

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
June 23, 2026, 8:30 AM**

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Loy Woelber, Mark Carlson, Dennis Welgraven and Roger Zins. Commissioner Jackie Meier was absent. Also present in person were County Coordinator Sharon Giese and General Assistant Renee Gleason, via Zoom was County Attorney Travis Smith.

BOARD CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

- Approval of Appeal and Equalization Board Minutes for 06/16/2026. This agenda item will be addressed under 2.1. Consent Agenda items.

1.2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the agenda with additions and no conflicts of interest.

2.1. CONSENT AGENDA (ORIGINALLY NO CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION)

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, and passed to approve the consent agenda item added above, Appeal and Equalization Meeting minutes for 06/16/2026.

Comment provided on how well Chad Benda presents these meetings.

Board Chair called a recess at approximately 8:32 a.m. to accommodate the scheduled 8:35 a.m. Public Hearing for Minnesota Investment Funds (MIF) Funds Transfer.

Board Chair called the meeting back to order at approximately 8:35 a.m.

8:35 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING: MINNESOTA INVESTMENT FUNDS (MIF) FUNDS TRANSFER

Bryan Stading, Economic Development and Marketing Coordinator provided background information regarding this process and getting these federal funds (principal and interest) de-federalized and transferred to Murray County Economic Development LDO fund.

This allows the EDA more flexibility to put these dollars into work for the community. If the funds remain federalized, there are very specific requirements applicants are required to meet. Again, with this transfer, the EDA will be able to determine loan requirements and take applications for this funding. He further explained this is the required public hearing to allow for public notification and comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve the de-federalization of the MIF funds and transfer to the EDA LDO fund.

Heidi Winter provided guidance making sure we follow the formal steps of opening the public hearing, public comment period, providing the motion, and closing the public hearing.

At approximately 8:37 a.m. Board Chair opened the public hearing and opened the floor for public comment. No one from the public was in attendance. The Board Chair proceeded to close the floor for public comment. Clarification of the motion requirements was again discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, and passed to approve the de-federalization and transfer of funds of \$471,416.88 to the EDA LDO fund, to get these MIF funds to work for Murray County.

The meeting was ahead of schedule for the closed session, so Board Chair moved to address 3.1.1. Heidi Winter, Auditor/Treasurer, regarding Ditch Bills.

8:45 A.M. CLOSED SESSION: Closed Session pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.03 for confidential discussion with legal counsel regarding labor negotiation strategy discussion.

Board Chair asked for motion to move into the 8:45 a.m. Closed Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to move into closed session pursuant Minnesota Statute Section 13D.03 for confidential discussion with legal counsel regarding labor negotiation strategy discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, and passed to move back into open session.

Board Chair dismissed for a short recess at approximately 9:16. Board Chair called meeting back in session at approximately 9:21.

Board Chair stated the closed session discussion lead them to needing a determination on how to proceed in negotiations with labor unions. The options presented: Either with the full board participating or nominating a committee to conduct negotiations with regular reports to the Board.

The Board Members present indicated the committee approach is the best option. Commissioner Meier had previously expressed to Board Chair, she preferred the full board participation. Board Chair asked for a motion to move in either direction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to proceed with the committee approach to labor negotiations. Commissioner Welgraven pointed out he feels the public can be better informed if the full board participates in negotiations. Board Chair agreed but pointed out it would then become a much more cumbersome process. Motion passed. Board Chair outlined that the committee would keep the full board informed with as much information as they have available.

Commissioner Woelber mentioned previous discussion about disbursing and reviewing the recent wage study. This will be added to an upcoming agenda via Sharon Giese, County Coordinator. Further discussing the proper way of disbursing this study without violating open meeting law. Travis Smith, County Attorney provided guidance. Information can be distributed to each of the board members, but there cannot be any reply to all via email or group discussion regarding the wage study without an open meeting.

9:30 A.M. PUBLIC BID OPENING: WINTER STORAGE BIDS

Board Chair called the Public Bid Opening at approximately 9:31 a.m.

Heidi Winter, Auditor/Treasurer, conducted the bid opening on Justin Hoffman's behalf. There was only (1) bid received from Shetek Marine.

The Shetek Marine bid as submitted:

Building A - Creative Arts Building at Fairgrounds: \$2,600.00 for total term, \$1,300.00 per year
 Building B - Commercial Building at Fairgrounds: \$3,400.00 for total term, \$1,700.00 per year
 For a total of \$6,000.00 for the two-year contract.

Heidi verified before meeting and this was the only bid received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to accept the bid from Shetek Marine for \$6,000.00 for the two-year winter storage contract.

Later in the meeting Heidi Winter outlined the last contracts signed totaled \$5,200.00 for the two-year contract. This new contract was an increase from last contract.

3.1.1. DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, and passed to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

Johnson Ditching, Inc

			#2025-016	
21-829-6290	JD 14	3,374.36	& 2026-006	ok'd T. Radke on 6/15/2026
21-843-6290	JD 19	578.03	#2026-015	ok'd T. Radke on 6/15/2026
	Subtotal	3,952.39		

Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer (Cross County Ditch Expense)

21-689-6312	**JCD30	127.25	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	97.72%
21-811-6312	JD 7	266.48	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	99.16%
21-821-6312	JD 11	124.58	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	40.00%
21-823-6312	JD 12	406.92	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	12.60%
21-835-6312	JD 17	332.03	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	2.60%
21-845-6312	JD 20	945.56	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	95.46%
21-859-6312	JD 26	3,108.61	2025 Shared Ditch Expenses	32.00%
	Subtotal	5,311.43		

Opdahl Farm Drainage, LLC

21-707-6290	CD 42	2,090.00	#2026-022	Ok'd by T. Radke 6/15/2026
21-815-6290	JD 9	523.00	#2026-021	Ok'd by T. Radke 6/15/2026
	Subtotal	2,613.00		

Total Ditch Bills 11,876.82

Copies of invoices will be available at the meeting or by calling Heidi Winter 507-836-1152

Because the meeting was ahead of schedule, the Board Chair moved to address 3.3 Justin Hoffman, Park Director, regarding the Marsh's Landing Phase I Cultural Resources and Geophysical Survey.

3.2.1. ANDERSON ACRES PRELIMINARY PLAT

Public hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on May 21, 2026.

4.18 acres in Part of Government Lot 2 and N1/2 SE1/4, Section 15, Lake Sarah Township, Murray County

Application # 398

Preliminary Plat for nine (9) non-riparian lots in the Residential and Shoreland Overlay Districts on Lake Sarah, a General Development Lake.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the Anderson Acres Preliminary Plat Application #398 for nine (9) non-riparian lots in the Residential and Shoreland Overlay Districts on Lake Sarah, a General Development Lake for 4.18 acres in Part of Government Lot 2 and N1/2 SE1/4, Section 15, Lake Sarah Township as recommended by the Planning Commission.

3.2.2. SWEETMAN SAND & GRAVEL IUP

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on June 11, 2026, for this interim use permit application:

Applicant: Sweetman Sand & Gravel

Property Location: E1/2 SE1/4, Section 12, Belfast Township, Murray County

Application: To open and operate a gravel mining operation in the Agricultural and Floodplain Overlay Districts.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve Interim Use Permit #1441 for Sweetman Sand & Gravel to open and operate a gravel mining operation in the Agricultural and Floodplain Overlay Districts, for E1/2 SE1/4, Section 12, Belfast Township, Murray County with the findings and ten (10) special conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Board Chair stated we have reached the time for the 9:30 a.m. Public Bid Opening - Winter Storage Bids. We will return to Jean Christoffels for the last CUP after the bid opening.

3.2.3. DYNAMIC ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC CUP

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on June 11, 2026 for this conditional use permit application:

Applicant: Dynamic Energy Solutions, LLC

Property Location: NE1/4, Section 26, Chanarambie Township, Murray County

Application: To construct and operate a 5 MW Large Solar Energy System in the Agricultural District

Potential decommissioning costs were a bigger concern during this public hearing but resolved. The decommissioning money will be paid in front of the project instead of as the project progresses. In addition, there are (2) amendments to (10) special conditions that were required:

Condition #5: This should be Lake Wilson Fire Chief, Chandler Fire Chief and Murray Emergency Manager, not Slayton Fire Chief.

Condition #6: A signed written agreement for roads is only required with the township not the city as stated.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve Conditional Use Permit #1442 for Dynamic Energy Solutions, LLC to construct and operate a 5 MW Large Solar Energy System in the Agricultural District in the NE1/4, Section 26, Chanarambie Township, Murray County with the findings and ten (10) special conditions as amended as recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Woelber wanted to verify that all the setback requirements have been met and they have. Motion passed.

3.3.1. MARSH'S LANDING PHASE 1 CULTURAL RESOURCE AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

With the widening of the roadway next to Marsh's Landing County Park, we have lost parking space for boaters using lake access. The would be to remove 2 trees and level off the dirt next to the parking lot to create more parking space for visitors using the area. When the centralized sewer was first installed, the study done at that time said Marsh's Landing was a potential Indian burial ground. Because of this, we cannot move any dirt until we have this ground surveyed.

Discussion proceeded on the negative effects of not doing the survey. No additional parking would become available, and safety could become an issue. Surveying options such as teaming up with Woodstock Communications, also doing work in this area, or other entities were discussed. The collaboration with Woodstock is not an option as they are trying to avoid that area altogether, so they eliminated the need to survey. Another construction project in the area is planned, they are using Augustana University too. However, we can't partner with them either because they are receiving federal grant money for the project. Augustana University has worked with Murray County in the past with good results.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to allow the Augustana University Archaeology Laboratory to conduct a Phase 1 Cultural Resource and Geophysical survey at Marsh's Landing in the amount of \$11,666.00.

Board Chair outlined they had approximately 30 seconds till the scheduled closed session at 8:45 a.m. They waited till such time.

3.4.1. 2027 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

Randy Groves reviewed and provided explanations for any of the budget dollars in the accounts each of the Commissioners inquired about. No action was required, simply a review with the board of the 2027 highway budget.

Update on the County Road Safety Plan - This process is moving along and is important to be completed by the county to support any federal grants the highway department applies for. The consultant preparing this plan would like to review this plan with the Board of Commissioners and then conduct a 3-4 hour workshop with the county stakeholders on projects and priorities. The consultant will be contacting Sharon for potential dates for these meetings.

Fulda Project Progress - They are hauling base to the project and hope to pave over July 4th.

County Road 13 Project - Liquidated damages for late project completion status? Randy Groves and Keith Rossow are working on coming to a fair assessment of damages. The contractor was late regardless of many factors and should be held accountable. But the county is considering winter suspension, hot mix plant closures, and other concessions. It is estimated to be around \$75,000.00 as of now. Once dollar amount is finalized, Keith Rossow will be presenting this to the Board of Commissioners for review.

This is the last board meeting Randy Groves will be attending as his last day of employment due to retirement is Friday, July 3. The board thanked Randy for his years of service and wish him well.

A 2-3-minute recess was called at approximately 10:26 a.m. by the Board Chair.

Board Chair called the meeting back to order at approximately 10:29 a.m.

4. CITIZEN APPOINTMENT TO SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL BOARD

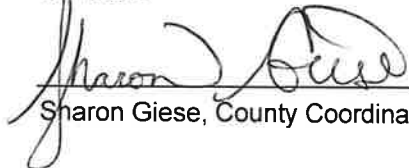
SMOC will continue to pay mileage & expenses but will be discontinuing the process of paying board members per diem. Therefore, to continue to promote volunteerism efforts for Murray County represented committees, it is thought that the county should pay the per diem. Sharon Giese provided background of the other committees and county paid per diem. SMOC was most recently paying \$75.00 per diem.

It is moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to appoint Jen Nelson as the Murray County citizen representative on the Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council, further moving to approve a county paid citizen per diem of \$75.00 per event. Mileage and expenses will continue to be handled through SMOC. (account code: 01-510-871-6105). Motion passed.

At a future board meeting the Commissioners will take the opportunity to discuss per diems for other citizen committee appointments.

BOARD CHAIR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 10:35 A.M.

ATTEST:


Sharon Giese, County Coordinator


Mark Carlson, Board Chair