

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
May 19, 2026, 8:30 AM**

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Jackie Meier, Mark Carlson, Dennis Welgraven and Roger Zins. Commissioner Loy Woelber arrived at 8:40 a.m. Also Present in person were HR Director/Deputy Administrator Sharon Giese, County Attorney Travis Smith, and General Assistant Renee Gleason.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 A.M.

1.1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

No additional agenda items were brought forth.

2.2. 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 Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and passed to approve today's agenda with no conflicts.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 05/05/2026

Board Chair asked if there were any comments or questions on the Commissioner Meeting Minutes of 05-05-2026. None were brought forth.

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier to approve the consent agenda with all claims as presented for \$101,738.37, warrants numbered 179886 through 179964 and ET 89448 and with no changes to the meeting minutes of 05-05-2025.

General Revenue Fund	55,824.56
Road & Bridge	38,321.13
EDA	247.00
Ditch	72.73
Self Insurance	170.00
Sunrise Terrace	3,708.95
<u>SAWS</u>	<u>3,394.00</u>
Total	\$101,738.37

4.1. POWERON MIDWEST PROJECT UPDATES

Presenter: Randy Fordice, Excel Energy

PowerOn Midwest is multi-state initiative to develop a series of proposed electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line connecting eastern South Dakota and southern Minnesota. The projects will enhance grid reliability in the Upper Midwest to meet the growing and changing energy needs in the coming decades. The project is being developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy. The line will start at Big Stone, SD to Rochester, MN then off to WI and further.

- Impact Study has been contracted, and results will be available in June.
- First 765kv system will be the first built in Minnesota. This is a more efficient system reducing the amount of land use and line loss.
- The goal is to find the less impactful route for these lines. Route option and public feedback meetings will be held in June.

- An environmental impact statement will be completed in Fall 2026, where public comment will be received at that time.
- Permitting completed late 2028.
- Construction estimated 2030 thru 2032 with service available in 2034.

4.2. 9:00 A.M. SET BOND SALE - COUNTY DITCH 41 AND COUNTY DITCH 22

When the County Ditch 22 and County Ditch 41 improvement projects were approved, the drainage authority added reimbursement language allowing the county to reimburse the ditch fund with future bond proceeds. The county chose to wait and sell bonds for both projects at the same time to save on bond issuance costs.

Northland Securities - George Eilertson joined Heidi Winter for this presentation. They are the bonding agency assisting us with this bond sale.

- Municipal Advisors Agreement - help with the administrative portion of the bond sale and reporting that follows.
- Bond Resolution - This sets the sale and comes from bond counsel. Opening bonds on June 22nd in A.M. at Northland Security and then award on June 23rd at our Board of Commissioners Meeting.
- Bond Financing Plan
 - (2) county ditches are being financed - County Ditch 41 and 22.
 - CD 41 = \$2,347,000.00 plus fees; CD 22 = \$587,000.00 plus fees; total bond with fees is approximately \$3,035,000.00.
 - 15-year financing term; rating call will be conducted tomorrow.
 - June 11th we would need to know how many pre-payments of bonds will be.

As discussion progressed, it was determined we wanted to allow more time for pre-payments So bond sale of July 20th and awarding July 21st. We want to be sure that we change those dates in the motion.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded Commissioner Zins to approve the bond sale for CD 41 and CD 22 improvement opening on July 20, 2026, and awarding July 21, 2026. Heidi Winter will provide an updated resolution for these changes in dates.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Woelber and passed to approve a Municipal Advisory Services Agreement with Northland Securities for the \$3,035,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A.

4.3. DITCH BILLS

There were no bills at the packet deadline or meeting time.

4.4. PIONEER PUBLIC TV LEASE/OPTION TO BUY - CHANDLER AIR BASE TOWER LOCATION

In 1996 Murray County leased land at the former Chandler Airbase site to Pioneer Public TV for a transmission tower. Pioneer Public TV paid Murray County \$25,000.

The initial lease term was 10 years with options for two additional 10 year terms. The lease agreement also gave Pioneer Public TV the option to purchase the site for \$1 at the end of the total 30-year lease term. The 30 years expired in 2026. Pioneer Public TV wishes to exercise the option to purchase the site. Tax Parcel 16-013-0060 commonly known as Chandler Air Base.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve the sale and authorize the board chair and auditor-treasurer to sign the warranty deed provided in board packet conveying the site to Pioneer Public TV.

Legal Description: The Northeast Quarter of the southeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼) of Section Thirteen (13), Township One Hundred Five (105) North, Range Forty-three (43) West, 5th Principal Meridian, Murray County, Minnesota, containing 40.00 acres, more or less.

4.5.1. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven with the appointed ditch inspector in and for the County of Murray, have examined and inspected that portion of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given.

Petition 2026-016	JD 05	Sect 24 Belfast Township	Dist 1-Woelber
Petition 2026-017	CD 65	Sect 28 Holly Township	Dist 1-Woelber
Petition 2026-018	CD 55	Sect 14 Des Moines River	Dist 1-Woelber
Petition 2026-019	CD43A	Sect 8 Belfast Township	Dist 1-Woelber

Travis Radke also mentioned to the board DNR Partial Impoundment and Abandonment Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 16th at 8:35 a.m. Notices to the public are going out today.

4.6.1. APPROVE AND SIGN STRIPING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

This construction contract is for the annual maintenance striping we do each year. This year it will cover the west half of the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve and sign the striping construction contract with Sir-Lines-A-Lot, LLC in the amount of \$125,131.90 for project CP 02-26.

Commissioner Zins mentioned the City of Slayton was awarded a grant recently for 34th Street. Randy Groves stated this shouldn't affect any of our long-range road plans. The City will focus mainly on Maple Road and Juniper Avenue. In years past the city discussed changing the east end design a little and the county owns some adjoining land. Randy Groves will investigate.

4.7.1. WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Carl Nyquist presented the following activity updates for the Murray County Wellness Committee: Wellness Committee continues plan activities that improve the wellness of Murray County employees and is well received.

- State Park Passes - Offering a free state park pass to employees again this year.
- Wellness Fair - Planning again for 2026 employees. Hope to stress the importance in getting some Murray County benefit representatives to attend as well. Included in this fair will be some annual health screenings.

- Conflict Management Seminars - We will be conducting several seminar sessions for employees dealing with difficult people and employees. These seminars focus on internal and external-facing situations.
- Employee Summer Picnic - Tentatively holding a fun event for employees and families June 18th at 4:30. We will be grilling, games, and prizes for attendees.
- Wellness funding for employees comes from health insurance monthly rebates and grants that Murray County has applied for each year. It will be verified there are enough funds in wellness account to fund these events for the employees.

4.8.1. REHIRE SEASONAL MUSEUM ASSISTANT

Considered rehiring the following Seasonal Museum Assistants:

Nancy Moberg at Step 5 \$17/HR

Anna Johnson at Step 2 \$15/HR Logan

Steinle at Step 2 \$15/HR

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the rehiring of Nancy Moberg at Step 6, Anna Johnson at Step 2, and Logan Steinle Step 2 on the seasonal pay scale for the position of Seasonal Museum Assistant, contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check and pre-employment drug test.

4.8.2. HIRE SEASONAL MUSEUM ASSISTANT

Considered hiring Denis Stubbs as a seasonal museum assistant at Grade 1 step 1, in accordance with the seasonal pay scale.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the hiring of Denis Stubbs at Grade 1 Step 1, on the seasonal pay scale for the position of Seasonal Parks Museum Assistant, contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check and pre-employment drug test.

4.8.3. HIRE - SEASONAL SURVEYING TECHNICIAN

Considered hiring Jack Abrahamson as a Seasonal Surveying Technician at Grade 2s, Step 1 (\$16.50/hour) in accordance with the seasonal pay scale.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, to approve the hiring of Jack Abrahamson at Grade 2S, Step 1, on the seasonal pay scale for the position of Seasonal Surveying Technician, contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check and pre-employment drug test.

4.8.4. HIRE - TEMP DISPATCHER/JAILER

Chelsey Sour currently serves as a Correctional Sergeant with the Nobles County Jail and will bring valuable corrections experience, knowledge, and skills to the Murray County Sheriff's Office team.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the hiring of Chelsey Sour at Grade 8, Step 1, as temporary Jailer/Dispatcher, contingent upon satisfactory results of a criminal background check, BCA - fingerprinting, and pre-employment drug test.

4.9. 2025 PAY EQUITY REPORT

The Minnesota Pay Equity Management System requires the county to verify the job evaluation system. This report is to be filed every three years. Commissioner Woelber asked if there were any issues or concerns, responses or penalties from the State of MN. There were not. Previous years, the reports have been submitted to State of MN and then brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve the 2025 Pay Equity Report for Murray County that was submitted to the Minnesota Management and Budget Department.

BOARD CHAIR CARLSON CALLED A 5 MINUTE RECESS AT APPROXIMATELY 9:40 A.M.

BOARD CHAIR CARLSON CALLED THE MEETING BACK TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 A.M.

4.10. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR SHARON GIESE — OPEN SESSION REQUESTED

Board Chair Carlson outlined this performance evaluation could be held in closed session as Sharon Giese's request. But she has chosen to have an open session. Commissioner Zins & Commissioner Carlson, as Personnel Committee each completed an evaluation and Sharon also completed a self-evaluation of her performance. All commissioners reviewed those evaluations. In addition, input was received from several tenure department managers. Commissioner Carlson noted that Sharon has been filling in two positions without a lot of resources in one position. There were a couple of "exceeding expectations" ratings. The work environment has been good. Overall, the evaluation "meets expectations".

Regarding the notations under "Additional Training and Experience within the Next Year", Commissioner Woelber noted that he understands these trainings vary from in person, online, etc. Commissioner Welgraven pointed out that peer groups in County Administration can be a huge help in this area of learning. This group occasionally meets and Sharon was encouraged to attend these meetings. Sharon has reached out on several occasions to her peers for advice and support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the performance evaluation of Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator of "meets expectations".

4.11. ABOLISH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION POSITION AND REINSTATEMENT OF COUNTY COORDINATOR POSITION

There was discussion at work session. As part of the proposed transition from the County Administrator model to the County Coordinator model, a County Coordinator job description has been developed for Board consideration. The job description reflects a collaborative, board-directed administrative structure, aligning with Minnesota Statutes and incorporating elements from the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and comparable counties successfully operating under a coordinator model.

Commissioner Carlson received comments from the public and only one response suggested staying with the County Administrator position. Commissioner Welgraven also had feedback from the public and most of the public doesn't understand the difference in positions of coordinator vs. administrator. Once he explained and close to 70 other counties have an administrator model, they understand.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve Resolution 2026-05-19-01 to abolish County Administration position and reinstatement of County Coordinator Position. Commissioner Meier asked for a roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 3 to 2, Motion Passed

Woelber = Aye

Meier = Nay

Welgraven = Nay

Zins = Aye

Carlson = Aye

4.12. COUNTY COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Labor legal counsel and Sharon developed this job description. Commissioner Meier asked for clarification that this position is primarily a liaison to the department heads. It is not overseeing them? Commissioner Carlson confirmed as correct. Commissioner Meier wanted further clarification that the department heads are responsible for coming to the board. Commissioner Carlson confirmed it as correct.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the County Coordinator job description as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 3 to 2, Motion Passed

Woelber = Aye

Meier = Nay

Welgraven = Nay

Zins = Aye

Carlson = Aye

4.13. APPROVAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The Board is considering a transition from the County Administrator model to a County Coordinator model to better align with the desired governance and operational structure of Murray County. As part of this transition, an updated organizational chart has been developed to reflect the change in leadership structure and reporting relationships. Approval of the updated organizational chart is a necessary step to formally implement the transition and ensure alignment between the County's leadership structure and day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Meier requested further clarification of the dotted lines reflected on the organizational chart presented. Sharon Giese clarified, those dotted lines as noted on the bottom of the document are expected communication lines to the County Coordinator position, but still not reporting to the County Coordinator.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, to approve the updated organizational chart reflecting the transition from the County Administrator model to the County Coordinator model, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 4 to 1, Motion Passed

Zins = Aye

Welgraven = Aye

Meier = Nay

Woelber = Aye

Carlson = Aye

4.14. APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COORDINATOR

Commissioner Meier asked the dollar amount of this position. Sharon Giese stated it is \$52.58/hour for Step1, Grade 20., with a range of 52.58 to approx. \$68.00. Sharon also confirmed for Commissioner Welgraven that David Drown Associates provided guidance for this wage scale.

A motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve 2026-05-19-02 Resolution to Establish County Coordinator Appointment of Sharon Giese and salary of Step 1, Grade 20 of the county's salary schedule.

Roll Call Vote: 4 to 1, Motion Passed

Zins = Aye

Welgraven = Aye

Meier = Nay

Woelber = Aye

Carlson = Aye

4.15. REVIEW AND APPROVE HUMAN RESOURCES JOB DESCRIPTION

Since the appointment of Sharon Giese to County Coordinator position, the HR Manager position now needs to be filled. The attached job description was developed in consultation with David Drown & Associates consultant Tessia Melvin. The position has been placed at Pay Grade 15, with a pay range of \$39.29 to \$51.07 per hour.

The job description changed because we are now omitting the Deputy Administrator duties. Sharon Giese clarified the HR Manager position will allow them to focus on human resources, which benefits the employees. Commissioner Woelber also clarified this person would be the health insurance expert working with any grievances or negotiation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the Human Resources Manager position description with the advertisement beginning this week.

Roll Call Vote: 5 to 0, Motion Passed

Woelber = Aye

Meier = Aye

Welgraven = Aye

Zins = Aye

Carlson = Aye

Commissioner Meier requested to make a statement. She really feels the county should have advertised for the County Coordinator position.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS 04/26 - 05/09/2026

Carlson

04/28 Commissioners

04/29 & 30 AMC Conference, St. Paul, MN

05/04 Personnel

05/05 Commissioner

Welgraven

04/28 Commissioner

04/29 thru 05/01 AMC Conference, St. Paul, MN

05/05 Commissioner

Zins

04/27 Western Mental Health
04/28 Commissioner / Investment & Finance
04/29 thru 05/01 AMC Conference, St. Paul, MN
05/04 Personnel
05/05 Commissioners
05/08 SMOG

Woelber

04/28 Commissioner
04/29 & 30 AMC Conference, St. Paul, MN
05/05 Commissioner
05/07 RCRC

Meier

04/28 Commissioner
04/29 thru 05/01 AMC Conference, St. Paul, MN
05/04 Helping Hands Nurse Partnership
05/05 Commissioner / Hospital Foundation
05/07 Early Childhood Initiative
05/08 SW Mental Health Consortium

Board Chair Carlson also mentioned that Commissioner Meier was recently appointed to Hospital Foundation Committee. At our June Commissioner's Meeting we should discuss with Luke Schryvers, MCMC if they would like to permanently have a Murray County Commissioner appointed to that board.

6. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD CHAIR CARLSON ADJOURNED MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 A.M.

ATTEST:


Sharon Giese, County Coordinator


Mark Carlson, Board Chair