

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA

August 5, 2025, 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 was County Administrator, Carolyn McDonald and General Assistant, Renee Gleason. Via Zoom, County Attorney, Travis Smith.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve with additions, 4.8.3 Redevelopment Loan for Anthony Iverson and 4.8.4. Safety Committee Appointment Alternate. Motion Passed.

IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest identified.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

1. It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Loy Woelber, to approve July 22, 2025, Board Minutes
2. Commissioner Warrants 177714-177773 and ET 86192 in the amount of \$132,099.67. Motion Passed.

4.1. DITCH BILLS

Johnson Ditching, Inc
21-771-6290 CD 75 4,820.50 #2025-018 OK'd by T. Radke 7/30/2025
Subtotal 4,820.50

Murray County Highway Department (permit to work in right-of-way)
21-665-6286 CD 19 50.00 #2025-023 ok'd T. Radke on 7/24/2025
Subtotal 50.00

Rinke Noonan
21-706-6260 CD 41 619.00 CD 41 Improvement - Legal
21-861-6260 JD 27 770.00 (M-L) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-863-6260 JD 28 893.00 (M-L-R) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-809-6260 JD 5 568.50 (M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-853-6260 JD 22 539.00 (M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-855-6260 JD 23 539.00 (M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-857-6260 JD 24 568.50 (M-N) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-689-6260 CD 30 627.50 (M-N) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-811-6260 JD 7 1,006.00 (M-N) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-845-6260 JD 20 1,153.50 (M-N) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-659-6260 CD 11 1,093.50 CD 11/State Hwy 30 - Legal
21-868-6260 Admin 200.00 06/2025 Monthly Retainer
Subtotal 8,577.50

Total Ditch Bills 13,448.00

It was moved by Mark Carlson to approve the ditch bills in amount of \$2,985.00. Correction required via Heidi Winter. Mark Carlson rescinded motion.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve the amended ditch bills in the amount of \$13,448.00. Motion Passed.

4.2 HOSPITAL BOARD REPORT

People

- Staffing Changes in June we welcomed 4 new staff members: Tayler – PSR, Ava – CNA, Aiden – RN, and Joan – Lab Tech. We also had 1 staff member that moved from a casual CNA position to a casual RN position after receiving her license. We had 1 casual staff member leave the organization, 1 move to casual status, and 1 retirement in June.
- Clinic Manager – We have held a couple additional interviews and onsite tours in the last couple of weeks. We are hopeful on making an offer and filling the position shortly.
- Emergency Department – We are looking at potentially adding to our current ED providers with a couple of casual staff members. This would help us to be more flexible with schedules, continue with consistent staffing, and reduce the need for locum staffing.

Growth

- Introduction to Medical Careers – We will be again partnering with the Murray County Central schools to offer students the introduction to medical careers class. The course is taught by Monica and Amber for the fall semester. It gives students a good perspective on a variety of healthcare options and provides hands on learning opportunities to experience some of the roles

Quality

- Southwest Health Preparedness Coalition – Notified there has been a suspension of funds for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) due to federal restrictions. We are not anticipating ongoing funding for the coalition. There is a regional meeting on July 29th to plan next steps for the region.

Financials

- Legislative Update – Big Beautiful Bill Impact
- Master Plan Budgeting Discussions occurring:
 - Imaging Equipment - exceeded lifecycle and maintenance agreements of equipment. Priority
 - Outpatient Therapy Areas
 - Surgical General Area - pre & post-op areas
 - Outreach Specialty Clinic
 - Supply & Environmental Services
 - Wellness, Physical & Occupational Rehabilitation - Secondary Priority

Top 6 Insurance Payers

Payer % of Revenue	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD		Gross Collection Ratio
Medicare	48.60%	47.40%	41.60%	42.20%		52%
Medicare Replacement	13.20%	14.80%	20.10%	22%		53%
BCBS MN	6.60%	8.80%	9.50%	8.40%		68%
Medicaid	8.60%	9.60%	9.00%	7.10%		30%
Optum VA	3.80%	4.80%	5.00%	5.40%		59%
MN Senior Health Option	3.20%	4.10%	3.70%	4.10%		42%

Statistics

- Acute - 9 admissions for 18 total patient days. YTD numbers are still 7 less admissions and 43 days less compared to 2024 YTD.

- Swing bed had 6 admits for 38 total patient days. YTD, we have had 11 more admissions for 53 days more than the prior year.
- Observation stays were at 13 patients compared to 6 last year. YTD we are +18 patients
- Surgery procedures were at 29 for the month compared to 30 the previous year. YTD we are at 212 total procedures or 43 more than the prior year
- ER visits were 124, which was 2 more than last June. YTD, we have had 632 visits which is down 49 YTD.
- Clinic visits were at 632. That is 19 less than the previous year. YTD we are +297 visits.

Balance Sheet

- Our overall cash position increased by \$219,120. We currently have a total cash available of \$10,519,109.
- We saw a decrease in patient receivables of \$199,212 and total receivables is at \$6,179,577
- Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = \$3,096,798 or 50.1%
- AR Days decreased 1.6 days and currently sits at 65.9 days. Goal is to be under 50 days

Income Statement

- Gross revenue was \$2,433,723 & below budget by \$377,376
 - Hospital IP revenue below budget by \$151,052
 - Hospital OP revenue below budget by \$158,660
 - Clinic revenue below budget by \$67,664
- Contractual adjustments lower than budget by \$216,048
- Expenses lower than budget by \$151,267
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = \$82,354
- For the month we had a net income equal to \$29,266. YTD net income equals \$58,401

4.3.1. REDWOOD-COTTONWOOD RIVER CONTROL AREA (RCRCA) WELL SEAL COST-SHARE

The Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership (CWMP) has a 10-year goal of protecting drinking water from contamination within the watershed by sealing 16 wells per year, or 160 wells over the 10-year plan. Abandoned wells can form a direct conduit for pollutants from the land surface to reach the groundwater. Based on this goal, the CWMP offers a cost-share program for the sealing of unused wells within the watershed.

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins, to recommend the Redwood-Cottonwood River Control Area (RCRCA) Joint Powers Board approve Douglas Krentz's cost-share application for sealing an unused well on his property in the SW1/4, Section 14, Holly Township (T108N R39W) - PIN #09.014.005.0. And to further approve, upon completion of the sealing of the well, to recommend the RCRCA Joint Powers Board approve payment from the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed's FY25 Watershed Based Implementation Funds to Douglas Krentz for 50% of the total cost. Motion Passed.

4.3.2. PUBLIC HEARING MURRAY COUNTY HOME INITIATIVE TAX ABATEMENT

Murray County has received a request for tax abatement through the Murray County Home Initiative. David & Denise Schreier own property at 2341 111th Street, Avoca, MN, and plan to construct a new home on the property. The home will be their primary residence. Construction is to begin this fall. The new home value is approximately \$700,000.00.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the Murray County Home Initiative tax abatement for David & Denise Schreier on property located at 2341 111th Street, Avoca, MN 56114. Motion Passed.

4.3.3. LAKE WILSON SOLAR ENERGY LLC ROAD USE AGREEMENT

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the Lake Wilson Solar Energy, LLC Road Use Agreement with Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC and authorize Board Chair Welgraven and County Administrator McDonald to sign the agreement. Motion Passed.

4.3.4. PUBLIC BID OPENING FOR SUNDQUIST PARK PICNIC SHELTER

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve the bid of \$45,0000 from Trevor Rosenbrook Construction. Motion Passed.

4.4. MURRAY SWCD 2ND QUARTER ALLOCATION REQUEST

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Loy Woelber, to approve the Murray Soil and Water Conservation District allocation request in the amount of \$49,069.75. Motion Passed.

4.5.1. GRANT AGREEMENT FOR MCIT JAIL CAMERA GRANT

Approve Accept and sign Minnesota Counties intergovernmental Trust Jail Camera grant. This grant replaces outdated camera equipment in common areas in the Sheriff's offices, dispatch, and jail.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Roger Zins, to accept a Jail camera grant from Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust will cover (reimburse) \$6,799.76 of the total project cost of \$7,999.76. Motion Passed.

4.5.2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MURRAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SW HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to assist Southwest Health and Human Services and Murray County Emergency Management before, during and after a man-made or natural disaster to ensure an effective response. Each Party recognizes that public health incidents can transcend political jurisdictional boundaries, and that intergovernmental cooperation is essential for the protection of lives and for best use of available assets. This agreement shall provide for mutual assistance among the Parties in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from any Public Health Incident. In the event of a disaster, the medical needs of the affected community(s) in the Southwest Region of Minnesota will be best served by a coordinated effort. This may include assistance by either party in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, information sharing, and other associated services during a disaster.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not a binding contract and does not create a legal financial obligation on the part of either party or any government entity.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve to enter into the MOU with SW Health and Human services for disaster assistance and response. Motion Passed.

4.6.1. FINAL PAYMENT FOR MEARS ELECTRIC

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve final pay request for \$11,750 to Mears Electric, Inc. on the electrical contract for the Cattleman's Building on the Fairgrounds, contingent on IC134 Contractor Affidavit being received. Motion Passed.

4.7.1. LETTER OF SUPPORT

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Loy Woelber, to authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter of support of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development on behalf of Murray County. Motion Passed.

4.7.2. COMMERCIAL LOAN PROGRAM MURRAY COUNTY DAIRY ASSOCIATION

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the loan of \$15,000 to the Murray County Dairy Association per the terms as recommended by the EDA Board of Directors. Motion Passed.

4.7.3. RENTAL REDEVELOPMENT LOAN FOR ANTHONY IVERSON

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the loan in the amount of \$7,223.82 to Anthony Iverson from fund account 18-886-6919. Motion Passed.

4.7.4. APPOINT ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER TO SAFETY COMMITTEE

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Loy Woelber to appoint Jackie Meier as an alternate Commissioner to the Safety Committee. Motion passed.

4.8.1. PAID FAMILY LEAVE BOARD PROPOSAL

Minnesota's PFML program will go into effect on January 1, 2026, guaranteeing eligible employees the right to paid leave for serious health conditions or caregiving needs. Under this program, employers are required to provide this benefit and have the option to do so either through the state-administered program or by selecting an approved private provider.

Proposal Overview:

Murray County, through our ancillary benefits agent Integrity Employee Benefits, LLC, participated in a collaborative request for proposals (RFP) process along with 121 other public entities across Minnesota, including 67 counties. MetLife emerged as the lowest-cost provider through this competitive process.

Benefits of Choosing the Private Provider Option (MetLife) over the State Program:

- Slightly lower overall cost
- Two-year rate guarantee
- Faster turnaround time for processing and paying PFML claims
- Administrative support provided by MetLife
 - Integrity Employee Benefits will act as our liaison, assisting with any questions or challenges that arise.

Cost Estimate for Murray County:

The total estimated annual cost is \$54,259 (at current staffing levels), which is split equally between employer and employee contributions, as mandated by the State of Minnesota.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the PFML proposal by Integrity Employee Benefits, LLC as presented. Motion Passed.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS 07/20/2025 - 08/02/2025

Woelber

7/22/25	Commissioners Meeting
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/30/25	Commissioners Retreat

Meier

7/21/25	Hospital Board Meeting
7/22/25	Commissioners Meeting
7/23/25	Hospital Board Meeting
7/24/25	Fair Board Meeting
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/30/25	ACE Meeting & Casey Jones/Regional Trails/Committee Mtg

Carlson

7/22/25	Commissioners Meeting
7/23/25	Lakes Pre-Const Meeting & Hwy Dept Phase II Const
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/30/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/31/25	Casey Jones/Regional Trails/Committee Meeting

Welgraven

7/22/25	Commissioners Meeting
7/23/25	Hospital Board Meeting & Building Board Meeting
7/28/25	SW Meeting & MRE Board Meeting
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/30/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/31/25	Insurance Committee Meeting

Zins

7/21/25	SMOC
7/22/25	Commissioners Meeting
7/23/25	Emergency Communication
7/24/25	Murray County Fair Board
7/28/25	WMH
7/29/25	Commissioners Retreat
7/30/25	Commissioners Retreat

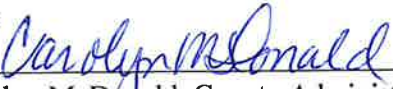
5.1 RECESSED 9:45 A.M.

6. 11:00 A.M.

Internship Reception at the New Highway Shop at 1449 State Hwy 30, Slayton, MN 56172 for a program update.

7. ADJOURNED 12:30 P.M.

ATTEST:



Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator



Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair