

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

November 4, 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 were HR Director/Deputy Administrator: Sharon Giese, County Attorney: Travis Smith and General Assistant: Renee Gleason.

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 A.M.

2.1 AGENDA ADDITIONS - The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

- **SOIL & WATER QUARTERLY ALLOCATION REQUEST** - Craig Christensen, Program Manager He provided detail on program progress and allocations for 3rd Quarter. It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve Murray County Soil and Water Conservation District 3rd Quarter allocation request in the amount of \$49,069.75.

2.2 IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST - The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the agenda with the addition of Murray County Soil and Water Quarterly Allocation and no conflicts of interest. Murray County Soil and Water Quarterly Allocation will be present after the 4.1 Fish & Wildlife Services presentation.

3.2 APPROVE MINUTES FROM 10-21-2025.

3.3 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

Board Chair Welgraven asked approval of Consent Agenda with the minutes of 10-21-25 and Commissioner Warrants, unless there are any questions. Commissioner Zins inquired about Commissioner Warrant listed on page 10 for Ratwik, Roszak, and Maloney, P.A. at \$874.00.

Previous discussion had been that Board Chair Welgraven offered to pay this invoice, if needed. However, due to the lack of response within a week from the legal firm on retainer, an outside consultation was warranted. Heidi Winter further explained because we don't have a retainer on file for general legal counsel with Ratwik, Roszak, and Maloney, P.A. an hourly fee is charged, and it was related County Employee Survey release.

General Revenue Fund	18,006.93
Road & Bridge	153,424.12
Self-Insurance	154.55
Sunrise Terrace	<u>43.89</u>
Total	171,629.49

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Meier, to approve meeting minutes of 10-21-2025 and the Commissioners Warrants 178432 to 178472 in the amount of \$171,629.49 for 11-04-25. Motion passed.

**4.1 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES PRESENTATION ON EASEMENT OF 75 ACRES,
MURRAY COUNTY, MASONTOWNSHIP** - Eric Earhart-Realty Specialist, Windom WMD

Upcoming easement acquisition for Murray County. These areas are acquired for the primary benefit of wetland bird species. These acquisitions do not change cropland or ag uses on the surrounding property. Landowner of this approximately 75-acre area is William Jolhfs and is currently in CRP designation. This area does have an exclusionary area of 2 acres with access easement to property.

The certification is a board acknowledgment of easement. The county assessor will determine on a case-by-case basis if the property tax classification changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to sign U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Certification of Acknowledgment of Habitat Easement being submitted to DNR Land Exchange Board for review and approval of 75 acres located in Murray County, Mason Township (T-107-N, R 41-W), Section 26. Motion passed

4.2.1. DITCH BILLS

Copy of invoice and petition was available at the meeting.

KO Farm Drainage, LLC

21-805-6960 JD 3 2,985.00 #2024-040 Ok'd by T. Radke on 9/12/2024

Subtotal 2,985.00

Total Ditch Bills 2,985.00

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve a report of ditch bills presented for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority in the amount of \$2,985.00. Motion passed.

4.3.1. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

Examination and inspection for the described county and judicial ditches, lying within the County of Murray, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered repairs to be made.

Petition 2025-035 CD 22, Shetek Township, Section 24, District 1 - Woelber

Petition 2025-036 JD 15, Leeds Township, Section 1, District 2 - Carlson

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve Petition 2025-035 for CD 22 and Petition 2025-036 for JD 15 as described for the purpose of determining repairs necessary and ordered. Motion passed.

4.4. LUKE SCHRYVERS – MURRAY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER REPORT

People

- New Physical Therapist – Elizabeth Hurley, PT started at the beginning of October. She is a traveling therapist that will be with us for up to 13 weeks. She will be working between Slayton, Tracy, and Westbrook sites.
- ER Provider – David Majewski, PA has joined MCMC in a casual role. David has helped in the ER as a locum provider in the past and we are looking forward to having him in a permanent role as an MCMC employee. He will help cover additional shifts in the ER as needed.

Growth

- X-ray Unit – After completing the RFP, we have selected LEO A DALY as the architect and designer for the project. They have set a preliminary schedule of around 4 months to complete the design process and have the project ready for bidding. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for the beginning of November. MCMC has previously worked with LEO A DALY on the surgery department addition project.
- MRI Services – At the end of 2025, our service agreement for our current in-house MRI machine will come to an end. We are exploring mobile options for the service line moving forward with availability a couple of days each week. We will also continue to evaluate the future needs and what options are best for providing this service to the community.

Quality

- Sanford Simulation Truck – We hosted the Sanford simulation team on Tuesday, October 7th. The service provides a great training opportunity for our staff. Staff work through various simulations to better prepare them for real-life situations that we don't experience every day. We appreciate Sanford offering this training experience to our staff members.
- Sanford Heart & Vascular Screens – In partnership with Sanford, we hosted the screening day on Wednesday, October 8th. We continue to encourage all community members to take advantage of the screening services that are available here locally. These scans can help diagnose potential issues prior to them becoming an acute issue.

Financials

- Rural Health Transformation Program – State applications were due November 5th to the Federal government. We should hear sometime in December about the guidelines for the funding from the State of MN and what the process will look like for application.
- Wellvana ACO Distribution – We received notice from Wellvana that we have achieved benchmarks in 4/6 areas. Our portion of the Medicare shared savings will be \$2 3,351.13.

Statistics

September saw volumes increase from July/August, and total gross revenues were bigger than 2024.

- Acute - 7 admissions for 16 total patient days. YTD numbers are still 25 less admissions and 119 days less compared to 2024 YTD. This is a 25% decline year over year.
- Swing bed had only 2 admits for 14 total patient days. YTD, we have still had 10 more admissions for 20 days more than the prior year. This is a 6% increase year over year.
- Observation stays were at 12 patients compared to 12 last year. YTD we are +8 patients.
- Surgery procedures were at 27 for the month compared to 47 the previous year. YTD we are at 306 total procedures or 18 more than the prior year.
- ER visits were 122, which was 8 less than last September. YTD, we have had 1,094 visits, which is down 122 YTD or 10%.
- Clinic visits were at 835. That is 94 more than the previous year. YTD we are +252 visits.

Balance Sheet

- Our overall cash position decreased by \$93,400. We currently have a total cash available of \$9,953,859
- We saw an increase in patient receivables of \$205,135 and total receivables are at \$5,905,671
 1. Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = \$2,883,892 or 48.8%
 2. AR Days increased by 2.1 days and currently sit at 74 days. Goal is to be under 50 days

Income Statement

- Gross revenue was \$2,606,060 & below budget by \$205,039
 1. Hospital IP revenue below budget by \$216,419
 2. Hospital OP revenue above budget by \$46,269
 3. Clinic revenue below budget by \$34,889
- Contractual adjustments lower than budget by \$80,778
- Expenses are higher than budget by \$2,643
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = \$-30,029
- For the month we had a net loss equal to \$-84,098. YTD net loss equals \$-292,292

4.5.1. SHETEK HEADWATERS ADDITION EXTENSION REQUEST

The County Board approved the Preliminary Plat for the Shetek Headwaters Addition on January 7, 2025, and the Final Plat on March 4, 2025. According to the Murray County Subdivision Ordinance, a final plat must be presented for recording with 180 days of final plat approval. If a developer is unable

to record the final plat within that initial 180-days, they may request one,180-day extension. Since he was not able to complete all the work necessary to put the property on the market and make it available to sell within the initial 180 days, Mr. Doug Rupp submitted a request for an extension as allowed by the Subdivision Ordinance. At their meeting on October 16, 2025, the Murray County Planning Commission reviewed Mr. Rupp's request for the extension and are recommending that the County Board approves said request.

It was moved by Commissioner Loy Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed to approve an additional 180-day extension to Mr. Doug Rupp for the Shetek Headwaters Addition as recommended by the Murray County Planning Commission. Motion passed.

4.6.1. MN 267 WINTER MAINTENANCE WORK ORDER #4

This is our annual work order agreement to provide winter road maintenance on MN 267 from TH 30 south to Iona, MN. Murray County has been doing this under contract with the MN DOT for the last 6–8 years. MN DOT requires a work order agreement for winter snow and ice removal.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Carlson to adopt Resolution Number 2025-11-04-01 to provide MN DOT Winter Road Maintenance on MN 267 for \$11,500.00. Motion passed.

4.6.2. APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE PHASE 2 PROJECT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Murray County's building committee team, along with Murray County's consultants Contegrity Group (construction management) and Widseth (engineer/architect), have completed the plans and specifications for the Murray County Highway Department Expansion – New Storage Buildings, Salt Shed & Fueling Island (Phase II) project. Construction is planned for the spring of 2026. We are ready to proceed to advertise for bids for Phase 2 of the Highway Department project. Requesting approval to authorize advertisement for bids for the Phase 2 of the highway department projects.\

Larry Fillipi from Contegrity Group attended the meeting via Zoom. They are still working a few final details, but it should be completed and ready by Friday. Upon authorization, they plan on submitting for publication deadline Wednesday for advertisement for bids. A bid opening will be scheduled for approximately 3.5 weeks later. Qualification proceeds and then will be scheduled to full Board in December. This will be distributed as multiple bid packages but will be presented as a full bid package, with details when coming to the Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to authorize proceeding with the advertisement for bids for Phase 2 of the Highway Department project through Contegrity Group. Motion passed.

REMINDER: 2025 Annual Road Tour scheduled for Thursday leaving the Highway Shop at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Welgraven will be unable to attend.

4.7.1 SWENSON PARK RURAL WATER HOOKUP

It was budgeted in 2026 to hook up to rural water at Swenson County Park. I was contacted by Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water recently, and they stated there would be a \$2,000 hook-up increase in 2026. If we put \$7,500 down on the project and signed the paperwork, we could avoid the increase. Acct 01-521-524-0000-6260.

Sillerud Lutheran Church is also committed to hook up to rural water at the same time. If done at the same time, we could save close to \$14,000.00 on this project because we will share the cost of the mainline coming past the park.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber second by Commissioner Zins to approve the installation of rural water at Swenson County Park by Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water in the amount of \$40,219 with \$7,500 pre-paid in 2025 and the remainder to get paid after the project is completed in 2026. Motion passed.

4.7.2. RACETRACK CATWALK

This summer the racing association built a catwalk area outside turn 4 of the racetrack for people from the pits to see the races. This entire project was donated by the racing association. This project was a huge success, and they would like to expand the existing structure with a 16'x18' addition to north of the existing catwalk. This would all be done at no expense to the county.

Justin Hoffmann consulted Chris LeTendre, Chief of Slayton Fire Dept and with Carl Nyquist, Murray County Emergency Management and there were no safety concerns. Work will start depending on weather.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, second by Commissioner Zins to allow the Racing Association to extend the existing catwalk structure with a 16'x18' addition at the racetrack with no expense to the county. Motion passed.

4.8.1. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2026 FEE SCHEDULE

Need to schedule a public hearing for the Murray County 2026 Fee Schedule updates on December 16, 2025. This is a fee schedule for items the county charges external parties for a variety of items. Chair Welgraven asked the fee schedule for 2025 be disbursed to the Board of Commissioners after this meeting as reference.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the 2026 Fee Schedule on December 16, 2025 at 8:45 a.m. Motion passed.

4.8.2. APPOINT COMMISSIONERS TO THE RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM (RRRWS)

The RRRWS Board consists of 9 individuals who reside throughout the 9 counties who receive water from RRRWS. Under Minnesota law, the RRRWS Board members are appointed by Judge Christina Wietzema, who is venued in Cottonwood County. However, each year, the RRRWS requests that each of the 9 County Boards where RRRWS distributes potable water adopt a Resolution which recommends to Judge Wietzema, who should be appointed to the RRRWS Board, so the 9 counties know who serves on the RRRWS Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier, to approve the recommendation of appointment of Mike Carlson and Jay Mickelson to the Red Rock Rural Water System Board for 4-year terms to commence on January 1, 2026, and expire on December 31, 2029. Motion passed.

4.8.3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COORDINATOR DESCRIPTION

Sharon Giese presented a job description for the Murray County Economic Development and Marketing Coordinator. The description was attached. She used the former job description but included the marketing portion of the position.

Commissioner Woelber recommended additions to include economic development for cities throughout the description. There should be an emphasis the County Economic Development Coordinator will work in conjunction with all Murray County cities. "Cities" should also be referenced in the area of tourism and maintenance of public relations. In addition, Commissioner Woelber recommended having an intertwined interview process, possibly with department heads and city governing positions feedback.

Giese stated the Personnel Committee discussion was a 40-hour position, including the marketing component and possibly getting more qualified applicants. We would hope to have someone hired by beginning of 2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve the Economic Development & Marketing Coordinator job description as amended and advertise for the open position. Motion passed.

4.8.4. BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE JOHNATHON REIM AS DEPUTY SHERIFF

Johnathon Reim graduated from Minnesota West Community and Technical College for Law Enforcement. Work experience as a Police and Correctional Officer. In order to submit the application for the POST Licensure, a Board-approved intent to hire statement must be included in the POST Licensure application. The Board was asked to approve their intent to hire Johnathon Reim as Deputy Sheriff pending physical and background results.

With this position potentially filled, we will now be full staffed in the Sheriff's Department. It is the intent after the first of the year, we should be able to return to consistent representatives at city council meetings. Then regular water patrols next summer. The current intermittent sheriff's deputy will continue to fill in as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve the intent to hire Johnathon Reim as Deputy Sheriff pending physical and background results. Start date yet to be determined. Motion Passed.

4.9. 2025 ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING NOTICE AND ATTENDANCE

This is public meeting but as a formality we simply want to make notice of invitation and attendance.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Woelber

10/13 SAWS
10/16 Joint Power Drainage Authority
10/17 RCA
10/21 Commissioner

Commissioner Meier

10/13 Watershed
10/14 ACE
10/15 SWHHS/Plum Creek Library
10/16 EDA
10/21 Commissioner
10/22 Hospital/Investment
10/23 AMC Dist. 8
10/24 Personnel

Commissioner Carlson

10/13 SAWS
10/15 Dist. 8 Land Use
10/21 Commissioner
10/23 AMC Dist. 8

Commissioner Welgraven

10/15 SWHHS
10/16 EDA
10/21 Commissioner
10/22 Hospital/Investment
10/23 AMC Dist. 8
10/24 Personnel

Commissioner Zins

10/16 Planning/Grievance
10/20 SMOC
10/21 Commissioner
10/23 AMC Dist. 8

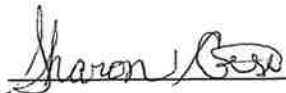
6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Welgraven asked if there were any other items. No items mentioned. Meeting adjourned approximately 9:40 a.m. Work Session to begin at approximately 10:00 a.m.

7. WORK SESSION

7.9.1. AMC Presentation: Administrative Model

ATTEST:



Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator



Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair