

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday, January 20th, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026. 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 with the following amendment. Removal of resolution approving Drainage Ditch Inspector contracts with John Heeren and Dave Clausen due to questions regarding pay some other discussions before moving forward.

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. 26-035
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 January 6th, 2026 minutes;
- 2) Approval of the January 7th, 2026 Closed Session minutes;
- 3) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Ashley Strand, Cedar Valley Services and Kirk Kuchera, SMART Transit presented to the Board regarding SMART transit information and updates.

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

At approximately 8:45 a.m., Amy Conner, Auditor-Treasurer held a Public Hearing regarding a City of Albert Lea abatement.

The Public Hearing closed at approximately 8:46 a.m.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION 26-036

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A HOUSING TAX ABATEMENT ON PROPERTY WITHIN FREEBORN
COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A
NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOME**

WHEREAS, the City of Albert Lea has adopted and ISD #241 has joined in approving a tax abatement housing assistance policy to aid in promoting residential dwelling construction within the city limits of Albert Lea; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albert Lea has requested continued participation by Freeborn County in accordance with the terms and conditions of said policy; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners deem it appropriate to participate in said policy insofar as Freeborn County's share of tax revenue is concerned;

WHEREAS, By Resolution 22-037 Freeborn County has continued to Participate in the above program through December of 2026 in accordance with and subject to the requirements and limitations imposed by the policy adopted by the City of Albert Lea, with the specific additional condition that the City of Albert Lea provide timely notification to the Freeborn County Auditor/Treasurer of any construction in a given year that qualifies for tax abatement under the existing city policy;

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has determined per the agreement with the City of Albert Lea to grant to Lance Lamphear ("Property Owner") Housing Tax Abatement for the Property (the Property") legally described as:

502 Milrose Cr, Albert Lea, MN
Parcel No. 34.404.0090
Legal Description: CHAPEAU SHORES NINTH ADDITION Lot-8&9 Block-001 LOTS 8 & 9 BLK 1
CHAPEAU SHORES NINTH ADDITION CITY OF ALBERT LEA

WHEREAS, the Property Owner has met the statutory requirements outlined under Minn. Stat. § 469.1813 as well as the City of Albert Lea Tax Abatement Housing Assistance Policy guidelines for abatement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Local Option Abatement Application as described above

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-037

AUTHORIZATION OF A COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD,

UOCAVA BALLOT BOARD, AND MAIL BALLOT BOARD

WHEREAS, Freeborn County is required by Minnesota Statute 203B.121, Subd. 1 to establish a County Absentee Ballot Board, UOCAVA Ballot Board and Mail Ballot Board; and

WHEREAS, this authorization will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee, UOCAVA and mail ballots to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer that would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in Sections 204B.19 to 204B.22; and

WHEREAS, this will eliminate the need for election judges to perform this technical and time consuming task on election day wherein the county absentee ballot board can begin this process 46 days prior to an election; and

WHEREAS, this will speed the processing of accepted absentee ballots delivered to the precincts to be incorporated into the vote counts on election day; giving election judges more available time for the voters at the polls; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer to implement a County Absentee Ballot Board, UOCAVA Ballot Board and Mail Ballot Board that would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 to perform the task.

Commissioner	VOTE	
Edwin	FOR <u> X </u>	AGAINST <u> </u>
Kaasa	FOR <u> X </u>	AGAINST <u> </u>
Severson	FOR <u> </u>	AGAINST <u> X </u>
Shoff	FOR <u> X </u>	AGAINST <u> </u>
Eckstrom	FOR <u> X </u>	AGAINST <u> </u>

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
26-038**

Resolve, that the board of Commissioners authorize loans to the following ditches:

County Ditch No.	8 IMP	\$	159,800.00	Project Currently in Progress
	31	\$	6,500.00	
	32 IMP	\$	229,400.00	Project Currently in Progress
	68 IMP	\$	171,800.00	Project Currently in Progress
		\$	567,500.00	
Judicial Ditch No.	JD 8 F & W IMP	\$	68,650.00	Project Currently in Progress
	J12	\$	9,300.00	
	J 21 IMP	\$	166,000.00	Project Currently in Progress
	J27 IMP	\$	271,600.00	Project Currently in Progress
		\$	515,550.00	
		\$	1,083,050.00	

From the General Fund at an annual interest rate of 4.25% to cover cash shortages for 2025 and
Further be it resolved that loans will be repaid through the application of 2026 assessments.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 26-039

TITLE: A Resolution Appointing Amy Conner as Interim Assessor

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

Whereas, the County Assessor is a constitutional officer appointed by the Board to oversee county tax value assessment responsibilities and

Whereas, the Board has received Rich Heffner's resignation from the Assessor position effective January 9, 2026;
and

Whereas, Amy Conner currently serves as County Auditor Treasurer, with considerable experience in county property value assessment operations and administrative leadership roles ; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints **Amy Conner** as **Interim Assessor**, effective **January 20, 2026**;

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 Severson.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-040

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE FREEBORN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER 42

RESOLVED, that the following named person be and is hereby appointed to the Freeborn County Planning Commission Board for a first term ending December 31, 2027:

Mike Lee, 2141 Kenneth Drive Albert Lea, MN 56036

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. 26-041

TITLE: Resolution to accept a \$400 donation to the Freeborn County CVCC from Round Prairie Lutheran Church Women

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center directly serves those who have been victims of crime, domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center plans events and campaigns bringing community awareness to the issues of crime, domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Round Prairie Lutheran Church Women have offered a donation to the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center in the amount of \$400 to be used for services provided by the CVCC; and

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

1. that the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center accepts the donation in the amount of \$400 from the Round Prairie Lutheran Church Women to be used for services provided by the CVCC

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. 26-042

TITLE: Resolution to approve the 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Dr. Annette Smick.

WHEREAS, psychiatric services in rural Minnesota are becoming increasingly difficult to access; and

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 SCCBI purchases mental health services including psychiatric services from the Freeborn County Mental Health Center for residents of counties comprising the SCCBI; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Annette Smick is able to provide quality psychiatric services for clients of the Freeborn County Mental Health Center, increasing accessibility for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Mental Health Center and Dr. Annette Smick are credentialed to bill insurance for psychiatric services; therefore

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

1. The 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Dr. Annette Smick is approved for the provision of psychiatric services to residents of Freeborn County and the counties comprising the SCCBI.

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. 26-043

TITLE: Resolution to approve the 2026-2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Cedar Valley Services

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 256M mandates provision of services to children and adults meeting specific disability and/or vulnerability criteria in order to ensure health, safety and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 268A.15 necessitates implementation of the Extended Employment program for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is committed to providing quality services to meet the needs of the population of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services ensures person centered and client directed services in order to maintain quality of life for individuals with disabilities as actively employed individuals; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Valley Services is an approved vendor, according to Minnesota Statutes, of services to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services wishes to purchase specific services from Cedar Valley Services;

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

1. the 2026-2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between the Freeborn County Department of Human Services and Cedar Valley Services is approved for provision of Community and Facility Based Extended Employment Services to eligible residents of Freeborn County.

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. 26-044

TITLE: Resolution to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement with Independent Management Services for Semi-Independent Living Services

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes mandate provision of services to children and adults meeting specific disability and/or vulnerability criteria in order to ensure health, safety and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is committed to providing quality services to meet the needs of the population of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services ensures person centered and client directed semi-independent living services in order to maintain quality of life for individuals with disabilities in their homes or in the least restrictive setting possible; and

WHEREAS, Independent Management Services is an approved vendor, according to Minnesota Statutes, of semi-independent living services to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services wishes to purchase specific services from Independent Management Services;

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

1. The 2026-2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between the Freeborn County Department of Human Services and Independent Management Services is hereby approved for the provision of Semi-Independent Living Services to eligible residents of Freeborn County.

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. 26-045

TITLE: Resolution to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement with Lutheran Social Services for Semi-Independent Living Services

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes mandate provision of services to children and adults meeting specific disability and/or vulnerability criteria in order to ensure health, safety and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is committed to providing quality services to meet the needs of the population of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services ensures person centered and client directed semi-independent living services in order to maintain quality of life for individuals with disabilities in their homes or in the least restrictive setting possible; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services is an approved vendor, according to Minnesota Statutes, of semi-independent living services to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services wishes to purchase specific services from Lutheran Social Services;

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

1. The 2026-2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between the Freeborn County Department of Human Services and Lutheran Social Services is hereby approved for the provision of Semi-Independent Living Services to eligible residents of Freeborn County.

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. 26-046

TITLE: Resolution to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement with Unique Abilities for Semi-Independent Living Services

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes mandate provision of services to children and adults meeting specific disability and/or vulnerability criteria in order to ensure health, safety and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services is committed to providing quality services to meet the needs of the population of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services ensures person centered and client directed semi-independent living services in order to maintain quality of life for individuals with disabilities in their homes or in the least restrictive setting possible; and

WHEREAS, Unique Abilities is an approved vendor, according to Minnesota Statutes, of semi-independent living services to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Department of Human Services wishes to purchase specific services from Unique Abilities;

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

1. The 2026-2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between the Freeborn County Department of Human Services and Unique Abilities is hereby approved for the provision of Semi-Independent Living Services to eligible residents of Freeborn County.

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. 26-047

TITLE: Resolution approving Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Serenity Services for Guardianship and Conservator Services

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Department of Human Services has identified a need for Guardianship and Conservator services and related legal services for persons who are impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, or concerning the person's estate or financial affairs and have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to manage the estate or financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, this is a mandated service under Minnesota Statute 524, article 5; and

WHEREAS, this vendor has satisfactorily provided these services to residents of Freeborn County under an existing contract; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to continue to purchase such services from Serenity Services;

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

1. the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approves the renewal of the Purchase of Service Agreement with Serenity Services to provide Guardianship and Conservator services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

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. 26-048

TITLE: Resolution approving Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Southern MN Guardianship Services for Guardianship and Conservator Services

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Department of Human Services has identified a need for Guardianship and Conservator services and related legal services for persons who are impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, or concerning the person's estate or financial affairs and have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to manage the estate or financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, this is a mandated service under Minnesota Statute 524, article 5; and

WHEREAS, this vendor has satisfactorily provided these services to residents of Freeborn County under an existing contract; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to continue to purchase such services from Southern MN Guardianship Services;

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

1. the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approves the renewal of the Purchase of Service Agreement with Southern MN Guardianship Services to provide Guardianship and Conservator services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

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. 26-049

TITLE: Resolution approving Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Independent Management Services for Guardianship and Conservator Services

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Department of Human Services has identified a need for Guardianship and Conservator services and related legal services for persons who are impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, or concerning the person's estate or financial affairs and have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to manage the estate or financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, this is a mandated service under Minnesota Statute 524, article 5; and

WHEREAS, this vendor has satisfactorily provided these services to residents of Freeborn County under an existing contract; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to continue to purchase such services from Independent Management Services;

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

1. the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approves the renewal of the Purchase of Service Agreement with Independent Management Services to provide Guardianship and Conservator services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

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. 26-050

TITLE: Resolution approving Purchase of Service Agreement between Freeborn County and Unique Abilities for Guardianship and Conservator Services

WHEREAS, The Freeborn County Department of Human Services has identified a need for Guardianship and Conservator services and related legal services for persons who are impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, or concerning the person's estate or financial affairs and have demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to manage the estate or financial affairs; and

WHEREAS, this is a mandated service under Minnesota Statute 524, article 5; and

WHEREAS, this vendor has satisfactorily provided these services to residents of Freeborn County under an existing contract; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to continue to purchase such services from Unique Abilities;

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

1. the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners approves the renewal of the Purchase of Service Agreement with Unique Abilities to provide Guardianship and Conservator services for the period from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

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 NO. 26-051

TITLE: Approval of Funding Participation and Construction Agreement with Alden Township for the Replacement of Bridge L5611

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway Department has the responsibility of inspecting in service bridges on the township system per Mn Statute 165.03 and the responsibility of administering the constructing of new township bridges per Mn Statute 161.082; and,

WHEREAS, Alden Township is the owner of Bridge L5611; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota allocates a portion of the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund (HUTDF) specifically for the replacement of Town Bridges; and,

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Highway Department has conducted inspections on Bridge L5611 and found the structure to be deficient and eligible for funding through the state; and,

WHEREAS, Alden Township has agreed to the replacement and an agreement has been created to establish the responsibilities for the project that align with the requirements set forth in State Statute and the State of Minnesota's Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP).

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

1. Freeborn County shall enter into agreement with Alden Township for the replacement of Bridge L5611.

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 NO. 26-052

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Joe Johnson

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Maintenance 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, Joe Johnson has been employed with the Freeborn County Maintenance Department as a Maintenance Worker since December 23rd, 2024 and with Freeborn County since April 5th, 2010 and is resigning his position effective January 23rd, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Joe Johnson as a Freeborn County Maintenance Worker effective on or about January 23rd, 2026.

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. 26-053

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Highway Maintenance 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 a 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, Joe Johnson, Freeborn County Maintenance Worker, has resigned his position effective January 23rd, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County Maintenance Worker position.

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:

**FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 054**

**A RESOLUTION REVISING THE FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RULES
AND PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners has adopted Rules and Procedures to govern the conduct of meetings and the transaction of official county business; and

WHEREAS, Rule 21 (Voting) requires clarification to ensure consistency and alignment with Robert's Rules of Order; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rule 21 is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

**EXHIBIT A
REVISED RULE 21 – VOTING**

Votes during meetings of the Board of Commissioners shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) Unless otherwise required by law, votes shall be taken by voice vote. At the request of any Commissioner, a roll call vote shall be taken.
- (b) Commissioners present and eligible to vote may vote "aye," "nay," or abstain. Abstentions are not counted as votes.
- (c) A tie vote results in failure of the motion.
- (d) Ordinances, expenditures, personnel actions, and other actions specified by law require a majority of the whole membership.
- (e) Emergency actions require a majority plus one of the whole membership.
- (f) All other motions require a majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

After discussion, the main motion was made and seconded, no final vote occurred on the main motion.

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution:

**FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 054(a)**

**A RESOLUTION REVISING THE FREEBORN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RULES
AND PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners has adopted Rules and Procedures to govern the conduct of meetings and the transaction of official county business; and

WHEREAS, Rule 21 (Voting) requires clarification to ensure consistency and alignment with Robert's Rules of Order; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rule 21 is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

**EXHIBIT A
REVISED RULE 21 – VOTING (SECTIONS a–c)**

- (a) Unless otherwise required by statute, ordinance, or resolution, votes shall be taken by voice vote. At the request of any Commissioner, a roll call vote shall be taken by the Clerk. The order of the roll call vote shall be determined by the Presiding Officer.

(b) Commissioners who are present and eligible to vote may vote “aye,” “nay,” or abstain. An abstention shall not be counted as a vote and shall not affect the outcome.

(c) In the event of a tie vote, the motion or proposal shall fail.

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. 26-055, setting a Public Input Meeting for the Shotgun Zone for February 12th, 2026 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.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. 26-056
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before January 23rd, 2026.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 1,380,389.28
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 312,098.08
05	Human Services	\$ 315,769.88
06	Public Health	\$ 134,108.73
40	County Ditch	\$ 20,643.13
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 189,366.84
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$ 3,812.00
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 38.41
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 2,356,226.35

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 50

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$7,379.43

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk