

Chairman Tellinghuisen called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., with the following members present: Commissioners Reynolds, Wilhelm, Oslin, and Peterson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Two additional documents were provided for consideration for item 5.6 Adopt Resolution 9-24-19-03 Approving the 2020 Preliminary Levy. Cmsr Oslin motioned to accept the agenda as amended; Cmsr Wilhelm seconded. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Cmsr Wilhelm, seconded by Cmsr Peterson, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Review of Auditor's Warrants;
- Approve Payment to Counsel for Legal Services;
- Approve FY 2020 & 2021 NRBG Agreement;
- Approve Revised County Administrator Position Description.

Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION: THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Economic Development Manager Mike Wimmer introduced Initiative Foundation Vice President for Community and Workforce Development, Don Hickman. Hickman discussed the most recent grants that the Initiative Foundation (IF) has hosted, including grants acquired for human services, transportation, and environmental protection throughout the State of Minnesota. County Administrator Pat Oman stated that IF grant funds are available to Mille Lacs County; funds may be beneficial in administrating a Highway 169 corridor study or additional projects to further economic development. Hickman stated that IF united with the Delta Dental Foundation and Mille Lacs County Community and Veterans Services to provide grant funds to assist with the free dental services program.

PUBLIC HEARING: COUNTY DITCH 2 REPAIR HEARING

Environmental Resources Manager Dillon Hayes stated that this is a continuation of the previous County Ditch (CD) 2 Public Hearing that was initially held on August 27, 2019, in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103E.715. Hayes noted that an additional petition to clean out the full ditch has been received; a public hearing regarding that petition will occur at an upcoming Board meeting. Cmsr Wilhelm motioned to open the floor for public comment at 9:05 a.m.; Cmsr Reynolds seconded. Motion carried. No comments were received. Cmsr Peterson motioned to close the floor for public comment at 9:06 a.m.; Cmsr Oslin seconded. Motion carried. Cmsr Wilhelm motioned to accept the findings and direct the repair of County Ditch 2; Cmsr Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE APPLICATION TO ACQUIRE PID #22-041-1320

Environmental Resources Manager Hayes stated that PID 22-041-1320 had been forfeited due to non-payment of taxes. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 282.01 subdivision 1a(e), the County may acquire the property at no cost, provided that the County will make authorized public use of the parcel within three (3) years' time. Cmsr Peterson motioned to approve Resolution 9-24-19-02 authorizing the application to acquire PID 22-041-1320; Cmsr Reynolds seconded. A roll call vote was called; Cmsrs Peterson, Oslin, Reynolds, and Tellinghuisen voted aye. Cmsr Wilhelm voted nay. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COUNTY DITCH 2 PETITION

Environmental Resources Manager Hayes presented the second petition received for the repair of County Ditch (CD) 2. The repair petition calls for the sediment removal on the full ditch system. Cmsr Wilhelm motioned to approve staff to solicit quotes for the repair of County Ditch 2; Cmsr Oslin seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO REPURCHASE TAX FORFEITED PARCEL 01-015-0602

Land Specialist Nancy Eibes stated that PID 01-015-0602 had been forfeited on September 3, 2019 due to non-payment of taxes. Eibes stated that the previous owner has applied to repurchase the forfeited property, subject to the Board's approval. Eibes noted that the owner had paid all taxes and fees associated with the purchase. Cmsr Wilhelm motioned to approve Resolution 9-24-19-01; Cmsr Oslin seconded. Motion carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 9-24-19-03 APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY LEVY

County Administrator Oman provided two additional documents to aid in the discussion of the preliminary levy. Oman reviewed the needs and expenses of each County department; Oman noted an increase in the contingency fund, which covers lawsuits and legal work. Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of adding County job positions, payment of the Capital Equipment Bond in 2020, and the benefits of internalizing County services that are currently outsourced in order to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Oman reviewed the County's efforts to achieve grants to in order to reduce expenses. The proposed resolution would increase the levy by 8.9%. Oman discussed the revenue increase in Community and Veterans Services' (CVS) and the usage of these funds. Cmsr Oslin motioned to approve Resolution 9-24-19-03; Cmsr Peterson seconded. Motion carried. A roll call vote was called; Cmsrs Reynolds, Peterson, Oslin, and Tellinghuisen voted aye. Cmsr Wilhelm voted nay. Motion carried.

SET TRUTH-IN-TAXATION (TNT) PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND TIME

County Administrator Oman stated that the proposed Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing date is Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Cmsr Oslin motioned to approve the Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing Date for Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.; Cmsr Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS TRIBAL LITIGATION

Cmsr Tellinghuisen recited Minnesota State Statute 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b). A motion was made by Cmsr Wilhelm to close the meeting at 9:28 a.m. in accordance with M.S. 13D.05, Subdivision 3 (b) the meeting was closed under attorney client privilege to discuss legal issues, legal advice and litigation strategy arising from the federal lawsuit filed by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Sara Rice and Derrick Naumann versus Mille Lacs County in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Court File No. 17-cv-5155; Cmsr Oslin seconded. Motion carried. Cmsr Wilhelm motioned to reopen the meeting at 10:02 a.m.; Cmsr Oslin seconded. Motion carried.

CONSIDER HOLMBERG FEE TO TRUST APPLICATION

Tribal Attorney Randy Thompson discussed the Mille Lacs Band's application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to transfer the Holmberg property from fee to trust. Thompson stated that the application indicates 19 housing units and an additional large lot intended for a housing unit. Thompson stated that the tax revenue loss would be approximately \$40,000 at the current tax rate. Thompson stated that the City of Isle has opposed this transfer from fee to trust, however, the State of Minnesota did not object. Thompson noted that the band has approximately \$190 million dollars of property in trust within Mille Lacs County, which equates to several million dollars of tax revenue loss to the County. Thompson stated that no communication has been received from the Mille Lacs Band or from the City of Isle regarding this application. Thompson recommended opposing the Holmberg Fee to Trust Application, due to the lack of communication between parties. The County Board discussed options regarding the application and how to proceed. Cmsr Peterson motioned to not oppose the Holmberg Fee to Trust Application and to provide a letter of support to the City of Isle; Cmsr Wilhelm seconded. A roll call vote was called; Cmsrs Wilhelm, Reynolds, Oslin, Peterson, and Tellinghuisen voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cmsr Tellinghuisen stated that the Snake River Watershed Meeting was a success; Mille Lacs County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Director Susan Shaw had also attended the event.

Cmsr Oslin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m.; Cmsr Wilhelm seconded. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

/s/ Pat Oman
Pat Oman
County Administrator

/s/ Roger Tellinghuisen
Roger Tellinghuisen
County Board Chairperson