

SYNOPSIS OF COUNTY BOARD MEETING

December 1, 2020

Members present: Borchert, Berg, Windschitl, Simonsen, Veerkamp along with County Administrator Hansen and County Attorney Hanson (via Zoom).

M/Berg, S/Windschitl, to accept the Minutes of 11-24-2020 and authorize publication of the Synopsis of same; carried.

M/Veerkamp, S/Simonsen, to authorize payment of General Government claims in the amount of \$99,910.98 as follows: Revenue \$54,185.54; Road and Bridge \$19,227.15; Human Services \$716.98; Park Fund \$12,813.61; Ditch Fund \$1,279.00; Landfill, \$11,688.70. In accordance with MS 375.12, the following claims exceeding \$2,000 are included in the Fund totals above: B & F Fastener Supply \$2,036.26; Cargill Inc \$5,850.00; Conservation Corps Mn & Iowa \$12,240.00; Erickson Engineering Co, LLC \$8,238.50; GEI Consultants Inc \$7,488.70; Geocomm Inc \$3,000.00; Identisys Inc \$2,133.58; Knowbe4 Inc \$7,672.50; Lenovo Inc \$2,128.20; New Ulm/City Of \$4,200.00; Shi International Corp \$18,414.46. 66 Payments less than \$2,000 \$26,508.78; Final Total: \$99,910.98; carried.

M/Berg, S/Commissioner Borchert, to acknowledge the withdrawal of Samantha Saenz from her appointment as an Intermittent Part-Time Public Health Registered Nurse to assist with COVID-19 related case investigation and contact tracing duties; carried.

M/Simonsen, S/ Windschitl, to acknowledge Jesse Gunderson's request to withdraw from consideration for the FT Correctional Officer position; carried.

M/Windschitl, S/Commissioner Simonsen, to approve the 2021 County Board meeting dates of the 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays in January, March-June and August-November; 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in February, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in July: and 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays in December; carried.

Correspondence C-1 was accepted and filed.

Calendars were coordinated for the next two week period.

Chairman Borchert called to order a public hearing to consider the adoption of Brown County Ordinance No. 2020-01. It was reported that the affidavit of publication of the public hearing notice is on file. No citizens attended the public hearing. After soliciting public comment three times, there was no public comment. M/Berg, S/Simonsen to close the public hearing; passed.

M/Berg, S/Borchert, and passed on a roll-call vote 5-0 to adopt Brown County Ordinance 2020-01 County recognizes that the sale of commercial tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, and nicotine or lobelia delivery products to persons under the age of 21 violates federal law.

State Senator Dahms and State Representative Torkelson met with the County Board and representatives from fourteen (14) county departments to discuss pending legislative issues. Topics discussed included: Environmental and Natural Resources, General Government, CPA funding, Health & Human Services, Public Safety, Regional EMS funding, and Transportation & Infrastructure. After considerable discussion, Chair Borchert thanked Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson for attending the County Board meeting to review county legislative concerns.

Chairman Borchert reconvened the Regular Meeting to conduct the 2021 Proposed Budget and Levy Public Meeting in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room of the Brown County Courthouse/Law Enforcement Center located in New Ulm, MN. Members present: Borchert, Berg, Windschitl, Simonsen, and Veerkamp were in attendance, along with County Administrator Hansen, County Attorney Hanson (via Zoom), and HR Assistant Trebesch. Also in attendance were (14) Brown County department heads and staff (via Zoom); and no members of the general public. NuCAT staff was present and media representative Fritz Busch of the Journal was also present (via Zoom). Informational handouts were distributed to those in attendance.

The proposed 2021 Brown County levy noted was \$14,141,462 which reflected a 2.79% increase from the 2020 levy in the amount of \$13,756,956. The proposed 2021 revenues and expenditures budgeted at \$41,868,265. The proposed 2021 Expenditures by category as a percentage of total budget were noted as follows: 14.72% General Government; 3.85% Public Health Nursing; 26.08% Human Services; 38.75% Road and Bridge; 0.55% Conservation/Natural Resources; 1.19% Culture/Recreation; and 14.86% Public Safety.

Administrator Hansen addressed additional budget information as follows: Comparison of estimated market values for total agriculture properties and total non-agriculture properties. Administrator Hansen also noted that preparation of the budget is a lengthy process and departments continually look for ways to limit the need for property taxes by seeking grants and reviewing departmental activity.

Chairman Borchert called for testimony from the public regarding the proposed 2021 Brown County Budget and levy. There was no testimony from the general public regarding the proposed 2021 county budget and levy. Chairman Borchert expressed thanks to those in attendance, and also thanked the department heads and staff for their efforts in preparing the draft 2021 budget and for pursuing non-levy funding in order to keep the property tax levy as low as possible. It was noted that the County Board will consider adoption of the final payable 2021 property tax levy and budget at the regular County Board Meeting on Tuesday 12-15-2020 in the Law Enforcement Training Room of the Lawn Enforcement Center/Brown County Courthouse.

M/Veerkamp, S/Berg to close the public meeting; passed and Chairman Borchert concluded the 2021 County Budget/Levy Public Meeting.

M/Simonsen, S/Windschitl, to adjourn the meeting; passed and Chairman Borchert declared the Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

The Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of 12-01-2020 are on file in the County Administrator's Office and may be viewed during normal business hours, M-F, 8AM-4:30PM. Correspondence and requests for additional information may be directed to the County Administrator's E-Mail Address: cntyadm@co.brown.mn.us Home Page Address: www.co.brown.mn.us