

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
September 16th 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda; keeping the Report of the Auditor-Treasurer item as original posted and moving the Miscellaneous Business items to follow right after the Consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 25-256
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 September 2nd, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Drainage Repairs

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Under Miscellaneous Business, the following items were discussed:

Rick Krueger – Ditch 68 Concerns and Discussion – it was determined that both parties' attorney's will be in contact with each other and work towards a resolution for both parties represented.

David Meyers – Rinke Noonan – Freeborn County Fairgrounds discussion – it was determined that the County Administrator will reach out to the Agricultural Society and Historical Society and come to a resolution, and an agreement will be entered by both parties, once finalized and reviewed.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-257

TITLE: Repurchase of Parcel 25.022.0061

WHEREAS, Justin Bjornstad was the owner of real estate parcel 25.022.0061, in Freeborn, MN. Said property forfeited to the State of Minnesota on June 30, 2025. Justin Bjornstad has applied to the Board of Freeborn County to repurchase said property identified above.

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

1. The Board of Freeborn County has reviewed the Application to repurchase Tax Forfeited property from Justin Bjornstad.
2. The Board of Freeborn County hereby grants the right to repurchase real estate tax parcel 25.022.0061 for the sum of \$381.29. Said property will revert back to ownership prior to the tax forfeiture date.

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

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

After discussion regarding possible amendments to the resolution, Commissioner Eckstrom withdrew her offer to amend the resolution and a vote was taken. The Chair declared the resolution approved.

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

FREEBORN COUNTY MINNESOTA RESOLUTION 25-258

A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO RANDY HEIDEMAN PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER 42

WHEREAS, RANDY HEIDEMAN applied for a conditional use permit to the Zoning Administrator on 08/20/25 pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of Freeborn County, Minnesota, Chapter 42 (Zoning Ord.) for the establishment of private use grain storage structures and grain storage support buildings located outside of the farmyard, in the "A" Agricultural District, on the following described property owned by, Marjorie L. Heideman;

Parcel ID 14.002.0063

NW ¼ SW ¼

Section 2 of Manchester Township

WHEREAS, the County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application on 09/08/25 in accordance with the Zoning Ord., Art. VIII, Sec. 42-612.

WHEREAS, the County Planning Commission made a decision on the application and forwarded its required findings of fact and recommendations to the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners in the attached report.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approves and adopts the findings of fact and recommendations of the County Planning Commission in the attached report,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the application for a conditional use permit by Randy Heideman is hereby granted, subject to the conditions and guarantees required below:

- 1.Site shall be constructed in accordance with the site plan on file in the Environmental Services Office.
- 2.Site shall be constructed in accordance to the provisions set forth in the Freeborn County Code of Ordinances Chapter 42, Article II, Division 2; Section 42-107
- 3.Site is designed for grain storage and associated storage support. The site shall remain agricultural in nature.
- 4.Owner/Operator shall cooperate with the affected road authorities to upkeep and maintain the roads utilized by the grain storage facility.
- 5.The facility shall implement and maintain dust control measures, including but not limited to, using dust collection systems, limiting vehicle speeds on the access road(s), and applying dust suppressants as necessary to prevent airborne particles from leaving the property.
- 6.All exterior lighting, including security and work lights, shall be shielded and directed downward to prevent light from spilling onto neighboring properties.

- 7.The applicant shall ensure that all mechanical equipment, including fans and augers, is maintained in good working order to minimize noise. Operations that generate a significant amount of noise should be limited to daytime hours, except during peak harvest season.
- 8.The site shall be graded and maintained to ensure proper drainage, and all necessary measures shall be implemented to control stormwater runoff and prevent soil erosion.
- 9.The premises and storage of equipment thereon shall be kept in an orderly and presentable manner.
- 10.The facility may not be extended or expanded without review and approval of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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. 25-259

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 025-M-004

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

WHEREAS, the work to furnish and apply Magnesium Chloride for Base Stabilization by Freeborn County Coop Oil of Albert Lea, MN, has 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 \$10,706.90.

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:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-260

TITLE: A RESOLUTION to accept a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026, for the Toward Zero Death (TZD) Enforcement Grant Program, in the amount of \$23,050

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statute 465.03 allows for counties to accept donations and grants through resolution by the board.

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office participates in the Minnesota Toward Zero Death Program each year, and partners with the Albert Lea Police Department in its efforts.

WHEREAS, the MN TZD Program is intended to reduce traffic fatalities through increased enforcement of distracted and impaired driving.

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

1. The Board ratifies and accepts the \$23,050 grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the 2025-2026 TZD Grant Program.
2. The Board authorizes Albert Lea Police Department Lieutenant Jeff Strom to act on behalf of Freeborn County as the fiscal agent and administrator of the grant.

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:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-261

TITLE: A RESOLUTION to accept a donation of \$500 to be used for equipment and a box of stuffed animals from the Moose Lodge of Albert Lea to be given away to children in distress.

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statute 465.03 allows for counties to accept donations and grants through resolution by the board.

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office purchases and utilizes numerous items of equipment throughout the year.

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office responds to all types of emergencies and regularly interacts with children in distress. The Sheriff's Office recognizes that providing a stuffed animal to children in those situations can help to comfort and calm the fears of police interaction.

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

1. The Board accepts the \$500 donation to be used for equipment.
2. The Board accepts the donation of stuffed animals to be given away by the Sheriff's Office to children in distress.

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 25-262

Resolved, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does, hereby, certify to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer that it proposes the following tax levy which, if adopted pursuant to Minnesota Law, will be ordered on all taxable property in Freeborn County, payable in 2026, to wit:

Freeborn County

Preliminary 2026 Tax Levy

	<u>2026 Levy</u>
For General Revenue Fund	\$18,765,745
For Soil & Water Conservation Dist.	<u>\$183,000</u>
Total General Fund	\$18,948,745
For Human Services Fund	\$8,001,823

For Road and Bridge Fund	\$5,472,359
For Public Health Fund	\$853,262
For Capital Improvement Fund	\$799,000
For County Library Fund	\$ 286,800
For Capital Improvement Bond	<u>\$707,826</u>
TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$35,069,815
Less State Aid	<u>\$(2,305,688)</u>
TOTAL LOCAL TAX LEVY	\$32,764,127

Further, be it resolved that this budget shall be certified to the Freeborn County Auditor/Treasurer.

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does, hereby, propose a preliminary budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 a summary of which is as follows:

Freeborn County

Resolution 25-263

Preliminary 2026 Budget

BUDGETED REVENUE

General Revenue Fund	\$ 29,965,219
Human Services	\$ 16,769,629
Highway	\$ 22,679,934
Public Health	\$ 4,272,976
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,473,500
Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 1,686,500
Capital Improvements Bond	\$ 707,826
Library	<u>\$ 286,800</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$ 77,842,384</u>

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

General Revenue Fund	\$ 31,486,719
Human Services	\$ 16,769,629
Highway	\$ 24,929,934
Public Health	\$ 4,272,976
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,473,500
Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 2,245,000
Capital Improvements Bond	\$ 675,520
Library	<u>\$ 286,800</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 82,140,078</u>

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioners Kaasa and Eckstrom voting yay, Commissioners Severson, Shoff and Edwin voting nay, the Chair declared the resolution failed. After more discussion and reconsideration of

Resolution 25-263, a vote was taken, and Commissioners Severson, Kaasa, Eckstrom, Shoff and Edwin voted yay; the Chair declared **Resolution 25-263**, approved.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-264
**Out of State travel to GFOA National Conference for Finance Manager in Chicago, Illinois June 27-
July 1,2026**

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

After discussion, there was no vote taken.

Commissioner Edwin made the following motion:

MOVED, to table **Resolution 25-264** until the October 7th, 2025 Board meeting to gather more information regarding the conference, including the agenda.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the Motion to table, approved.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-265

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Eric Mickelson

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County I.T. Department 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, Eric Mickelson has been employed with the Freeborn County I.T. Department as an Information Systems Technician since July 9th, 2018 and is resigning his position effective September 26th, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Eric Mickelson as a Freeborn County Information Systems Technician effective on or about September 26th, 2025.

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:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-266

TITLE: Permission to fill the Freeborn County Information Systems Technician 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, Eric Mickelson, Freeborn County Information Systems Technician has resigned his position effective September 26th, 2025;

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

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 Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, approving Resolution 25-267, Freeborn County Badge Policy

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 Resolution 25-268, Freeborn County Key Policy

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:

RESOLVED AS, approving Resolution 25-269, Freeborn County Core Hours Policy, changing business hours from 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, to 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning November 3rd, 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:

RESOLUTION No. 25-270

Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before September 19th, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 522,457.66
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 1,026,523.62
05	Human Services	\$ 199,301.25
06	Public Health	\$ 77,697.02
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 228,303.38
40	County Ditch	\$ 32,614.49
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 75,652.49
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 10,043.43
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 4,877.00
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 38.40
80	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 46.00
FUND TOTALS		\$2,177,554.74

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 40

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$5,117.09

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk