

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018 at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Bill Pratt, County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the February 27, 2018 amended agenda. Agenda Item 6B – Opportunity Zones, was added to the agenda.

**APPROVED  
AGENDA**

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2018**

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES BOARD**

**Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018, at 9:02 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services Kim Larson, Social Services Supervisor-Children’s Services Jessi Schultz, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Carole Holten/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Joy Janzen/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age, and Bob Harwarth/Citizen.

**Agenda**

Shawn Speed requested a change to the agenda. Removing Item V from the Agenda as it was not ready for approval quite yet. All members approved change.

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the February 27, 2018 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the change.

**Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the January 23, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

**Bills**

Carli Goble, Fiscal Supervisor, presented the bills to the board and noted no significant changes or surprises.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the bills.

**Health & Human Services Director Report, Cynthia Bennett H&HS Director**

Train the Trainer Conference Update –

- 1. Cynthia traveled to the John Maxwell Train the Trainer Conference in Orlando, FL

from Feb 18-23.

2. Quote from training "A mass movement never began with the masses". We are in a good place to move forward with strengthening our work environment and this training will help us achieve our long term outcomes.
  - a. Reported that she was very impressed with the training and was very excited to implement tactics she learned.
  - b. Immediate applications we can use -
    - Improve Communications – everyone can communicate but not all can connect. Our goal is to connect.
    - Improving coaching skills - how to guide and direct others so that they can be successful in their various roles. That is applicable to more than just employees, it also can be taught to our consumers.
    - Mentoring skills. Developing an internal mentoring system so that employees not only grow with our organization but within our organization.
  - c. Long term benefits of these application strategies.
    - Employee satisfaction.
    - Employee retention and engagement.
    - Mainstream and efficient operations.
    - Continuous Quality Improvement.
    - Overall cost savings
  - d. Ended with many tools in her tool box, at her disposal, that will help her develop a good plan.
3. Discussion of the future format of HHS Board meetings.
  - a. HHS is reviewing data collection processes and evaluating the content that is shared with the commissioners.
  - b. All HHS employees have been asked to provide feedback about their daily work processes and to identify what "stories" about their work they feel are important to share.
  - c. Leadership team is contacting peers in other counties to discover what other counties present to their Board members along with how often things are reported.
  - d. Cynthia asked for input from the Board as to what they would like to hear or what information would be important for them to know/learn.  
When this feedback and input are gathered a sample format will be presented for the commissioners to discuss.
4. Mental Health Housing Resolution
  - a. Our county has been asked by AMC to support a resolution related to mental health bonding which will assist with the development of mental health services along the continuum of care. This resolution is on the main board meeting agenda and will need action.
  - b. The resolution basically states that our County supports State Capital investments to improve the mental health continuum of care. Specifically triage centers and increased housing options.
  - c. The need for various mental health services is so much greater than the resources that are available. This resolution will not fix all the problems we experience in this area but this resolution is a start and we need to start somewhere. Cynthia supports the bonding bill and requested that our County also support the resolution.
  - d. Commissioner Marcotte inquired how many counties had supported the resolution so far?
    - i. Cynthia commented that she did not know the exact number right now, but would find it out for her.

5. Commissioner Marcotte recognized Cynthia's one year anniversary as the Director of Health & human Services stating "It has been a great year and you have accomplished a lot and made a great impact on the county in such a short period of time. Thank you for what you brought forth and continue to do."
6. Commissioner Niemi asked what our cost was to house someone at the Anoka Regional Treatment Center?
  - a. Carli Goble answered that we have one at the full cost for \$11,000/month and three more that are at a partial rate of \$1100/month.
  - b. Jessica Seibert mentioned that before leaving for AMC Conference they were meeting with H&HS to gather a list of talking points to bring to the representatives and that he could get a copy of that for his MRC meeting tonight.

**Financial Reports**

Carli Goble reviewed the financial statement for the board-

1. Reported on February 2018.
2. Revenues are not closed yet which will explain the zero's on the report.
3. Out-of-Home placement costs are down substantially from the previous two years.
4. HHS spending for total budget should be at around 17% of our budget at this time and we are currently at about 15% right now.

**Joint Powers Board Reports**

Erin Melz talked about the last meeting of the Tri-County Community Health Services Board –

1. Was a Reorganization meeting where they elected new chairs and vice chair, etc.
2. Talked about the Quality Improvement Plan.
3. Talked about Electronic Health Records and the costs associated with them going up about \$1000/county/year, which was not significant.
4. Erin will be attending Local Public Health Day at the State Capitol on March 22.
5. She also mentioned that they received their accreditation site visit for Healthy Families America in January.
  - a. Was a three day visit.
  - b. Looked at 13 standards, more than 100 line items.
  - c. Left with only two findings out of that.
  - d. Once they send in their corrections for those findings they will have their accreditation and it will last for four years.

**Committee Reports**

**H&HS Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Wedel and/or Pratt

1. Committee member Carole Holten and Joy Janzen provided details of their last meeting, held February 7, 2018.
  - a. Carole talked about the Community meals now being held in McGrath on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm at the Zion Lutheran Church in McGrath and how well they were received.
  - b. Also answered Jessi Goble's question on when the Community meals were in McGregor. That they were the third Wednesday of the month at the McGregor Community Center.
  - c. Joy mentioned that Aitkin also holds Community meals at First Lutheran Church on Monday and Thursday nights at 5:00pm, which are served by the over 35 different groups within Aitkin.
  - d. Joy also talked about the two new members to the Advisory Board, Maureen Mishler and Kari Paulsen and the Hannah Colby gave them a great presentation on Healthy Communities.

- 2. Commissioner Pratt and Wedel commented on the presentation they were given by Hannah Colby and how much he learned from it about Farm2School, in particular.

**AEOA – Commissioner Westerlund**

- 1. Talked about Ivy House in Virginia, the low income housing they built up there, the Arrowhead Transit buses contracts, and how employment and training was going to be receiving more money from MNDOT.

**NEMOJT Update – Commissioner Niemi**

- 1. Noted that he was unable to attend due to illness but that he was meeting with Kari Paulsen later to discuss what had occurred at the meeting and brief us later.

**CJI Update – Commissioner Westerlund**

- 1. Noted that May 18<sup>th</sup> was the ICWA training in Grand Rapids and let Commissioner Marcotte know it was open to anyone who would like to attend it.
- 2. They were given a briefing by Deb Tuper on sexually exploited youths.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 27, 2018

Break: 9:56 a.m. to 10:09 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: February 13, 2018 to February 26, 2018; B) Approve County Board Minutes: February 13, 2018; C) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$86,114.29, Road & Bridge \$25,549.06, Special Revenue \$527.76, Health & Human Services \$1,725.84, Debt Service \$41,481.57, State \$270.00, Trust \$10,962.40, Forest Development \$6,684.01, Long Lake Conservation Center \$14,730.04, Parks \$1,374.03 for a total of \$189,419.00; D) Approve Auditor Warrants – January Sales & Use Tax: General Fund \$523.45, Road & Bridge \$1,173.28, State \$5,394.00, Trust \$3.60, Long Lake Conservation Center \$34.82, Parks \$86.21 for a total of \$7,215.36; E) Adopt Resolution: Form LG220 – Wealthwood Rod and Gun Club; F) Adopt Resolution: Mental Health; G) Adopt Resolution: Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20174; H) Approve Local 49 Alumni Agreement

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Form LG220 – Wealthwood Rod and Gun Club:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application for Exempt Permit – Form LG220 – of the Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club, at the following location – Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club, which has an address of 23573 420<sup>th</sup> Place, Aitkin, MN 56431 – Hazelton Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – October 6, 2018)

**HHS BOARD  
ADJOURNS**

**BREAK**

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION  
20180227-015  
FORM LG220 –  
WEALTHWOOD  
ROD AND GUN  
CLUB**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Mental Health:

Affirming Aitkin County’s support for state capital investments for regional behavioral health crisis program facilities and permanent supportive housing for people with behavioral health needs.

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota’s mental health continuum of care is underdeveloped, creating harmful and expensive gaps in an individual’s treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota’s mental health system does not have the capacity to consistently respond to the needs of individuals in crisis with appropriate treatment options; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals experiencing a mental health crisis are often diverted to jails and other facilities ill-equipped for their care while awaiting inpatient treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals ready for discharge from inpatient treatment can be detained at inpatient facilities because there is a scarcity of supportive housing units to transition to; and

**WHEREAS**, the gaps in Minnesota’s mental health system are not only damaging to individuals and their families, but also result in an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has an opportunity to improve its mental health continuum of care through investments in new permanent supportive housing and regional behavioral health crisis program facilities; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Aitkin County supports state capital investments for regional behavioral health crisis program facilities and permanent supportive housing for people with behavioral health needs.

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adopt resolution – Final Contract Payment – Contract No. 20174:

**WHEREAS**, Contract No. 20174 has in all been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

**NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED** that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept said completed contract for and on behalf of the County of Aitkin and authorize final payment to Ferguson Brothers Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$9,181.40.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Operating Engineers Local #49 Health and Welfare Fund Public Sector Employers Participation

**RESOLUTION  
20180227-016  
MENTAL HEALTH**

**RESOLUTION  
20180227-017  
FINAL CONTRACT  
PAYMENT –  
CONTRACT NO.  
20174**

**LOCAL 49 ALUMNI  
AGREEMENT**

Agreement for Non-bargaining Employees as presented. Approval includes the specification that the Agreement applies to Mr. Olson, but not to "all" L49 alumni.

Adam Forsberg, Aitkin Airport gave the Board an update on the Aitkin Airport and explained how important the airport is to our community.

Lori Grams, County Treasurer reviewed the 2017 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Investment Report with the Board.

Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director provided the Board a brief overview of proposed amendments to the Zoning and Shoreland Ordinances and provided a handout of additional proposed language addressing nuisance claims on rural land uses/activities. Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting to include the Nuisance Liability of Rural Land Uses language in the proposed ordinance amendments, and to approve scheduling a Public Hearing before the Aitkin County Planning Commission on March 26, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Aitkin County Boardroom.

Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator gave a power point presentation to the Board on the Aitkin County Iron Range Broadband Community Project.

Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator discussed with the Board a new community development program called Opportunity Zones. This program was established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income and urban communities nationwide. Application will be submitted to the State of MN DEED for Opportunity Zones in Aitkin County.

Mark Jacobs, Land Commissioner and MN DNR Division of Forestry staff revisited the topic brought to the Board on February 13, 2018 involving a land acquisition via the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project in S.22/23 T.51 R.24 (Verdon Township). The board consensus was to move this specific project forward to the next step. The project now requires County Board action in order to finalize the acquisition. If acquired, the land would be transferred to MN DNR Forestry to be part of the Savanna State Forest. Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund to approve fee title acquisitions. Roll call vote. Motion carried (4-1 Wedel).

The Board discussed: ARDC, Snake River, CARE, DAC, Mille Lacs Watershed Mgmt., TZD, Facilities, NE MN Transportation, Big Sandy Lake Mgmt., Savanna

**AITKIN AIRPORT**

**2017 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT**

**PUBLIC HEARING SET – AMENDMENTS TO ZONING AND SHORELAND ORDINANCES**

**IRON RANGE BROADBAND COMMUNITY PROJECT**

**OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

**LAND ACQUISITION – MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS HABITAT CORRIDOR PROJECT**

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

Pallets, Kennecott, MHB, NCLUCB, Ordinance, and Joint Counties Natural Resources.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. until Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

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Anne Marcotte, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Jessica Seibert, County Administrator