

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
October 7th, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7th, 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 as presented.

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. 25–271
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 16th, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees;
- 3) 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.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 25-272

TITLE: Resolution to Approve the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention Grant Project Amendment for the with Minnesota Department of Health

WHEREAS, in December 2024, the Freeborn County Community Health Board was awarded a Grant Project Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in the amount of \$107,040;

WHEREAS, MDH has since amended the original Grant Project Agreement to extend the project timeline and increase the total funding award;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this grant is to support prevention efforts aimed at reducing substance use and misuse, with funds restricted from treatment or recovery services but allowable for activities that strengthen connections to care, such as educating our youth;

WHEREAS, under the amendment, the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention Grant, originally awarded for the period ending June 30, 2026, has been extended through June 30, 2028, increasing the total award to \$294,610;

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

1. The Board hereby approves the Grant Project Amendment for the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention Grant with the Minnesota Department of Health effective October 7, 2025
2. The Board authorizes the Public Health Director/Community Health Services Administrator to execute all responsibilities and duties associated with the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention Grant.

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

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 NO. 25-273

TITLE: Consider a Resolution to Approve the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership Grant Project Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health.

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Public Health has implemented the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) program for our community for more than a decade;

WHEREAS, SHIP, a Minnesota Department of Health program, provides funding to local communities to prevent chronic diseases before they start;

WHEREAS, SHIP focuses on policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes that make the healthy choice the easy choice;

WHEREAS, SHIP partners with schools, businesses, healthcare providers, child care, and cities to improve health where people live, learn, work, and play;

WHEREAS, SHIP benefits Freeborn County by preventing costly chronic diseases and reducing healthcare spending, while supporting strategies based on local needs and priorities,

WHEREAS, through SHIP, our community has achieved sustainable changes such as bike/walk plans and healthier food policies, leveraging the collective efforts of schools, worksites, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and municipalities for greater impact;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board will receive grant funding in the amount of \$146,037 for the period of November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026, as part of a five-year grant agreement extending through October 31, 2030;

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

1. The Board hereby approves the Grant Project for the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health effective October 7, 2025.
2. The Board authorizes the Public Health Director/Community Health Services Administrator to execute all responsibilities and duties associated with the SHIP Grant.

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-274

TITLE: Placing a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) special assessment on Freeborn County Parcel 26.004.0040 and #26.004.0050 in the total amount of \$40,000.

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

WHEREAS, the County of Freeborn, Minnesota has entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Rural Minnesota Energy Board to administer and implement the PACE program in Freeborn County, and

WHEREAS, As the administrator of PACE for Freeborn County, Rural Minnesota Energy Board has reviewed this assessment and it has determined that the project property located at:

Parcel 1

Owner: Jason Tieskotter
Parcel ID: 26.004.0040
Amount assessed: \$31,600
Interest rate: 4.5%
Term: 10 years

Parcel 2

Owner: Jason Tieskotter
Parcel ID: 26.004.0050
Amount assessed: \$8,400
Interest rate: 4.5%
Term: 10 years

conforms with the Minnesota PACE statutes. Interest, at a rate of 4.5%, will start to accrue on September 15, 2025. The assessment will amortize over a 10-year term, beginning in 2025. A PACE application requesting this assessment from the property owner is attached to this resolution,

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

1. Freeborn County Board approves the placing of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) special assessment on the above listed parcel as requested by the property owner.

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 Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-275

TITLE: Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2025

In the County of Freeborn, in recognition of the important work done by survivors, domestic violence programs and victim service providers, we urge all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by the Crime Victim's Crisis Center and other community organizations to work toward the elimination of domestic violence.

WHEREAS, this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month theme is – "*With Survivors- Always*," reminds us of our collective responsibility to believe, support, and stand alongside survivors-not only during October, but every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence shatters a person's right to feel safe, valued and dignified in their own life and relationships; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 at least 24 lives were taken in the State of Minnesota due to Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, over 300 victim survivors of domestic violence and their children sought safety and support from the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center; and

WHEREAS, the impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, directly affecting adults, children, and society as a whole, here in this community, throughout the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence negatively impacts individuals and communities when systems and society as a whole tolerates or ignores violence; and

WHEREAS, survivors and family members affected by domestic violence deserve safety, dignity, access to justice, trauma informed support and the opportunity to heal and thrive without fear; and

WHEREAS, individuals, communities, systems, policymakers and society must work together to change the conditions that cause domestic violence and support survivor-centered solutions; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County, hereby do proclaim *October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month*.

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:

RESOLUTION 25-276

Resolution to Appoint Stephen Rick to the Freeborn County Family Services and Childrens Mental Health Collaborative

Whereas, Freeborn County is a party to the joint powers agreement called the Freeborn County Family Services and Childrens Mental Health Collaborative, and;

Whereas, The County Board is the appointing authority of Freeborn County employees to the board of directors of this collaborative, and;

Whereas, the current representative of Probation Services on this board of directors is Lyndon Stinson, who will retire on October 31st, 2025, and;

Whereas, Stephen Rick has been appointed as the new Director of Probation Services, and;

Whereas, the County Board must appoint a representative of management from Probation Services to this board of directors;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners appoints Stephen Rick to the Freeborn County Family Services and Childrens Mental Health Collaborative as of October 7th, 2025.

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 RESOLUTION 25-277

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) FOR WARRANT SERVICE

WHEREAS, the county board shall by resolution provide the budget for expenses necessary in the performance of the duties of the sheriff's office, including the reimbursement of the sheriff or a designee for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in furnishing board, laundry and other services to prisoners in the county jail (M.S. § 387.20, subd. 6); and

WHEREAS, the sheriff shall have the charge and custody of the county jail and receive and safely keep therein all persons lawfully committed thereto and not release any person therefrom unless discharged by due course of law (M.S. § 387.11); and

WHEREAS, with the understanding and agreement of this board, the sheriff entered into a Warrant Service Officer agreement with ICE pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act effective March 26, 2025 with the limited purpose to serve ICE warrants on inmates held in the Freeborn County Adult Detention Center (Jail); and

WHEREAS, the service of ICE warrants on already lawfully detained Jail inmates protects them and the public from the unavoidable risks associated with later detention by immigration authorities at a time and place subject to the uncontrolled circumstances of an unannounced or chance encounter;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Freeborn County by and through its Board of Commissioners, to the extent authorized or otherwise required by law, ratifies the memorandum of agreement between the County Sheriff's Office for warrant service dated effective March 26, 2025 until terminated in accordance with its terms.

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. 25-278

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Brittany Smisek

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services 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, Brittany Smisek has been employed with the Freeborn County Department of Human Services as a Social Worker / Case Manager CPCW since June 17th, 2024 and is resigning her position effective October 10th, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Brittany Smisek as a Freeborn County Social Worker / Case Manager CPCW effective on or about October 10th, 2025.

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 Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-279

TITLE: Permission to fill the Freeborn County Social Worker / Case Manager CPCW 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, Brittany Smisek, Freeborn County Social Worker / Case Manager CPCW has resigned her position effective October 10th, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Social Worker / Case Manager CPCW 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 Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-280

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Danielle Anderson

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Assessor's Office 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, Danielle Anderson has been employed with the Freeborn County Assessor's Office as an Assessment Technician since January 25th, 2024 and is resigning her position effective September 23rd, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Danielle Anderson as an Assessment Technician effective on or about September 23rd, 2025.

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-281

TITLE: Permission to fill the Freeborn County Assessment 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, Danielle Anderson, Freeborn County Assessment Technician has resigned her position effective September 23rd, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Assessment 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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED AS, RESOLUTION No. 25-282 approving the Union Contract for the Correctional Sergeants

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. 25-283

TITLE: A Resolution Appointing Amy Conner as Auditor-Treasurer

Whereas, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners has the appointing authority over all county employees;
and

Whereas, the County Auditor-Treasurer is a constitutional officer appointed by the Board to oversee county financial and election responsibilities and

Whereas, the Board will fill the previously held position of Kelly Hendrickson the Auditor-Treasurer which became effective July 11, 2025; and

Whereas, Patrick Paquin has served as the Interim Auditor-Treasurer during the vacancy; and

Whereas, Amy Conner brings considerable experience from prior roles in County and City government, including service as Auditor-Treasurer County Settlement Deputy, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Deputy Assessor;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Amy Conner as Auditor-Treasurer, effective October 7, 2025;

Be it further resolved, that the County Administrator is authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this appointment, including payroll adjustments, benefit enrollments, bank accounts, Magic Account including adding an additional signer, and updating county records;

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-284

Resolved, that Citizens Community Federal Bank, Albert Lea; US Bank and US Bancorp Investments, Inc. Albert Lea; Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, Albert Lea; Security Bank Minnesota, Albert Lea and Alden; Home Federal Savings Bank, Albert Lea; Produce State Bank, Albert Lea, Glenville; Arcadian, Freeborn, Hartland, Albert Lea; State Bank of New Richland, New Richland; Columbus Bank and Trust, Columbus, Georgia; Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. (MBS), Southfield, Michigan; MII Life Incorporated, St. Paul, Minnesota; Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota Corporate Trust Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wells Fargo Securities, LLC., Minneapolis, Minnesota; UBS Financial Services, Inc., Wayzata, MN; Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties (Magic or the Fund) MN; Commerce Bank, Geneva; Moreton Capital Markets, Excelsior, Minnesota; (herein called the "Bank"), be and are hereby designated as depositories of Freeborn County (Herein called the "Depositor") with authority to accept or receive at any time for the credit of the Depositor deposits by whosoever made, of funds and other property in whatever form or manner transferred or endorsed, open or cause to be opened one or more accounts with the Bank on such terms, conditions and agreements as the Bank may now or hereafter require and to make any other agreements deemed advisable in regard to any of the foregoing.

Resolved further, that check drafts or other orders for the payment, transfer or withdrawal of any of the funds or other property of the otherwise authorized, by any one or two (1 or 2) of the following named individuals: **Amy Conner**, Patrick Paquin, JoDee Avery, Dawn Drescher, Noel Ahnemann (JoDee Avery, Dawn Drescher or Noel

Ahnemann will sign for **Amy Conner**) and the Bank is hereby authorized to pay and charge to the account of the Depositor any such checks, drafts or other orders so assigned or otherwise authorized, including those payable to the individual order of the person or persons signing or otherwise authorizing the same and including also those payable to the persons who signed such checks, drafts or other withdrawal orders or otherwise authorized such persons may authorize payment, transfer or withdrawal by oral or telephonic directions to the bank complying with such roles and regulations relating to such authorization as the bank may communicate to the Depositor from time to time.

Resolved further, that the person(s) so authorized to sign be and are hereby authorized and empowered, on behalf of the Depositor, to transact any and all other business with and through the Bank which such person(s) may at any time deem to be advisable, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, authority to purchase certificates of deposit and to enter into deposit agreements, safe deposit agreements, lock-box agreements, night depository agreements, freight payment service processing service agreements offered by the Bank, and, in reference to any such business, to make any and all agreements and to execute and deliver to the Bank and all contracts and other writing which such person(s) may deem to be necessary or desirable.

Resolved further, that the Auditor-Treasurer shall certify to the Bank the names and signatures (either actual or any form or forms of facsimile or mechanical signatures adopted by the person authorized to sign) of the persons named above and such certifying officer shall from time to time hereafter, upon a change in the facts so certified, immediately certify to the Bank the names and signature (actual or facsimile) of the persons then authorized to sign or to act; the Bank shall be full protected in relying on such certificate and on the obligation of the certifying officer (set forth above) to immediately certify to the Bank any change in any facts so certified, and the Bank shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the Depositor from any claims, demands, expenses, loss or damage resulting from or growing out of honoring or relying on the signature of other authority (whether or not property used and, in the case of any facsimile signature, regardless of when or by whom or by what means such signature may have been made or affixed) of any officer or person whose name and signature was so certified, or refusing to honor any signature or authority not so certified.

Resolved further, that these resolutions shall continue in force until express written notice of their rescission or modification has been furnished to and received by the Bank.

Resolved further, that any and all transactions by or in behalf of the Depositor with the Depositor with the Bank prior to the adoption of this resolution be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

The transfer or withdrawal of funds on deposit in any of the aforementioned institutions, by check, shall be by the signatures of the following officers or their alternatives;

Amy Conner, Auditor-Treasurer_____

JoDee Avery, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer_____

Dawn Drescher, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer_____

Noel Ahnemann, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer_____

Pat Paquin, Finance Manager_____

A transfer of funds by wire or electronic fund transfer in any of the aforementioned institutions may also be affected by use of a signature or facsimile signatures of **Amy Conner Auditor-Treasurer**, and JoDee Avery, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer, Dawn Drescher, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer and Noel Ahnemann, Deputy Auditor-Treasurer.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

After discussion, a vote was taken with Commissioners Severson, Kaasa, Shoff and Edwin voting yay; and Commissioner Eckstrom abstaining from the vote on behalf of Arcadian Bank; the Chair declared the resolution approved.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-285

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY REGISTRAR

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

WHEREAS, Freeborn County is required to have an appointed Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles in order to continue the operation of the License Center; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners now wishes to formally appoint Megan Reule as the permanent Deputy Registrar;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Megan Reule as the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the State of Minnesota under the authority of Minnesota Statutes § 168.33 and in accordance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7406;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointment shall be effective October 7, 2025, and is contingent upon the execution of the required agreement between the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Director of Driver and Vehicle Services, and the appointee.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following motion:

MOVED, to remove Resolution 25-264, Out-of-State travel for the Finance Manager to Chicago, IL June 28th - July 1st

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following:

RESOLVED AS, RESOLUTION No. 25-264, Out-of-State travel for the Finance Manager to Chicago, IL, June 28th – July 1st

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, to approve moving the Tuesday, November 11th, 2025 Workshop to Wednesday, November 12th

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 No. 25-287
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before October 10th, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 1,215,619.44
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 1,076,141.23
05	Human Services	\$ 405,549.95
06	Public Health	\$ 153,366.83

31	Capital Improvements	\$ 198,967.75
40	County Ditch	\$ 58,159.91
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 20,930.65
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 25,143.36
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 18,465.41
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ <u>347.95</u>
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 3,172,692.48

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – **207**

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – **\$18,998.31**

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk