

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
April 7th, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff and Eckstrom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Severson offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 26–110
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 Regular Full-Time Status Employees.
- 2) Approval of Drainage Repairs.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Eckstrom entered the following resolution;

RESOLVED AS, approving the minutes from the March 17th, 2026 Board meeting

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

After discussion, Commissioner Shoff entered the following resolution;

RESOLVED AS, approving the amendment to the minutes from the March 17th, 2026 Board Meeting,

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Under Miscellaneous Business the following items were forward:

- Presentation regarding the renewal of SELCO-Freeborn County Contract for Library Services
- Update on the Horseshoe Solar Project near Hayward – Arevon
- The appointment of one Cedar River Watershed District Manager
- Planning Commission Report – April 6th, 2026 – Informational Only

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 26-112, appointing Steve Kraushaar to the Cedar River Watershed District Board of Managers

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Shoff.

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

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-113

TITLE: Resolution to accept a \$500 donation to the Freeborn County CVCC from Nunda Township

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, Nunda Township has offered a donation to the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center in the amount of \$500 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 \$500 from Nunda Township to be used for services provided by the CVCC

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-114

TITLE: Resolution to accept a \$200 donation to the Freeborn County CVCC from Emmons Lutheran Church - WNALC

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, Emmons Lutheran Church - WNALC has offered a donation to the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center in the amount of \$200 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 \$200 from Emmons Lutheran Church - WNALC to be used for services provided by the CVCC

Resolution 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. 26-115

TITLE: Resolution to accept a \$206 donation to the Freeborn County CVCC from Maricle Martial Arts

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, Maricle Martial Arts has offered a donation to the Freeborn County Department of Human Services - Crime Victims Crisis Center in the amount of \$206 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 \$206 from Maricle Martial Arts 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. 26-116

TITLE: Proclamation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Freeborn County

WHEREAS, every child in Freeborn County deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment free from fear, abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are significant community issues that can cause lasting psychological, emotional and physical effects that ripple throughout a child's life and into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of child maltreatment relies on investments in just and equitable systems that proactively support child and family well-being to benefit all families and break harmful intergenerational cycles of trauma; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse and neglect prevention activities success because of strong partnerships between child welfare professionals, educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, community- and faith- based organizations, businesses and families; and

WHEREAS, we must work together as a community to extend helping hands to families in supportive and non-judgmental ways before a crisis occurs, ensuring there is access to the resources needed to build resilience and to strengthen protective factors;

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

2. April is proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month in Freeborn County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

1. The Board calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, healthcare providers and business to participate in efforts to support families, thereby prevention child abuse and neglect and strengthening the community in which we live.

2. The Board encourages all residents to wear blue on National Wear Blue Day, Friday, April 10th, 2026.

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. 26-117

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract for CP 026-CPR-046

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, three responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$139,757.20 submitted by Doyle Conner Co.

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 concrete road panel repair on CSAH 46 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Doyle Conner Co. for \$139,757.20 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project CP 026-CPR-046.

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 Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-118

TITLE: Award of Construction Contract 269956 for Bridge Replacements

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, six responsive bids were received with the low bid being in the amount of \$677,329.75 submitted by Minnowa Construction 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 bridge removal and replacement of bridges 24J67, 24J68 and 24J57 in Freeborn County, MN.
2. The Board hereby accepts the lowest responsible bid from Minnowa Construction Inc. for \$677,329.75 and authorizes the Board Chair and Administrator to enter into a construction contract to complete this work for Project SAP 024-599-056 (low SAP).

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. 26-119

TITLE: Approve Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement for SAP 024-630-023

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

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and,

WHEREAS, after considering the amount of the low bid and the cost share requirements of the grant program, the amount of the grant shall be \$73,167.50.

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

1. Freeborn County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but is not required.
2. The Board Chair and the County Administrator are authorized to execute the grant agreement and any amendments thereto concerning the above referenced grant.

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 26-120

**A RESOLUTION DE-COMMITTING PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 26-085**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners previously committed funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for economic development purposes; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners previously adopted Resolution No. 26-085, which committed a portion of the County's fund balance for the 2024 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed current financial conditions, priorities, and funding needs, and has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to de-commit the aforementioned economic development funds and rescind Resolution No. 26-085 to allow for the reallocation of these resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. **De-commitment of Funds:** The previously committed \$750,000 in Economic Development funds is hereby de-committed in its entirety.
2. **Rescission of Resolution 26-085:** Resolution No. 26-085 committing fund balance for the 2024 fiscal year is hereby rescinded in its entirety.

3. **Return to Fund Balance:** All funds associated with the above actions shall be returned to the unassigned fund balance or the appropriate classification in accordance with County policy and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) guidelines, and made available for future appropriation as directed by the Board.
4. **Accounting Adjustments:** The County Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to make all necessary accounting and budgetary adjustments to implement this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this action does not preclude the Board from committing or reallocating funds to economic development or other purposes in the future as deemed necessary and appropriate.

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 26-121

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to commit fund balance for specific purposes in accordance with its fund balance policy and applicable governmental accounting standards; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has identified future capital, operational, and programmatic needs requiring dedicated resources; and

WHEREAS, committing fund balance ensures that resources are reserved and used only for their intended purposes unless modified by Board action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Commissioners as follows:

The following amounts are hereby **committed from fund balance** for the purposes identified:

- **3806.000 – Individual Sewage Treatment Systems:** \$302,045
- **3823.000 – IT Hardware:** \$560,000
- **3828.000 – Trail Construction:** \$820,570
- **3831.000 – Computer Purchases:** \$600,000
- **3833.000 – 27th Payroll:** \$900,000
- **3839.000 – Tax Software:** \$250,000
- **3840.000 – Elections:** \$238,606
- **3841.000 – Self Insurance:** \$2,300,000
- **3842.000 – Rooftop Units:** \$150,000
- **3844.000 – Sheriff Body Worn Cameras and Guns:** \$187,500
- **3845.000 – Snowmobile/ATV:** \$10,000
- **3846.000 – Impound Lot:** \$300,000
- **3847.000 – Security Upgrades:** \$150,000
- **3848.000 – Fairground Roofs:** \$150,000

Total Committed Fund Balance: \$6,918,721

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these committed amounts shall remain in fund balance until expended for their stated purposes or until changed by formal action of the County Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to make the appropriate accounting entries to reflect these commitments in accordance with County policy and applicable accounting standards.

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 26-122

Resolution Approving Local Option Disaster Abatement and Credit for 71352 300th St.; Parcel 19.023.0040
Whereas, the property at 71352 300th St., Hartland suffered extensive property damage from a fire on June 7, 2025;

Whereas, Minnesota Statute 273.1233 and 273.1235 allow for property tax relief in the form of Local Option Disaster Abatement and Local Option Disaster Credit;

Whereas, the minimum requirements of the aforementioned statutes have been met;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Local Option Disaster Abatement for Property Taxes Payable in 2025 and Local Option Disaster Credit for Property Taxes Payable in 2026 for 71352 300th St., Hartland; Parcel 19.023.0040.

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. 26-123

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Erica Larson

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, Erica Larson has been employed with the Freeborn County Public Health as the WIC Coordinator since March 2nd, 2020 and is resigning her position effective April 3rd, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Erica Larson as a Freeborn County Public Health WIC Coordinator effective on or about April 3rd, 2026.

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. 26-124

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County WIC Coordinator 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 WIC Coordinator 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, Erica Larson, Freeborn County WIC Coordinator, has resigned her position effective April 3rd, 2026;

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

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. 26-125, approving the Union Contract for Patrol Lieutenants.

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

Under Other Items Necessary at this time, the following items were brought forward;

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-126

TITLE: Accepting the Resignation of Sydney Bagley

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Attorney's Office employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Board is the appointing authority for all county employees, and;

WHEREAS, Sydney Bagley has been employed with the Freeborn County Attorney's Office as an Assistant County Attorney since August 11th, 2025 and is resigning her position effective May 1st, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the resignation of Sydney Bagley as a Freeborn County Assistant County Attorney effective on or about May 1st, 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. 26-127

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill and establish an eligibility list for future vacancies of an Assistant County Attorney position in the County Attorney's Office

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 an Assistant County Attorney 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 establishment of an eligibility list of qualified candidates will support the timely filling of current and anticipated vacancies;

WHEREAS, Sydney Bagley, Freeborn County Assistant County Attorney, has resigned her position effective May 1st, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling and establish an eligibility list of the vacant Freeborn County Assistant County Attorney 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 26-128
Agreement to Provide WIC Competent Professional Authority (CPA) Duties
Between Freeborn County Public Health and Amber Converse

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 26-129
Approval of Claims

RESOLVED, that the following claims be allowed and paid on or before April 10th, 2026.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$ 1,135,825.43
03	County Road & Bridge	\$ 328,110.47
05	Human Services	\$ 454,152.63
06	Public Health	\$ 163,848.22
31	Capital Improvements	\$ 90,772.44
40	County Ditch	\$ 42,754.08
70	Trust & Agency	\$ 83,677.88
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$ 19,676.92
74	Turtle Creek Watershed	\$ 2,887.50
79	Social Services Collaborative	\$ 38.41
80	Tax Collection Fund	\$ 5,504.08
	FUND TOTALS	\$ 2,327,248.06

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 161

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – 14,382.24

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21st, 2026.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk