

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2019 at 9:01 a.m., at the Aitkin Public Library, 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 Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the January 22, 2019 amended agenda. Agenda Items 4B - Approve Out of State Travel Request, and 5.5 – Approve Enbridge Letter of Support, were added.

**APPROVED AGENDA**

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 22, 2019**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

**Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2019, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz,, Child Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, Shawn Speed, H&HS Executive Assistant, and Guests: Bob Marcum and Kristine Layne/H&HS Advisory Committee Members, and Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age.

**Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the January 22, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

**Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the December 18, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

**Bills**

Carli Goble noted there were no notable items in the bills.

Commissioner Marcotte asked what maintenance of effort was and Carli answered that it is the portion of money Aitkin is required to pay related to chemical dependency treatment.

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

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

Cynthia talked about how the legislative session opened January 8<sup>th</sup>. They spent the first couple of weeks getting up to date on items that were carried over from last year and learning what the priorities were for the various associations.

She went on to highlight a few of the Health & Human Services issues as follows-

**1. The Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) –**

Key points in this area

The HCAF is a 2% tax on healthcare providers that is used to supplement Medical Assistance, MN Care, and provides funding for the SHIP program. It is due to sunset the end of 2019. Without this funding source there would be a huge gap in the state budget and we could see more costs shift from the State to the Counties. She said all of the major associations such as AMC LPHA and MACSSA are supporting appeal of the sun setting of the Health Care Access Fund.

**2. Behavioral Health**

Key points in this area include:

Regional Treatment Centers (RTC) - including the need for counties to have more input during discharge planning, the right for counties to appeal RTC determinations that a patient is no longer meeting criteria for hospital level of care, clarification of who is responsible for competency restoration Substance Use Disorder (SUD) reform which includes addressing the qualifications required for assessors, ability to provide care coordination, and removal of county share from the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund if not able to participate as an assessor.

Reimbursement for utilizing telepresence

**3. Children’s Welfare**

Key points in this area include:

Developing strategies to address monetary losses of federal reimbursement due to the Families First Act, removal of the funding withholds based on performance measures in child protection and requests for DHS to develop a training system to better prepare workers for county child protection roles.

Jessi Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor, highlighted the effect of the Federal Government shutdown had on the SNAP program and how her staff processed 128 recertification’s for the program after only being given a three day notice so that those in the program received their February benefits and that they were able to finalize all but 17 cases.

**Review Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Appointments**

**Approve re-appointment of current and new members to the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee as follows:**

**Current Members-**

- Kevin Insley - Comm. Dist. #1
- Penny Olson - Comm. Dist. #4
- Joell Miranda - Comm. Dist. #5

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve re-appointment of the current members.

**New Members-**

- Lori Chenevert - Union Representative
- Cindy Chuhanic - Comm. Dist. #2
- Joel Hoppe - Comm. Dist. #3
- Cheri Danielson - Comm. Dist. #3

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all

members voting yes to approve appointment of the new members.

**Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between Aitkin County and McGregor Ambulance Service.**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

**Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Access North Center.**

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

**Ambulance Service Contract for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS and Nystrom & Associates.**

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

**Ambulance Service Contract for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS and Presbyterian Family Foundation.**

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

**Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).**

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

**Approval of Children's Mental Health Screening Grant for 2019.**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

**Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Lakes and Pines, CAC.**

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

**Financial Report – Carli Goble**

Carli reported that the Health & Human Services fund balance was at \$3.9 million, near what it was in 2017.

There was a significant decrease in foster care expenses as no children were placed in an institution or treatment center which led to out-of-home placement costs decreasing \$342,051.

The total budget for 2018 should come in around 94%.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee meetings held, up to now, this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting – February 26, 2019

Break: 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 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: January 8, 2019 to January 21, 2019; B) Approve County Board Minutes: January 8, 2019 – 1. End of 2018 Board, and 2. Beginning of 2019 Board; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers: \$709,843.18; D) Adopt Resolution: County Timber Auction Dates; E) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$212,187.68, Road & Bridge \$44,280.54, Health & Human Services \$13,636.15, Trust \$10,338.47, Forest Development \$9,582.63, Long Lake Conservation Center \$14,945.84, Parks \$582.74 for a total of \$305,554.05; F) Approve Auditor Warrants – Sales & Use Tax: General Fund \$346.67, Road & Bridge \$1,283.01, Health & Human Services \$0.06, State \$6,907.50, Long Lake Conservation Center \$20.36 for a total of \$8,557.60; G) Approve December Manual Warrants: General Fund \$51,676.03, Road & Bridge \$207,094.77, Health & Human Services \$343.50, State \$44,026.51, Trust \$4,326.19, Forest Development \$210.87, Taxes & Penalties \$735.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$186.01 for a total of \$308,598.88

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

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on public auction, without the sale of land at 10:00 am on May 20, 2019 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on a sealed bid auction, without the sale of land at 1:00 pm on August 21, 2019 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

**AND BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that certain tracts of timber on tax-forfeited lands in Aitkin County will be offered for sale on public auction or sealed bid (tbd), without the sale of land at 8:30 am on December 2, 2019 to purchasers regardless of the number of employees.

The Board recognized the following employee for her years of service with Aitkin County:

- Karla White, 25 years of service, Jail Administrator in the Sheriff’s Office

**HHS BOARD  
ADJOURNS**

**BREAK**

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION  
20190122-009  
COUNTY TIMBER  
AUCTION DATES**

**EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION**

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve contract with Pro-West Associates and at a cost of \$42,337.56, using a payment plan of \$14,112.52 per year for three years, for Forestry DMS management software. This is a budgeted expense.

**PRO-WEST &  
ASSOCIATES  
CONTRACT**

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve out of state travel request for two Aitkin County Land Department staff to attend a state trail grooming seminar and expo in Ironwood, Michigan on January 23-24, 2019 for a total cost of \$540.00. This is a budgeted expense.

**OUT OF STATE  
TRAVEL  
REQUEST**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve budgeted purchase of WildKat Side Shift 60" Rotary Mower with 90" Rear Flail Mower from Tiger Corporation, Sioux Falls, SD at a cost of \$57,142.50.

**MOWER  
ATTACHMENT –  
HIGHWAY DEPT.**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve Enbridge Letter of Support.

**ENBRIDGE  
LETTER OF  
SUPPORT**

The Board discussed: ECRL, ARDC, Arrowhead Counties, BSLWMP, Mille Lacs ATV, Sandy Lake Association, NRAC, Association of Townships, Sobriety Court, AIS, Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, TZD, DAC, CARE, Personnel, AMC, MN Chamber Dinner, and Sportsmen's Show.

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. until Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at the Aitkin Public Library.

**ADJOURN**

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Anne Marcotte, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Jessica Seibert, County Administrator