

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
October 21st, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21st, 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 Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 25–288
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 October 7th, 2025 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees;
- 3) Approval of Drainage Repairs

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Aaron Casper - National Insurance Services presented to the Board regarding moving to self-insured.

Tessia Melvin – David Drown Associates presented the 2025 Market Analysis and Ongoing Maintenance to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

During Public Comment, Chair Edwin invited remarks from the public. Martha Sichko addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding concerns about healthcare.

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 25-289

TITLE: Resolution to Approve the Award of Opioid Settlement Funds to Encouraging Excellence, Inc. for the Serenity Project Start-Up

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received Opioid Settlement Funds intended for abatement activities that address the public health impacts of the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction strategies;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee developed and issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify local and regional projects that align with state settlement guidelines and County priorities;

WHEREAS, Encouraging Excellence, Inc., a local nonprofit based in Albert Lea, submitted an application titled “*Serenity Project Start-Up*” to expand prevention, education, recovery supports, harm reduction activities, and community outreach in Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the application outlined a one-year initiative including:

- Community education and awareness campaigns through social media and print (\$500)
- Staffing for a Program Director (\$9,600), Assistant Director (\$2,400), and Communications Director (\$2,600)
- Two safe and sober events for teens and six events for young adults, with food, education, and speakers (\$1,820 total)
- Resource access points with mobile and pop-up distribution of Naloxone/Narcan, and fentanyl/xylazine test strips (\$200)
- Volunteer stipends to support access points and events (\$1,040)
- Presence at the Freeborn County Fair, including booth, tickets, and materials (\$400)
- A community event, Simply Built Rigs, at the fairgrounds (\$100)
- Travel costs for staff outreach (\$100);

WHEREAS, the total budget request for the Serenity Project Start-Up is **\$18,900**, consisting of \$14,600 in salaries and benefits, \$100 in travel, \$2,545 in operating supplies, and \$1,655 in other costs;

WHEREAS, the project will serve teens, young adults, families, individuals in recovery, and residents with socioeconomic disadvantages, with a focus on prevention, recovery support, and equitable access to harm reduction resources;

WHEREAS, Encouraging Excellence has demonstrated capacity through prior Naloxone distribution, community education events, and partnerships with the Steve Rummeler Hope Network and Grace Christian Church of Albert Lea, and now intends to expand services on newly gifted property for the long-term Serenity Project;

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

1. The Board hereby approves the RFP Award using Opioid Settlement Funding for Encouraging Excellence, Inc. for the Serenity Project Start-Up.
2. The Board authorizes the Opioid Advisory Committee to contract with Encouraging Excellence, Inc.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 25-290

TITLE: Resolution to Approve the Award of Opioid Settlement Funds to Recovery Is Happening for Harm Reduction Project in Freeborn County

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received opioid settlement funds intended for abatement activities that address the public health impacts of the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment/recovery, law enforcement, and harm reduction strategies;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee developed and issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify local and regional projects that align with state settlement guidelines and County priorities;

WHEREAS, Recovery Is Happening (RIH), a nonprofit organization based in Rochester, MN, with experience operating recovery and harm reduction initiatives in Dodge, Mower, Olmsted, and Wabasha counties, as well as

other substance abuse reduction and prevention strategies in Freeborn County, submitted a proposal entitled “*Narcan Dispenser in Freeborn County*”;

WHEREAS, RIH proposes to purchase and install an NV150 Outdoor Naloxone Vending Machine in a high-need public location within Freeborn County (TBD), in coordination with County staff, to provide 24/7, anonymous, stigma-free access to Narcan (naloxone), a life-saving medication that reverses opioid overdoses;

WHEREAS, the proposal directly supports the “Harm Reduction” funding category and is designed to meet the needs of low-income individuals, persons involved in the criminal justice system, and residents disconnected from traditional healthcare systems, all of whom are disproportionately impacted by opioid misuse and face barriers to accessing Narcan;

WHEREAS, the vending machine will be stocked, monitored, and maintained by trained Peer Recovery Specialists affiliated with RIH, who will also conduct Narcan education, usage tracking, bilingual outreach (English and Spanish), and quarterly evaluations to assess uptake and guide future strategy;

WHEREAS, the total request of **\$9474** includes the following itemized expenses: the purchase of the NV150 vending machine itself at a cost of **\$7,674**; two initial Narcan refills totaling **\$1,800** (\$900 each);

WHEREAS, the applicant has committed to sustaining the project beyond the initial funding period by pursuing community fundraising and advocating for the reinstatement of state-supported Narcan distribution, and the vending machine vendor will provide maintenance support, reducing ongoing operational burden;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reviewed the proposal in detail and determined that it is strongly aligned with both Freeborn County’s strategic goals and broader state-level priorities for opioid response. The proposal specifically targets vulnerable and underserved populations within the county, including individuals who are low-income, justice-involved, or disconnected from traditional healthcare services. It includes clear, measurable objectives and evaluation methods to track impact over time. The project leverages the expertise of Peer Recovery Specialists to ensure outreach is culturally competent, recovery-focused, and community-informed. Furthermore, the vending machine model presents a scalable, durable, and cost-effective harm reduction strategy that can help prevent fatal overdoses and expand access to lifesaving support across the county.

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

1. The Board hereby approves the RFP Award using Opioid Settlement Funding for Recovery Is Happening for Harm Reduction Project in Freeborn County.
2. The Board authorizes the Opioid Advisory Committee to contract with Recover Is Happening

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-291

TITLE: Resolution to Approve Using Opioid Settlement Funding to Award STARS Mentor Program Opioid Prevention Initiative

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received opioid settlement funds as part of the multi-state opioid litigation settlement to address the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction strategies;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Opioid Advisory Committee issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified organizations to implement opioid epidemic response projects with a focus on high-impact programs addressing communities disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis;

WHEREAS, the STARS Mentor Program submitted a proposal focused on prevention for youth aged 7–18, emphasizing mentorship relationships, outreach to high-risk populations including ethnic minorities and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth, and interactive opioid prevention education;

WHEREAS, the STARS Mentor Program budget requests \$6,500 to cover staff salaries and benefits totaling \$5,425.56 (calculated as \$31.50 per hour for 40 hours per week for 4 weeks, plus payroll taxes including Medicare and Social Security) and \$1,074.44 for operating supplies including food, advertising, and printed materials;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Opioid Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposal and recommends awarding funding to the STARS Mentor Program to support this important prevention initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an allocation of \$6,500 in opioid settlement funds to the STARS Mentor Program to implement the opioid prevention project as outlined in the proposal;

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

1. The Board hereby approves the RFP Award using Opioid Settlement Funding for STARS Mentoring Program Opioid Prevention Initiative.
2. The Board authorizes the Opioid Advisory Committee to contract with STARS Mentoring Program for the Opioid Prevention Initiative.

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-292

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN GRANT PROJECT AMENDMENT FOR THE WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution, to include the \$793,784.00 dollar amount within the resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-293

TITLE: Resolution to Approve the Women, Infants, and Children Grant Project Amendment for the with the Minnesota Department of Health in the amount of \$793,784.00.

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board's current funding through Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) expires on December 31, 2026;

WHEREAS, the MDH has requested an amendment to the agreement that would permit temporary suspension of funding agreements, rather than permanent termination, in cases where federal funding is delayed;

WHEREAS, allowing suspension in lieu of termination will enable a more efficient and timely resumption of program activities once federal funding is restored;

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of this amendment is to ensure continuity and facilitate a smoother reactivation of the grant when funding again becomes available;

WHEREAS, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides critical services, including nutrition education, breastfeeding support, nutritious foods, and referrals to health and social services, for eligible pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board also receives MDH funding for the Peer Breastfeeding Support Program, which will likewise be subject to the provisions of this amendment;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board will receive grant funding in the amount of \$793,784.00 for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026;

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

1. The Board hereby approves the Grant Project for the Women, Infants, and Children program with the Minnesota Department of Health in the amount of \$793,784 effective October 21, 2025.
2. The Board authorizes the Public Health Director/Community Health Services Administrator to execute all responsibilities and duties associated with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) grant amendment.

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. 25-294

Findings and Order In the Matter of the Repair of Freeborn County Ditch 68

At a duly noticed and regular meeting of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, seated as Drainage Authority for Freeborn County Ditch 68, based on the record before the Drainage Authority, Commissioner Severson moved, seconded by Commissioner Shoff, for adoption of the following Findings and Order:

FINDINGS:

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners is the drainage authority (the "Drainage Authority") for Freeborn County Ditch 68 ("CD 68").
2. On August 6, 2002, the Drainage Authority adopted findings and order for an improvement of CD 68, which included the construction of a berm and water control structure located within the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 102, Range 23 West, Freeborn County, Minnesota.
3. Concurrent with the improvement, Freeborn County obtained an easement from the owner of property where the improvement was located related to the improvement and access to the improvement.
4. Since the completion of construction of the CD 68 improvement, the Drainage Authority operated the water control structure according to the ordered management of the impoundment.
5. Beginning in October 2011, under a contract for deed, as amended, the property where the improvement is located was sold. Purchase of the property was completed in June 2014, with a warranty deed being issued to the subsequent owner and recorded.
6. By order dated April 27, 2018, upon proceedings initiated by petition of the subsequent owner, the Drainage Authority authorized the subsequent owner of the property to alter the management plan for the improvement in an effort to improve habitat within the impoundment. The authorization was temporary to allow for evaluate of the effects of the altered management and expired January 1, 2024.
7. On August 21, 2022, the subsequent owner sued Freeborn County seeking to vacate the 2002 easement granted by the prior owner. In June 2025, the District Court entered an order vacating/extinguishing the easement document. The Court's findings did not address the remaining authority and obligations of the Drainage Authority regarding the improvement and its continued operation and maintenance for the owners of property benefitted by the drainage system.
8. On September 16, 2025, at a regular meeting of the County Board, the Board received the formal complaint of a benefited landowner downstream of the berm and water control structure alleging the berm and/or the water control structure is in disrepair. The landowner also alleged damages attributable to the changed/lack of operation of the improvement.
9. Statutes section 103E.705, subd. 1, requires the Drainage Authority to maintain the drainage systems located in its jurisdiction and provide the repairs necessary to make the drainage system efficient. The statute also requires the Drainage Authority to have the drainage system inspected on a regular basis.

10. Based on the complaint received and the Drainage Authority's statutory obligation pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.705, subd. 1 to have drainage systems under its jurisdiction inspected on a regular basis, and maintained and repaired as necessary, the Drainage Authority finds that it is necessary to have CD 68 inspected.
11. Because of the combined allegations of disrepair and damages, the Drainage Authority finds that time is of the essence to inspect the CD 68 system in order to protect the property rights held by the benefited landowners.

ORDER:

Based on the foregoing Findings and the entire record of proceedings before the Drainage Authority, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority for Freeborn County Ditch 68, hereby orders as follows:

- A. The Board directs the Freeborn County Drainage Inspector to inspect Freeborn County Ditch 68 generally and to specifically investigate the claims of disrepair of the CD 68 berm and water control structure located within the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 102, Range 23 West, Freeborn County, Minnesota.
- B. The Board orders the Freeborn County Drainage Inspector to prepare an inspection report of the inspection of CD 68 pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.705, subd. 3 after the inspection is complete.
- C. The Drainage Authority's legal counsel and drainage authority staff are authorized to take all reasonable and necessary steps, including, but not limited to, initiating litigation, to confirm the rights and obligations of the Drainage Authority and the benefited landowners of CD 68 in order to generally carry out the rights and powers afforded by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E and to specifically fulfill this Order.

The question was on the adoption of the Resolution. Following discussion, the Chairman called for a vote and there were 5 yeas and 0 nays. The Chairman declared the Findings and Order adopted.

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. 25-295

TITLE: Drainage System Repair and Maintenance Assessments

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Subdivision 1, Section 103E735, M.S.A., is within the authority of this Board to provide funds for contemplated repairs to various drainage systems in the County within the limits of said law; and

WHEREAS, such funds are available to the accounts of several of said systems, and it is necessary to provide such funds in other active ditches to cover the cost of current repairs and to avoid a deficit condition in the funds of those ditches;

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

1. It is hereby ordered that the amounts deemed necessary to provide such repair funds be assessed upon all lands assessed and benefited according to law; that such assessments be payable in equal annual installments, the first of which shall be payable on or before the 15th of May 2026, with and as part of the real estate taxes for each year.
2. It is further ordered that the County Auditor-Treasurer of Freeborn County be and is hereby order to make such assessments, to file in the Office of the County Recorder of Freeborn County, a summary statement

and lien of such assessments against all lands benefited in the original proceedings for construction of said drainage systems in the same proportionate amounts as required by law;

3. It is further ordered that the amounts of the assessments, as herein ordered, shall be set forth hereafter opposite the name and each individual ditch system.

		Assessment Amount		Approximate Watershed Acres
County Ditch No.	4	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	1,800
County Ditch No.	5	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	10,700
County Ditch No.	8	\$50,000	Payable in one installment	6,100
County Ditch No.	11	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	4,000
County Ditch No.	15	\$10,000	Payable in one installment	2,100
County Ditch No.	16	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	10,000
County Ditch No.	17	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	5,000
County Ditch No.	23	\$25,000	Payable in one installment	13,000
County Ditch No.	28	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	5,900
County Ditch No.	30	\$25,000	Payable in one installment	6,400
County Ditch No.	31	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	3,600
County Ditch No.	32	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,000
County Ditch No.	34	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,200
County Ditch No.	35	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	1,100
County Ditch No.	36	\$10,000	Payable in one installment	3,500
County Ditch No.	39	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	3,500
County Ditch No.	40	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,700
County Ditch No.	43	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	3,100
County Ditch No.	46	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	10,000
County Ditch No.	49	\$10,000	Payable in one installment	2,800
County Ditch No.	53	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	730
County Ditch No.	54	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,200
County Ditch No.	55	\$25,000	Payable in one installment	18,300
County Ditch No.	62	\$25,000	Payable in one installment	10,200
County Ditch No.	63	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	4,100
County Ditch No.	64	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,100
County Ditch No.	65	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	12,000
County Ditch No.	68	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	4,300
County Ditch No.	71	\$50,000	Payable in one installment	12,300
County Ditch No.	75	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	4,600
County Ditch No.	76	\$7,500	Payable in one installment	1,500
County Ditch No.	77	\$40,000	Payable in one installment	20,400
County Ditch No.	79	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	6,000
County Ditch No.	80	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	2,900
County Ditch No.	81	\$2,000	Payable in one installment	490
County Ditch No.	82	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	4,100
Joint Ditch No.	2 F&S	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	4,600
Judicial Ditch No.	5	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	2,000
Judicial Ditch No.	5 M&F	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	1,600
Judicial Ditch No.	6	\$25,000	Payable in one installment	10,700

Joint Ditch No.	6 F&W	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	540
Judicial Ditch No.	8 F&W	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,200
Judicial Ditch No.	9	\$40,000	Payable in one installment	2,400
Judicial Ditch No.	12	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	1,600
Judicial Ditch No.	12 S&F	\$1,000	Payable in one installment	155
Judicial Ditch No.	14 F&F	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	6,800
Judicial Ditch No.	17 F&M	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	800
Judicial Ditch No.	18	\$10,000	Payable in one installment	3,400
Judicial Ditch No.	19	\$1,000	Payable in one installment	160
Judicial Ditch No.	20	\$20,000	Payable in one installment	4,000
Judicial Ditch No.	21	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	2,400
Judicial Ditch No.	22	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	3,600
Judicial Ditch No.	23 F&S	\$3,000	Payable in one installment	270
Judicial Ditch No.	25	\$35,000	Payable in one installment	8,100
Judicial Ditch No.	26 F&F	\$15,000	Payable in one installment	4,500
Judicial Ditch No.	26 M&F	\$2,000	Payable in one installment	490
Judicial Ditch No.	27	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	3,800
Judicial Ditch No.	28	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	1,400
Judicial Ditch No.	29	\$500	Payable in one installment	69
Judicial Ditch No.	30	\$2,500	Payable in one installment	430
Judicial Ditch No.	301 F&F	\$5,000	Payable in one installment	2,100
		\$934,500	TOTAL REPAIRS PAYABLE	

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 25-296 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Freeborn County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Freeborn County hereby declares November 4-11, 2025, as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of those transitioning from active service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners encourages the display of green lighting on the Veterans Memorial and, where feasible, in other County buildings or windows, as a visible show of support and appreciation for our veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board encourages its citizens, in patriotic tradition, to recognize the importance of honoring all those who have made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve our freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their home or place of business from November 4–11, 2025.

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:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-297

TITLE: Resolution Approving the 2026-2027 Freeborn County Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Biennial Service Agreement

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is required to administer the Minnesota Family Investment Program, supports and qualifying extensions to those programs, as well as Emergency and Crisis Services for eligible Freeborn County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Biennial Service Agreement provides the Minnesota Department of Children Youth and Families with information about services and strategies intended to meet program measures with the goal of increasing economic stability of low-income families receiving MFIP within Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, the Biennial Service Agreement is a requirement under Minnesota Statutes section 142G.76 in order for counties to receive consolidated funds necessary to administer said programs; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services has incorporated receipt of MFIP consolidated funds into the budget in order to administer mandated programs.

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

1. That the Freeborn County Minnesota Family Investment Program Biennial Service Agreement, covering the years of 2026-2027 is approved for submission pending fulfillment of the 30-day public posting requirement.

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-298

TITLE: Resolution to approve the 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement for Psychiatry Services between the South-Central Community Based Initiative and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is part of the 10-county South Central Community-Based Initiative (SCCBI) to provide services to persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the SCCBI is to facilitate each mental health consumer's recovery by improving their quality of life, by assisting them to assume increased responsibility over their lives, and to help them function as actively and independently as possible in the community; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI has identified psychiatric care as a priority service need within the region; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI has been awarded a grant allocation from the State of Minnesota for the provision of psychiatric services within the 10 counties comprising the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBI purchases mental health services in the form of psychiatric urgent care, psychiatric medication management services and administration of these services from participating county human service agencies with specified grant dollars from the State of Minnesota in order to fulfill the mission.

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

1. The 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement between the South-Central Community-Based Initiative and the Freeborn County Department of Human Services in the amount of \$214,314.76 for provision of the psychiatric services identified in the agreement to residents of Freeborn County and of counties comprising the SCCBI.

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-299

TITLE: Resolution Requesting Speed Zone Study on CSAH 14 in Emmons

WHEREAS, the Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining the county road system; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Emmons believes adjustments of the speed zone signage on CSAH 14 (Main Street) are needed to increase speed zone compliance by traffic; and,

WHEREAS, the existing speed zone signs are placed at the existing city limits instead of the point where land use transitions to residential and that another location of the speed zone signing may provoke better speed zone compliance from traffic; and,

WHEREAS, speed zones are governed by Minnesota Statute 169.14 and any variations to statutory speed limits are only authorized by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation on the county road system; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Emmons has resolved to request the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners to commission a speed study from MnDOT to evaluate the adjustment of the existing speed zone termini.

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

1. Freeborn County requests the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation to conduct a speed zone study on CSAH 14 (Main Street) from the intersection of CSAH 14 and US Highway 69 in Emmons to a point one mile north of the city limits of Emmons.

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 Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-300

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 025-CS-006 (low CP)

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

WHEREAS, the work for 2025 Crack Sealing by Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC of Eau Claire, WI 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 \$44,326.02.

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-301

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 025-LINE-998

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 \$235,120.05.

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-302

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of SAP 024-616-007 (low project number)

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

WHEREAS, the work for the paving of CSAH 16 south of Twin Lakes, CSAH 26 between CSAH 1 and CSAH 13, and CSAH 30 from CSAH 1 to TH 251 in Freeborn County 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 \$362,075.54.

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 No. 25-303, approving the amendment to the Songbird Trail to extend the term of the existing agreement to June 2027, an additional eighteen months. The current agreement expires December 2025.

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 No. 25-304, authorizing the Service Agreement for Regional Trail Master Plan with HDR, Inc.

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 No. 25 -305
Establishing Health Insurance Rates for 2026

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners have taken action to establish an alternative financing arrangement for the provision of health insurance services for the employees and retirees of Freeborn County, and;

WHEREAS, benefits available to said employees and retirees are to be self-insured and administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to set the rates for the provision of said services, and rates have been proposed by BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota and National Insurance Services; and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following employee rates of insurance costs shall be placed into effect effective January 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect unless changed by the County Board;

Type	AWARE	HVN
Single Free	No Cost	No Cost
Single Plus	\$160.20 Monthly	\$126.60
Employee plus Child(ren)	\$420.80 Monthly	\$332.20
Family	\$661.20 Monthly	\$522.00

RESOLUTION No. 25-XXX

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. 25-306

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation/Retirement of David Rasmussen

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway 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, David Rasmussen has been employed with the Freeborn County Highway Department since January 19th, 1999 and is resigning his position effective January 5th, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation/retirement of David Rasmussen as a Freeborn County Engineering Tech. 2 effective on or about January 5th, 2026.

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 Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-307

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Highway Engineering Tech 2 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, the position of Highway Engineering Tech 2 has been reviewed by the department head, Human Resources and the Administrator to assess the ongoing need for the role and the responsibilities it entails;

WHEREAS, David Rasmussen, Freeborn County Highway Engineering Tech 2, has resigned his position effective January 5th, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Highway Engineering Tech 2 position.

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-308

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation/Retirement of Robert Hareid

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway 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, Robert Hareid has been employed with the Freeborn County Highway Department since May 18th, 2015 and is resigning his position effective December 19th, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation/retirement of Robert Hareid as a Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Worker effective on or about December 19th, 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 Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-309

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Worker 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, the position of Highway Maintenance Worker has been reviewed by the department head, Human Resources and the Administrator to assess the ongoing need for the role and the responsibilities it entails;

WHEREAS, Robert Hareid, Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Worker, has resigned his position effective December 19th, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Highway Maintenance Worker 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 25-310

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES FOR 2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 11, Section 1 of the Association of Minnesota Counties Bylaws, each member county shall be entitled to a number of delegates equal to three more than the number of persons on the board of county commissioners of the member county; and

WHEREAS, delegates shall be appointed annually by the county board from among the officials and employees of the county; and

WHEREAS, delegates that serve as members of the county board may be elected to the Association's Board of Directors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following officials and employees as delegates to the Association of Minnesota Counties for 2026:

Nicole Eckstrom, Commissioner
Brad Edwin, Commissioner
Lukas Severson, Commissioner
Dawn Kaasa, Commissioner
Christopher Shoff, Commissioner
Public Works/Highway Engineer- Phil Wacholz
Director of Human Services - Suzi Nerison
County Administrator

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. 25-311, to send a letter regarding the ICE payment contract with additional recipients.

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:

RESOLUTION No. 25-312
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before October 24th, 2025.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 619,885.70
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 535,839.35
05	Human Services	\$ 203,028.72
06	Public Health	\$ 82,357.66
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 272,332.31
40	County Ditch	\$ 13,299.09
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 104,459.48
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 34,590.63
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 4,402.00
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 38.41
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 1,870,233.35

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 54
Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$5,749.36
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 10:48 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk