

DRAFT
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
January 20, 2026, 8:30 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 A.M.

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

- Slayton Plumbing and Heating - Final Payment Application and Contractor's Affidavit for Cattlemen's Building (assigned item 4.4.4)
- Carrie Bendix - Southwest MN Private Industry Council - Internship Program (assigned item 4.8.3)

It was moved by Commissioner Roger Zins, seconded by Commissioner Jackie Meier, to approve the additions to the agenda. Motion Passed.

2.2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 12/30/2025 AND 01/06/2026

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve the meeting minutes of 12/30/2025 and 01/06/2026. Motion passed.

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

Board Chair Carlson asked approval of Commissioner warrants for 01/20/2026, unless there are any questions.

General Fund	\$95,679.09
Road and Bridge	18,546.15
Ditch	613.00
Debt Service	2,500.00
Self Insurance	309.74
Sunrise Terrace Housing	1,196.07
SAWS	<u>5,366.50</u>
Total	\$124,210.55

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, to approve Commissioners' Warrants 179051 to 179093 in the amount of \$124,210.55 for 01/20/2026. Motion passed.

8:45 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 MURRAY COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE UPDATES

8:47 a.m. Opened the public hearing. No citizens were in attendance for comment.

8:48 a.m. Closed the public hearing.

Chair Carlson walked through the changes to the fee schedule during the meeting. These are not things that necessarily changed but didn't get reflected in the most recent fee schedule approval.

There was some discussion on the Horse Stalling rates for the fairgrounds. Justin Hoffmann reiterated these fees are in line with the rates currently in the area. Sunrise Village the rates were already approved in July 2025 but again, not missed on the most recent fee schedule.

4.1.1. MURRAY COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY YEAR END REPORT

Nick Demuth provided an update on this year's past projects as well as the 2026 upcoming projects we will be receiving grants for budgets for tours has been reduced these past years so has been tougher to get that attendance.

The partnership grant is total of \$36,000. This partnership is to promote a collaborative exhibit on the history of all the dance halls in southwest MN which will tours to each of the locations.

Murray County Historical Society

By The Numbers...

Grants Applied for:	Amount Applied for	Amount Received:
Prairielands Accessibility	\$999	\$999
MNHS Small Grant for Newspaper on Microfilm	\$3,044	\$3,044
Casino Grant for Collections Storage	\$2,000	\$0
SMAC Front Porch	\$3,050	\$3,050
MNHS Small Grant for New CMS	\$7,618	\$7,618
Operation Round Up	\$3,900	\$1,100
Shavlik Family Foundation Tech	\$28,966	\$0
Collection Storage Plan	\$14,040	\$14,040
EoL Bike Fleet from Box Car Wind	\$5,000	\$4,000
MNHS Windows Large	\$182,732	\$0
Federal Turn Table	\$169,843	\$169,843
EoL Collective Access	\$7,618	\$7,618
Total Awarded to Murray County Museums in 2025:		\$211,312
Heritage Partnership Program Grant - SW6		\$36,000
Total Awarded if Partnership Grants are Included:		\$247,312

132 research requests

We had 3244 visitors to the museum, Sierk Agricultural Building, Wornson Cabin, and Dinehart Holt House during 2025.

This year so far we have had visitors from 14 States and 2 other countries who came to the Museum.

The MCHS has:
251 Annual and Family Memberships
23 Business Memberships

End O Line had a total of 3017 visitors this year, which is a 14% increase from last year.

Upcoming Events

January 2026:

January 8: Lunch Box Lecture Nicholas Demuth, History of the Murray County Poor Farm

January Date 17: MCHS Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

January Date 13: New Exhibit, "Electrifying Minnesota"

February 2026:

February 13: Lunch Box Lecture Jake Halvorson *Chandler Radar Base*

March 2026:

March 12: Lunch Box Lecture Jay Grammond

March 14: Murray County Historical Society Trivia Night in Avoca

Latest approved annual financial reports for the Historical Society Fiscal Year.

Cash Flow			
10/1/2024 through 9/30/2025			
Category	10/1/2024-9/30/2025		
INFLOWS			
Uncategorized	0.00		
DINHART HOLT HOUSE INCOME			
DHH DONATIONS +.	5,000.00		
DHH RENTS	25.00		
TOTAL DINHART HOLT HOUSE IN...	5,025.00		
MCHS INCOME			
BOOK SALES	557.57		
DONATIONS	8,800.77		
GRANTS	15,846.00		
MEMBERSHIPS	3,810.00		
TOTAL MCHS INCOME	29,014.34		
Other Inc			
EDWAR JONES - nterest Inc	1,180.70		
TOTAL Other Inc	1,180.70		
TOTAL INFLOWS	35,220.04		
OUTFLOWS			
DINEHART HOLT HOUSE EXPENSE			
DDH MISC	-63.96		
DH- HUNT BOARD	4,500.00		
DHH ENTERTAINERS	184.44		
DHH REPAIRS	165.00		
TOTAL DINEHART HOLT HOUSE E...	4,785.48		
MCHS EXPENSE			
ADVERTISING	172.10		
ANNUAL MEETING	926.07		
GRANT USES	15,211.00		
MEMBERSHIP COSTS	941.00		
Misc.	1,289.75		
SALES TAX ON BOOK SALES	61.87		
SUPPLIES	2,307.83		
TOTAL MCHS EXPENSE	20,909.62		
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	25,695.10		
OVERALL TOTAL	9,524.94		
EDWARD JONES			
BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/2024		\$	31,981.89
INTEREST FOR YEAR		\$	1,180.70
ENDING BALANCE 9/30/2025		\$	33,162.59
DINEHART-HOLT HOUSE			
BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/2024		\$	13,110.51
INFLOWS		\$	5,025.00
OUTFLOWS		\$	(4,785.48)
		\$	13,350.03
MURRAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC			
BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/2024		\$	27,342.73
INFLOWS		\$	29,014.34
OUTFLOWS		\$	(20,909.62)
ENDING BALANCE 9/30/2025		\$	35,447.45

4.2.1. 2026-2027 MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY COUNTY FEEDLOT PROGRAM DELEGATION AGREEMENT WORK PLAN REVIEW

Per MN Rules, Chapter 7020.1600, Subp. 3a, Murray County is required to submit for approval the Delegation Agreement Work Plan. Prior years, the County Board was required to sign the Work Plan, MPCA has amended this requirement, and it does not

require a signature any longer. While this is the plan for the next two years, Jon Bloomendahl will be developing the annual report for the previous year and submitting it to MPCA. This will require a signature.

Plan requires development every two years and is submitted to the MPCA. Murray County has 425 registered feedlots, and we are required to inspect random selection of 7% of them annually.

Then, every (4) years we are required to make sure all the feedlots within the county are registered. We are in the process of starting the next cycle soon. Murray County receives reimbursement per feedlot. Currently, that rate is approximately \$133.00 per feedlot. The number of feedlots has remained steady, with some becoming inactive and others starting, while other counties are trending downward.

In addition, the electronic recycle event is coming in April but citizens do not need to wait for those days. They can drop-off any time at the recycle center. The pesticide event will be scheduled for some time in late summer.

4.3.1. HORTICULTURE REMODEL PROJECT BIDDING

It was budgeted to remodel the horticultural building at the fairgrounds in 2026. The lean to on the west side is rotten and leaking badly, making it unusable for events. We are looking at removing and rebuilding it so it can be used for vendors, storage and a new open class office. New LED lighting will be installed throughout the entire building along with new steel on the exterior and finishing off wall sheeting on the inside. New overhead garage doors and walk doors will be installed. However, Justin Hoffmann will check to see if a grant is available for LED lighting. Budget code for project: 01-110-115-0000-6640.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson go out for bids to remodel the Horticulture building at the fairgrounds with a bid opening time and date of 9:00 am on February 17, 2026.

4.3.2. TRADE LAWN MOWERS

We have been on a schedule to trade our lawn mowers every two years. It was budgeted to trade mowers in 2026. They no longer make the 930M model we have, so we are going with the 950M model.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to remain on the rotation cycle and authorize the purchase of (3) new parks department mowers from C&B Operations, LLC for \$17,245.02 to be paid from budget code: 01-521-521-0000-6650. Motion passed.

Justin Hoffmann added he believes these mowers are covered under warranty for (2) years.

4.4.1. APPROVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FORM LG220 - PHEASANTS FOREVER

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and passed to approve the Local Unit of Government Acknowledgment for an LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the Pheasants Forever Murray County Chapter 991MN for a Bingo and Raffle Event at Key Largo on Lake Shetek (29 Valhalla Drive, Slayton MN 56172) on March 7, 2026, further moving to waive the requirement for Township acknowledgment.

4.4.2. APPROVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FORM LG220 - SHETEK AREA SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approve the Local Unit of Government Acknowledgment for an LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for the Shetek Area Sportsmen's Association for a raffle at Key Largo on

Lake Shetek (29 Valhalla Drive, Slayton MN 56172) on May 30, 2026, further moving to waive the requirement for Township acknowledgment.

4.4.3. DITCH BILLS

Heidi Winters confirmed there were no ditch bills for this board meeting.

4.4.4. ADDED AGENDA ITEM: SLAYTON PLUMBING AND HEATING - FINAL PAYMENT APPLICATION AND CONTRACTOR'S AFFIDAVIT FOR CATTLEMEN'S BUILDING (ASSIGNED ITEM 4.4.4)

Pay request documentation was disbursed to board at the meeting. Regarding this payment request from Slayton Plumbing & Heating, final payment application for the Cattlemen's Association project. Page 2 is all the costs included in the reimbursements received from the Cattlemen's Association. There will be no other reimbursements coming because they are included in the previous reimbursements.

Chair Carlson reiterated the county's obligation remained the same.

It was moved by Commissioner Roger Zins, seconded by Commissioner Dennis Welgraven, to approve a payment application request for Slayton Plumbing and Heating payment application request for \$21,485.00.

Additional comment by Commissioner Welgraven, because of the water quality in Slayton, it was recommended and decided in previous meetings, when bidding for Murray County, that we use specifications of Marathon water heaters.

4.5.1. MN DNR PARTIAL ABANDONMENT AND IMPOUNDMENT OF JD 14

MN DNR – Bill Schuna and Joe Stangl reviewed the plan with the Board. This project related to this petition includes a water control structure, flood control, and restore wetland. Leeds Township is in support of this project. The intent is to acknowledge the petition and project today. At later dates, Murray County will need to appoint an engineer and set a public hearing date. The petition can't be formally filed until the engineer is appointed and report has been generated.

PETITION FOR AN ABANDONMENT OF A BRANCH OF PUBLIC TILE AND THE IMPOUNDMENT WITHIN A PUBLIC DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Joint County Board, acting as the Drainage Authority for Judicial Ditch No. 14 (JD 14) in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103E.227:

- The abandonment of a 6" tile, currently named "Main," located immediately south of 111th Street in the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 9 in Leeds Township, Murray County, Minnesota.
- The Impoundment of Main Tile and part of the Branch X watersheds within the State-owned property (a.k.a., the Peters WMA) in the East half of Section 9 in Leeds Township, Murray County, Minnesota.

This report describes the following:

- The proposed abandonment and impoundment work.
- Summarizes the findings of the associated research.

- Analyzes the effects on the Judicial Ditch 14 system.

This report is submitted for consideration by the drainage authority.

4.6.1. ANNUAL COUNTY BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION MEETING - MEETING TIME

At the 2/18/2020 Commission's Meeting, the following was passed.

ANNUAL COUNTY BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION MEETING

It was moved by Thiner, seconded by Gunnink, and passed that all future County Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday of June at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Murray County Government Center, further moving that the meeting shall not adjourn prior to 7:00 p.m.. (M.S. § 274.14).

M.S. § 274.14 requires the CBAE to be in session until at least 7:00 p.m. If it is not in session until 7:00 p.m., a Saturday meeting is required to take place. In recent years, we have only needed 30 minutes to complete the business at the meeting. Since we need to meet until at least 7:00 p.m., this makes sense to save time and move back the start time to 6:30 p.m. so we do not waste time.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven that all future County Board of Appeal and Equalization (CBAE) meetings shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday of June at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Murray County Government Center, and shall not adjourn prior to 7:00 p.m., further moving that this motion supersedes all prior Murray County Board action relating to M.S. §274.14.

Motion passed.

4.7.1. EMERGENCY ON-CALL CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF SLAYTON

Due to staffing shortages, the City of Slayton approached the Sheriff's Office with a desire to contract services with Murray County. This agreement outlines the hourly rates verbally agreed upon by the City of Slayton. It will be approved by the City of Slayton this evening.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and to approve the Emergency on call contract with the City of Slayton. Motion passed.

Discussion reiterated the intent to continue a Slayton Police force. But several events have occurred that left the City of Slayton short on staff.

4.7.2. FULDA POLICE SERVICES CONTRACT

In the past, we had a contract to cover 41.9/days per year for the city of Fulda. Due to staffing shortages, Murray County was forced to end the agreement. Now that we have reached full staff, Fulda has a desire to contract services with Murray County for 42 days. Fulda will pay Murray County \$20,000/year for this agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve police services contract with City of Fulda for 2026 as outlined.

4.7.3. BUFFALO RIDGE DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE PER CAPITA FUNDING

This is the same price per capita funding for the last (2) years per Heath Landsman. We are unsure of what this per capita funding and grants will be after these (2) years. Rock, Lincoln, Pipestone, and Murray Counties are all paying per capita funding. Slayton, Fulda and Tyler are the cities involved.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve invoice in payment of the 2026 Buffalo Ridge Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force Per Capita Funding in the amount of \$36,805.50.

4.7.4. PORTABLE RADIO PURCHASE

We priced this same portable radio late last year, but now the price has been reduced by \$700.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve the purchase of Motorola APX 6000 radio from DSC Communications, for a purchase price of \$4,960.35. Motion passed.

4.8.1. RESOLUTION TO FOLLOW THE 2026 IRS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be: 72.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 2.5 cents from 2025. Use of the standard mileage rates is optional. Taxpayers may instead choose to calculate the actual costs of using their vehicle. However, in the past Murray County has opted to follow the corresponding year's IRS business standard mileage rate. Discussion was that we should make this a permanent resolution going forward to follow IRS recommended rate of mileage set each year.

Commissioner Welgraven presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01-20-01
A Resolution Adopting Murray County Annual Mileage Rate
per IRS Recommendation per Calendar Year

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all years moving forward, the recommended IRS Mileage rate set at the beginning of each calendar year will be the mileage rate for Murray County mileage reimbursement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the mileage rate going forward, will follow the IRS recommended mileage rate set at the beginning of each calendar year.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Zins and thereupon being put to a vote all members voted for its adoption.

4.8.2. 2026 RE-APPOINTMENT TO MURRAY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER BOARD

Board Meeting of 01-06-2026 citizen appointments were selected and voted upon. The MCMC Board citizen re-appointment was not acted upon at that time.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the re-appointment of Laurie Jensen to the Murray County Medical Center Board for the next (3) years, term expiring January 2029.

4.8.3. ADDED AGENDA ITEM: SOUTHWEST MN PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL - SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (ASSIGNED ITEM 4.8.3)

Chair Carlson received an email inquiry from Carrie Bendix at Southwest MN Private Industry Council regarding the Summer Internship Program for college students and if the county would again be sponsoring this program. She has had some student inquiries. This would be the appropriate time to start recruiting those students.

The last two year's we have sponsored a Summer Internship Program. It was further clarified; it provided \$115,000 of ARPA funds providing 15 intern positions over 3 years. However, we filled those positions and hours within 2 years. There was a question of

what funds were budgeted for 2026 and previously mentioned the wish to budget for 2026. Heidi Winter will investigate.

Commissioner Zins would like to see some further involvement from the business community to support this program. This is a great program and this way the program could be sustainable. SW MN Private Industry Council administered the program such as matching interns, payroll, etc. and Murray County provided the funds. Heidi Winter will research the 2026 budget for this program. In the meantime, we will gauge the Private Industry Council and their solicitation from the business community for this program. Agenda item tabled till next Board Meeting of 01/27/2026.

4.9.1. WONDERWORLD EDA RECOMMENDATION

It was discussed at EDA Meeting of 01/15/2026 to move forward with terms of loaning WonderWorld \$300,000 for construction of their new building, listing Murray County as first mortgage holder.

Chair Carlson pointed out Murray County EDA currently has loaned \$200,000 in forgivable loans on a 15-year schedule, contingent on a fully funded project to WonderWorld. If we approve the motion put forth today, it will then place Murray County as first lien holder on a \$2 Mil project and daycare concerns resolved. If not approved, Murray County EDA has no lien holder rights already loaned on the \$200,000.

It was stressed by all board members that Murray County does not want this building back, so it is highly recommended WonderWorld continue to work diligently seeking any additional funds and grants to operationally fund the organization. Additional discussion proceeded regarding projected daycare rates, capacity, staffing, staff pay, nonprofit organizations, income thresholds, and audit requirements. Commissioner Woelber added that other communities within the county, if interested, should have the same opportunity to request county EDA funding as well.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve a loan in the amount of \$300,000 from the Murray County EDA Revolving Loan Fund to WonderWorld. This is a 25-year term at 4% interest with a (3) year deferment of principal and interest from date of loan disbursement.

Commissioner Carlson amended his motion to include the verbiage, additionally outlining that this loan is contingent on the WonderWorld project being fully funded, upon receipt of funds, seconded by Commissioner Zins. Commissioner Zins and Commissioner Meier also encouraged WonderWorld to consider completing an audit process. Motion passed

4. MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M.

ATTEST:

Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator

Mark Carlson, Board Chair