 15, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, two responsive quotes were received with the low quotation being in the amount of \$109,586.10 submitted by ICON, LLC.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for a Culvert Replacement project on CSAH 1 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible quote from ICON, LLC for \$109,586.10 and authorizes the Administrator to enter into a service agreement to complete this work for Project CP 025-CULV-001.

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

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:

Local Declaration of a State of Emergency

August 9th, 2025

Resolution 25-249

WHEREAS the County of Freeborn, Minnesota has been impacted by severe storms with strong winds on August 09, 2025 to the present; and

WHEREAS Freeborn County is a public entity within the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS the County, Townships, Cities, Public Utilities and other areas within Freeborn County have experienced significant amount of public property and infrastructure damage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board Chair declares that a state of emergency exists with Freeborn County for the conditions resulting from this Severe Storm and flooding event, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes and Freeborn County.

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 NO. 25-250

TITLE: Grant Contract Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has the need to provide domestic violence, general crime victim, and sexual assault services to residents of Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County provides for these services through the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center has received grant funding from the Office of Justice Programs in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety utilizing federal and state grant dollars with parameters for the provision of these services;

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

1. the 2026 Grant Contract Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center for FY26 (10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026) is hereby approved.

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

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:

Amendment to Freeborn County Resolution No. 25-221

Whereas, Resolution No. 25-221 was previously adopted by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, it is necessary to amend said resolution to update the effective start date and the official swearing-in date;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners that Resolution No. 25-221 is hereby amended as follows:

1. **The effective start date** specified in Resolution 25-221 shall be changed to **July 2, 2025**.
2. **The official swearing-in** took place on **July 15, 2025**.
3. All other provisions of Resolution 25-221 shall remain in full force and effect.

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 Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, the County Board to send a letter to City of Albert Lea staff, City Council, and Mayor requesting quarterly meetings of the Shared Resources Committee for the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

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 No. 25-252
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before August 22nd, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 2,123,776.52
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 259,336.28
05	Human Services	\$ 202,016.46
06	Public Health	\$ 75,731.43
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 69,822.80
40	County Ditch	\$ 10,240.15
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 84,609.47
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 35,934.54
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 5,354.00
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 61.37
80	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 112.00
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 2,866,995.02

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 208

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$22,393.72

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff

After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioner Edwin abstaining from the Claims for Credit Bureau of Albert Lea; the Chair declared the resolution adopted.

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk