ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday June 16th, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa and Eckstrom. Commissioner Shoff was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Severson offered the following motion;

MOVED, approving the agenda with the following additions: acceptance of a resignation under the Consent Agenda, a resolution authorizing filling of the vacant Probation Director position and a resolution extending the PERA Pro – Sheriff's Office.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the Chair declared the motion approved.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 26–177
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 June 2nd, 2026 minutes;
2) Approval of Resignations
3) Approval of Claims

The following claims be allowed and paid on or before June 18th, 2026.

FUND	NAME	AMOUNT
01	General Fund	$ 679,473.69
03	County Road & Bridge	$ 1,448,213.49
05	Human Services	$ 214,233.44
06	Public Health	$ 86,797.00
07	Opioid Settlement	$ 23,550.00
40	County Ditch	$ 30,493.82
70	Trust & Agency	$ 167,381.11
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	$ 32,707.20
77	Recorder's Clearing	$ 3,261.00
80	Tax Collection	$ 31,482.66
	FUND TOTALS	$ 2,717,593.41

Number of Claims not exceeding $300 – 45
Dollar amount of claims not exceeding $300 – $5,048.84

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Appointment of Shell Rock River Watershed District Managers

The Board considered the appointment of two managers to the Shell Rock River Watershed District. Four applications had been received for the two available positions.

The Chair outlined the proposed appointment process, explaining that nominations and voting would occur separately for each seat. Commissioner Severson moved to conduct the voting by paper ballot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom and carried by a **3-1 vote**.

Following discussion regarding the voting procedure, the Board agreed to vote for one candidate at a time for each vacant seat.

First Seat

The first round of paper balloting resulted in the following vote:

- Wes Dahl – 1 vote
- Brad Kramer – 0 votes
- Michael Lee – 2 votes
- Mark Morreim – 1 vote

As no candidate received a majority vote, a second ballot was conducted. The second ballot resulted in:

- Wes Dahl – 1 vote
- Brad Kramer – 0 votes
- Michael Lee – 3 votes
- Mark Morreim – 0 votes

Having received a majority of the votes cast, **Mike Lee** was appointed to the first vacant manager position.

Second Seat

Voting then proceeded for the second vacant position. Two rounds of paper balloting resulted in a tie between **Wes Dahl** and **Mark Morreim**, with each candidate receiving two votes.

Board members discussed the qualifications of the remaining candidates and considered alternative voting methods to resolve the tie. Commissioner Severson moved to utilize a ranked-choice ballot for the final vote. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eckstrom and carried unanimously.

Following the ranked-choice ballot, **Wes Dahl** received the highest point total and was appointed to the second vacant manager position.

Both appointed managers thanked the Board for their confidence and expressed their commitment to serving the residents of the Shell Rock River Watershed District.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-178

TITLE: Resolution Denying Funding the Freeborn County Peer Connect program through Doc's Recovery House with Opioid Settlement Funds

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has received Opioid Settlement Funds intended to support approved abatement activities addressing 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 projects that align with state settlement guidelines and County priorities;

WHEREAS, Doc's Recovery House submitted an application for the Freeborn County Peer Connect Program, a proposed 12-month pilot project that would provide a dedicated 24/7 phone line staffed by peer recovery specialists, a Freeborn County-specific resource directory, active warm handoffs, transportation coordination, and connections to treatment and recovery services. The proposal includes an initial community resource assessment and stakeholder engagement phase, followed by implementation of services and community outreach efforts, with the long-term goal of establishing a sustainable partnership based on demonstrated community need and measurable outcomes;

WHEREAS, the proposal requested $40,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds to support staffing, phone line operations, transportation assistance, community awareness efforts, and administrative costs associated with program implementation;

WHEREAS, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee reviewed and scored the application according to the County's established evaluation criteria and determined that, while the proposal represents an allowable opioid abatement activity, it did not sufficiently demonstrate a direct and measurable impact for Freeborn County residents relative to the funding requested;

WHEREAS, the Committee found that the proposal lacked clearly defined outcome measures, provided limited justification for certain budget expenditures, relied heavily on future funding for sustainability, and did not adequately demonstrate that the proposed services would address an unmet need within Freeborn County;

WHEREAS, based on its review, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee recommends denial of the funding request at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that the request for $40,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds for the Freeborn County Peer Connect Program through Doc's Recovery House is hereby denied.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following resolution;
RESOLUTION NO. 26-179
TITLE: Resolution Accepting a Donation from St. Theodore Catholic Church

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Public Health Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program has received a donation from St. Theodore Catholic Church;

WHEREAS, St. Theodore Catholic Church collected baby items from members of their parish members;

WHEREAS, St. Theodore Catholic Church collected items such as: diapers, diaper wipes, baby clothes, bibs and blanket;

WHEREAS, the donated items will be distributed to families served in the WIC program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners, that the Board hereby accepts the donation from St. Theodore Catholic Church.

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. 26-180

RESOLUTION GRANTING LPHE RETAIL LICENSE

TO STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC (DBA: EXPRESSWAY)

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County grants LPHE (Low Potence Hemp Edible) retail license to the following

applicants:

Staples Enterprises Inc (dba: Expressway)

Location Address: 105 N Star Road, Alden, MN 56009.

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. 26-181

RESOLUTION GRANTING GAMBLING PERMIT LICENSE

TO ALBERT LEA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, OPERATING AT THE OAKVIEW GOLF COURSE

BE IT RESOLVED, that Freeborn County grants Gambling Permit license to the following

applicants:

Albert Lea Amateur Hockey Association, at the Oakview Golf Course

Location Address: 25177 665th Ave, Alden MN, 56009

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. 26-182

TITLE: Administration is recommending to fill Environmental Services seasonal laborer/intern position

WHEREAS, Freeborn County Employees have the responsibility for providing quality service with integrity and accountability to the citizens of Freeborn County; and,

WHERAS, the Freeborn County board is the appointing authority for all county employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Services Department hires seasonal help/intern to assist with duties in household hazardous waste, recycling, water testing along with gaining knowledge in the environmental field to build their resume and,

WHEREAS, one seasonal laborer/intern is sought for the 2026 summer season; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Service Department budget includes allotments for these seasonal laborer positions each year.

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

1. The Freeborn County Environmental Service Department may fill one seasonal laborer position for the 2026 Summer season.
2. The approved position is seasonal in nature and shall not be permanent hires.

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. 26-183
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ENACT CANNABIS ZONING REGULATIONS

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. 26-184

TITLE: Grant Contract Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has the need to provide domestic violence, general crime victim, and sexual assault services to residents of Freeborn County; and

WHEREAS, Freeborn County provides for these services through the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center has received grant funding from the Office of Justice Programs in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety utilizing federal and state grant dollars with parameters for the provision of these services;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety is transitioning to calendar year grants for crime victim services and therefore is offering an addendum in the amount of $36,132 to the current Agreement to provide grant funding through the end of calendar year 2026;

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

1. the 2026 Grant Contract Agreement Addendum in the amount of $36,132 for a Total Agreement Amount of $180,660 between the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Freeborn County Crime Victims Crisis Center for FY26 (10/1/2025 – 12/31/2026) is hereby approved.

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. 26-185

TITLE: Department of Human Services and Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Office Support Specialist 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 an Office Support Specialist 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, Samantha Leibeg, Freeborn County Office Support Specialist, has resigned her position effective June 19th, 2026;

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

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. 26-186

TITLE: Resolution Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements on behalf of the Probation Services Department

WHEREAS, the County of Freeborn on behalf of its Probation Services Department desires to enter into Joint Powers Agreements with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to use systems and tools available over the State's criminal justice data communications network for which the County is eligible. The Joint Powers Agreements further provide the County with the ability to add, modify and delete connectivity, systems and tools over the five-year life of the agreement and obligates the County to pay the costs for the network connection.

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

1. That the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements by and between the State of Minnesota acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Freeborn on behalf of its Probation Services Department are hereby approved.

2. That the Director, Stephen Rick, or his successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the Probation Services Department. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

3. That Brad Edwin, the Board Chair of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners and Chelsea Barrett, the County Board Clerk, are authorized to sign the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements.

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. 26-187

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 026-LINE-999

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 $7,439.25.

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:

RESOLVED AS, to approve a Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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

Commissioner Eckstrom offered the following motion:

MOVED, that the Engineer should pursue agreement from the City of Albert Lea on the cost share of $466,488; that the Engineer shall prepare the needed grant agreements and bring them back for Board approval, and that the Engineer present the bids for award at a future Board meeting.

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 26-189

To Participate in the 2026 State of MN Performance Measurement Program

WHEREAS, Benefits to Freeborn County for participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's comprehensive performance measurement program are outlined in MS 6.91 and include eligibility for a reimbursement as set by State statute; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Local Results and Innovation developed a Performance Measurement Program that is voluntary for counties and cities to participate in; and

WHEREAS, Any county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program is also exempt from levy limits for taxes, if levy limits are in effect; and

WHEREAS, The County Board adopted and implemented at least 10 of the performance measures, as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and a system to use this information to help plan, budget, manage and evaluate programs and processes for optimal future outcomes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Freeborn County will continue to report the results of the performance measures to its citizenry by the end of the year through posting on the county's website.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Freeborn County will submit to the Office of the State Auditor the actual results of the performance measures adopted by the county.

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 26-190
APPROVAL OF PERA PRO EXTENSION – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 353.371 authorizes the Phased Retirement Program (PERA PRO); and

WHEREAS, Mary Seltun's current PERA PRO agreement ends **July 1st, 2026** ; and

WHEREAS, Mary Seltun has requested to continue in the PERA PRO program from **July 1, 2026 through September 30th, 2026**, and this request has been reviewed by the County Administrator;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the continuation of Mary Seltun's PERA PRO agreement for the period **July 1, 2026 through September 30th, 2026**, in accordance with statute and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Phased Retirement Program will be reviewed for possible extension prior to September 30th, 2026, per statute the agreement cannot exceed 5 years in length.

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 AS, to fill the vacant Probation Director position.

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

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7th, 2026.

By: ____________________________ Attest: ____________________________

Brad Edwin
Chair

Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk