

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
Tuesday, July 21st, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Freeborn County met in the Freeborn County Boardroom at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026. Members present: Commissioners Severson, Edwin, Kaasa, Shoff. Commissioner Eckstrom was absent.

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 Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION No. 26–203
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 July 7th, 2026 minutes;
- 2) Approval of Regular Full-Time Status Employees & Acceptance pf Resignations and Retirements;
- 3) Approval of Drainage Repairs;
- 4) Approval of Claims

The following claims be allowed and paid on or before July 24th, 2026.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
01	General Fund	\$641,228.57
03	County Road & Bridge	\$457,695.20
05	Human Services	\$216,639.11
06	Public Health	\$87,887.82
31	Capital Improvements	\$197,792.89
35	Debt Serv. Capital Improvement	\$350.00
40	County Ditch	\$13,943.61
70	Trust & Agency	\$128,702.13
73	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$29,114.75
77	Recorder's Clearing	\$4,176.00
	FUND TOTALS	\$1,777,530.08

Number of Claims not exceeding \$300 – 43

Dollar amount of claims not exceeding \$300 – **\$5,428.91**

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

The Commissioners provided Board Committee updates.

Doug Host from Clifton, Larson, Allen presented the Freeborn County Commissioners with the Audit Exit Report
Marcus Galante from Alliant Energy presented an update on the Bent Tree North Wind Farm Expansion Project

Chairman Edwin asked if there was any public comment and Sandy Sletten addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns of the residents about Twin Lakes.

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-204

TITLE: Resolution to Accept a Grant Agreement with the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to Support a Community Health Worker Position

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board has been awarded a grant agreement from the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to support the Community Health Worker (CHW) position for the period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Community Health Worker program supports the Community Health Board's responsibilities under Minnesota Statute 145A.04 by promoting healthy communities and healthy behaviors through activities that strengthen healthy families, improve access to services, provide health education, and address barriers to health;

WHEREAS, the grant funding will support the Community Health Worker position, which provides culturally responsive outreach, health education, care coordination, and resource navigation to diverse community members, helping improve access to health and social services and overall community well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Freeborn County Community Health Board hereby accepts the grant agreement with the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative for the period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and authorizes the Community Health Services Administrator to execute the agreement and any related documents necessary to administer the grant.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution;

RESOLUTION NO. 26-205

TITLE: Resolution to Accept a Grant Agreement with the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to Support Family Home Visiting Services

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Community Health Board has been awarded a grant agreement with the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative to support Family Home Visiting services for at-risk pregnant women and families with young children through preschool or kindergarten entry for the grant period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026;

WHEREAS, the Family Home Visiting program supports the Community Health Board's foundational responsibilities under Minnesota Statute 145A.04 by promoting healthy communities and healthy behaviors through activities that improve the health of the population, including investing in healthy families;

WHEREAS, the grant provides funding in the amount of \$50,000 to implement the nationally recognized, evidence-based Healthy Families America model and Growing Great Kids curriculum, providing intensive home visiting services, health education, parenting support, child development guidance, and connections to community resources for eligible families during the grant period;

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

1. Accepts the grant agreement with the Freeborn County Family Services and Children's Mental Health Collaborative in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, to support Family Home Visiting services.
2. Authorizes the Community Health Services Administrator to execute the grant agreement and any related documents necessary to administer the grant.

Resolution seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Severson offered the following motion:

MOVED AS, setting the time and date for County Ditch 55 for August 18th, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. during the regular Board meeting.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Kaasa.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following motion:

TO TABLE, Resolution 26-206 Authorizing an Ordinance Amendment to establish setback verification procedures for new structures in Freeborn County to the August 4th, 2026 regular Board meeting.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Edwin.

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

Commissioner Kaasa offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-207

Resolved, that Conditional Use Permit #186 is hereby amended to reflect a 41' x 168' addition at L.D.M. of New Richland located at 63369 325th Street New Richland, MN 56007 in accordance with the site plan on record in the Environmental Services Office, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

Commissioner Shoff offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-208

TITLE: Department of Human Services and Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County Human Services Technician 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 Human Services Technician 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, Evie Cunningham, former Freeborn County Human Services Technician, was been promoted to fill a vacant position effective July 13th, 2026;

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

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. 26-209

TITLE: Department of Human Services and Administration is recommending to fill the Freeborn County SW/Case Manager/CPCW 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 SW/Case Manager/CPCW (Child Protection/Child Welfare) 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, Melissa Hernandez, Freeborn County SW/Case Manager/CPCW, is resigning her position effective August 7, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the filling of the vacant Freeborn County SW/Case Manager/CPCW position.

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:

RESOLVED AS, RESOLUTION No. 26-210 the renewal of the Truancy Officer Letter of Agreement with Albert Lea Public Schools

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. 26-211

TITLE: Resolution approving a Greater Minnesota Legacy Grant Application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission and the Department of Natural Resources for Songbird Trail

WHEREAS, Freeborn County, the City of Albert Lea, and Waseca County have formed a joint committee for the purposes of developing Songbird Trail; and,

WHEREAS, Songbird Trail was regionally designated by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) in June of 2026; and,

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has the right and authority to sponsor a grant funding request to the GMRPTC; and,

WHEREAS, Freeborn County has the right and authority to act as Legal Sponsor for the State Grant Application (the Application) and will work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (the DNR), in developing a Grant Agreement relating to the funding which may be awarded by the GMRPTC.

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

1. Freeborn County certifies it has read and understands the Office of Grants Management Conflict of Interest Policy 08-01 and will maintain an adequate Conflict of Interest Policy and monitor and report any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest to the GMRPTC and the DNR.

2. Freeborn County confirms all of the information in its Application and further confirms that it has no expectation of, or entitlement to, reimbursement of costs incurred prior to grant agreement execution date and, if applicable, it has not entered into a written purchase agreement to acquire property described in its Application if grant funds are to be used for the purchase.
3. Freeborn County has or will acquire a fee interest ownership or permanent easement over the land described in the Application for regional parks. The applicant has or will acquire a fee interest, permanent or perpetual easement or minimum twenty-five (25) year lease over the land described in the Application for regional trails before the project proceeds.
4. Freeborn County agrees that it will comply with all applicable laws, regulations and requirements as stated in the Grant Agreement with the DNR, including committing to maintain the trails for a period of not less than twenty-five (25) years, and dedicating all land acquired under the project for uses consistent with the grant agreement into perpetuity.
5. The GMRPTC will confirm it has made the award of funds authorizing the Grant Agreement to be developed between the DNR and the Applicant.

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. 26-212

TITLE: Authorizing Final Payment of CP 026-CPR-046

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

WHEREAS, the work for concrete road rehabilitation and repair on CSAH 46 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 \$15,292.21.

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. 26-213

TITLE: A resolution to authorize the Sheriff to enter into a housing agreement with Polk County Iowa

WHEREAS, Minnesota statute 641.13 allows for counties to house inmates for other counties and allows the housing county to charge for the provided services;

WHEREAS, Minnesota statute 641.035 allows for county boards to authorize the sheriff to enter into agreements to house offenders from other states;

WHEREAS, Polk County Iowa has a need to house offenders outside of their own facility because they do not have enough space, and Polk County has reached out to Freeborn County asking for housing assistance;

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County Adult Detention Center has available space to house up to 20 Polk County offenders without compromising our own offender population or the detainee population of any other contracted service;

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

1. The Board hereby authorizes the Sheriff to enter into a housing agreement with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County, Iowa

Resolution was seconded by Commissioner Severson.

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

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners entered into Closed Session at 9:52 a.m. pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b) Attorney-Client Privilege.

The Freeborn Count Board of Commissioners reconvened at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Chair, Commissioner Edwin adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026.

By: _____
Brad Edwin
Chair

Attest: _____
Chelsea Barrett
County Clerk