

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026. 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 with the following items added under Administration – Consider a resolution authorizing the Administrator to collaborate with Sherburne County on Legislative Advocacy re: County Authority to Engage in Federal Contracts & to approve the Agreement to provide Interim County Assessor duties between Fillmore County and Freeborn County.

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. 26-076
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 Minutes from the February 12th, 2026 Public Input Meeting;
- 2) Approval of Minutes from the February 17th, 2026 Board Meeting;
- 3) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees.

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 Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-077

TITLE: Resolution Accepting Annual Seasonal Bid Items

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

WHEREAS, bids were solicited for various seasonal bid requirements and received by the County Engineer on Tuesday, February 17, 2026; and,

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for various seasonal bid requirements for use on various highways in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the following price lists be placed on file for consideration during the specified time period.

Plant Mixed Bituminous Materials – Ulland Brothers Inc.

Equipment Rental – Freeborn Construction, Jensen Excavating & Trucking

Corrugated Metal Pipe Culvert – TrueNorth Steel, Metal Culverts

Gravel and Crushed Quarry Rock – Ulland Brothers Inc., Freeborn Construction

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-078

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-LINE-999

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

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

WHEREAS, four responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$103,605.00 submitted by Subsurface, Inc.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for culvert cleaning, rehabilitation and lining on various highways in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Subsurface, Inc. for \$103,605.00 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-LINE-999.

Resolution 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. 26-079

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-SAND-005

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

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

WHEREAS, one responsive bid was received with the low bid being in the amount of \$69,750.00 submitted by Ulland Brothers, Inc.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for the purchasing a supply of washed sand for ice control that meets product spec 3126 for various highways in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Ulland Brothers, Inc. for \$69,750.00 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-SAND-005.

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. 26-080

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-SEAL-022

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

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

WHEREAS, five responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$711,048.15 submitted by Allied Blacktop Company.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for 2026 Chip Sealing on CSAH's 22, 24 and 26 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Allied Blacktop Company for \$711,048.15 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-SEAL-022.

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. 26-081

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for SP 024-070-034

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

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

WHEREAS, two responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$3,878,587.70 submitted by Ulland Brother Inc.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for milling, recondition in place bituminous surface and rumble stripes with pavement markings and aggregate shoulders on CSAH 35 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Ulland Brothers Inc. for \$3,878,587.70 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project SP 024-070-034.

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. 26-082

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for SAP 024-601-019 (low SAP)

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

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

WHEREAS, two responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$6,249,420.25 submitted by Ulland Brother Inc.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for paving on CR 71, CSAH 1, CSAH 18 and CSAH 25 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Ulland Brothers Inc. for \$6,249,420.25 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project SAP 024-601-019 (low SAP).

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. 26-083

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-M-002 – Road Striping

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

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

WHEREAS, two responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$176,993.51 submitted by Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for the pavement markings on various highways in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC for \$176,993.51 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-M-002.

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. 26-084

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-M-004

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

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

WHEREAS, one responsive bid was received with the low bid being in the amount of \$112,431.25 submitted by Freeborn County Co-op.

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

1. The Freeborn County Highway Department has prepared plans and specifications for applying magnesium chloride on various highways in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Freeborn County Co-op for \$112,431.25 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-M-004.

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. 25-085

Approving the Committed Fund Balances

RESOLVED, approving the committed fund balance for 2024 as follows:

Committed						
Highway construction projects	3801	2,990,000	-		2,990,000	RB-TB
Individual sewage treatment systems	3806	322,560	322,560	GEN-TB	-	
Capital Outlay	3813	945,021	945,021	GEN-TB		
IT Hardware	3823	490,000	490,000	GEN-TB		
Administration	3825	-	-	GEN-TB		
Trail maintenance	3827	585,570	585,570	GEN-TB		
Highway building roof	3829	-	-	GEN-TB		
Computer Purchases	3831	500,000	500,000	GEN-TB		
27th Payroll	3833	750,000	750,000	GEN-TB		
Broadband	3834	-	-	GEN-TB		
Economic Development	3835	750,000	750,000	GEN-TB		
Fair Grounds Infrastructure	3836	-	-	GEN-TB		
Environmental service building	3837	-	-	GEN-TB		
Community College	3838	200,000	200,000	GEN-TB		
Tax Software	3839	250,000	250,000	GEN-TB		
Elections	3840	1,762	1,762	GEN-TB		
Self Insurance	3841	1,800,000	1,800,000	GEN-TB	-	
Total Committed		9,584,913	6,594,913		2,990,000	

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. 26-086

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Avi Sukhwal

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Public Health 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, Avi Sukhwal has been employed with the Freeborn County Public Health as the Public Health Planner since January 7th, 2025 and is resigning his position effective March 27th, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Avi Sukhwal as the Freeborn County Public Health Planner effective on or about March 27th, 2026.

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:

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Public Health Planner (PHP) 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 the PHP 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, the PHP is fully funded by the Foundational Public Health Responsibilities Grant through the Minnesota Department of Health

WHEREAS, the projects that has been started by the current PHP needs to be continued per Minnesota statute 145A;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 145A requires Community Health Boards to assess community health needs, develop and implement community health improvement plans, ensure the delivery of core public health functions, and maintain accountability through reporting and performance measures. The projects currently underway were initiated to fulfill these statutory obligations and, therefore, must continue to ensure compliance with state law and associated grant requirements;

WHEREAS, to ensure uninterrupted compliance and operational continuity, it is recommended that; all active PHP projects continue and all reporting deadlines, grant deliverables, and MDH communications remain current.

WHEREAS, failure to maintain continuity may jeopardize Community Health Services subsidy funding, grant compliance, and required state performance measures;

WHEREAS, Avi Sukhwal, Freeborn County PHP, has resigned his position effective March 27th, 2026;

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

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. 26-088, approving the Parking Lease Agreement between Freeborn County and Good Samaritan – Albert Lea

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. 26-089

Authorizing the Freeborn County Administrator to Collaborate with Sherburne County on Legislative Advocacy Regarding County Authority to Engage in Federal Contracts

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties rely on the authority to enter into federal contracts to deliver services, secure funding, and meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation, including HF 3413, SF 3842, HF 3477, SF 3628, SF 3653, or any similar bills, would restrict or remove statutory language allowing counties to engage in federal contracts; and

WHEREAS, passage of such legislation could impair counties' operational flexibility, financial stability, and ability to serve residents; and

WHEREAS, collaboration with Sherburne County will strengthen advocacy efforts and present a unified county perspective to state legislators; and

WHEREAS, limited expenditures for professional legislative advocacy services may be necessary to effectively convey the County's position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Freeborn County Administrator is authorized to advocate on behalf of freeborn county to the Minnesota Legislature on the importance of opposing legislation that would restrict counties' ability to engage in federal contracts.
2. The Freeborn County Administrator may expend County funds for legislative advocacy services not to exceed \$6,000, representing up to one-half of the anticipated shared cost.
3. This authorization is effective through May 31, 2026, or until the conclusion of the current legislative session, whichever occurs first.
4. Expenditures must comply with applicable laws, County policies, and budgetary appropriations.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 26-090, approving the Agreement to provide Interim County Assessor duties between Fillmore County and 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. 26-091
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before March 6th, 2026.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 700,937.41

03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 120,154.01
05	Human Services	\$ 228,217.58
06	Public Health	\$ 84,820.43
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 123,438.50
40	County Ditch	\$ 22,819.12
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 27,846.45
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 20,987.26
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 3,972.50
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 1,333,193.26

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 138

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – \$12,701.44

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk