

December 3, 2024

At 4:30 PM, on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, the Brown County Board of Commissioners met in Room #204 of the Brown County Courthouse located in New Ulm, Minnesota, 56073. Commissioners present were David Borchert, Anton Berg, Scott Windschitl, Brian Braun and Jeff Veerkamp, along with County Administrator Sam Hansen.

Agenda Review

1. Chairman Veerkamp convened the Regular Meeting at 4:30 PM. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to accept the printed agenda. This motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Review

2. Previous Meeting's Official Proceedings and Synopsis Approval

3. General Government claims in the amount of \$122,035.86.

In accordance with MS 375.12, the following claims exceed \$2,000: Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc \$2,527.59 Arnold's of North Mankato \$2,795.54 EARL F ANDERSEN INC \$2,755.85 Gag Sheet Metal \$27,508.44 JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL \$2,461.97 Minnesota Paving & Materials \$37,937.16 MN Counties Computer Cooperative \$3,528.40 New Ulm/City Of \$3,850.00 North Central International LLC \$2,315.49 River Bend-Kemske Business Products \$2,470.07 RON'S RECYCLING \$5,268.00 Saw Works Construction \$2,134.00 Valley Asphalt Products Inc \$5,745.74; 61 payments less than \$2,000 total \$20,737.61. Final Total: \$122,035.86. A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve said Consent Agenda items. This motion carried unanimously.

New Business

4. Kelly Hotovec, Auditor-Treasurer, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Windschitl, acting as the Brown County Drainage Authority, to set the date, time and location for the Preliminary Hearing on the Petition for Improvement for County Ditch 74 and authorize the Board Chair to Sign the Order and Notice of Preliminary Hearing for Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Brown County Law Enforcement Center Training Room, Basement Level, 15 South Washington Street, New Ulm, MN 56073. This motion carried unanimously.

5. Nathan Beran, IT Director, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Windschitl, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve the purchase of battery backup from SHI in the amount of \$3,786.99. This motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Windschitl, to approve the purchase of firewall equipment from Syntax in the amount of \$5,390 and SFP's from SHI in the amount of \$666.10, to be split with NUPD accordingly. This motion carried 4-0-1, with Commissioner Borchert abstaining.

7. A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve the purchase of High Availability Firewall in the amount of \$3,215 from Syntax and SFP modules in the amount of \$666.10. This motion carried unanimously.

8. Wayne Stevens, Engineer, and Andrew Lang, Assistant Engineer, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Windschitl, to accept and order file the Highway Department Monthly Update for Construction and Maintenance Projects. This motion carried unanimously.

9. Mary Priebe, HR Director, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Veerkamp, to review and approve change suggestions presented in the 2024 wage review report presented by Tessa Melvin with David Drown Associates (DDA). This motion carried unanimously.

Break

Other Business

10. Correspondence: The Redwood-Brown County Joint JD 5 Drainage Authority meeting to be held on December 3, 2024; Agenda attached to Agenda packet.

11. Commissioner Committee Reports: Commissioner Borchert reported on Opioid meeting; Commissioner Berg reported on B-N CHB Exec meeting and Opioid meeting; Commissioner Windschitl reported on SCHL meeting; Commissioner Braun reported on B-N CHB Exec meeting, JD 5 meeting; and Commissioner Veerkamp reported on

December 3, 2024

JD 5 meeting.

12. Calendars were coordinated for the next two-week period.

Recess Regular Meeting

At 5:32 PM, Chairman Veerkamp recessed the Regular Meeting until the start of the 2025 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing/Public Budget Meeting.

Convene Truth-in-Taxation Hearing | Public Budget Meeting

At 6:00 PM, Chairman Veerkamp convened the 2025 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing/Public Budget Meeting in the 3rd floor District Courtroom of the Brown County Courthouse located in New Ulm, Minnesota. Commissioners Borchert, Berg, Braun, Windschitl and Veerkamp were in attendance, along with County Administrator Hansen. Also in attendance were (15) Brown County department heads and staff; and (1) member of the general public. Media representative, Fritz Busch, of the Journal was also present. Informational handouts were distributed to those in attendance.

13. Sam Hansen, County Administrator, presented Brown County's proposed budget and levy for 2025, reviewing the handouts as provided. The proposed 2025 Brown County levy noted was \$17,978,725, which reflected an 8.99% increase from the 2024 levy in the amount of \$16,495,000. The proposed 2025 revenues and expenditures budgeted at \$45,869,475. The proposed 2025 Expenditures by category as a percentage of total budget were noted as follows: 17.22% General Government; 16.56% Public Safety; 4.52% Public Health; 1.07% Culture/Recreation; 0.81% Conservation/Natural Resources; 40.2% Economic Development; 31.1% Road and Bridge; 28.24% Human Services; .12% Capital Improvement; and .33% Collaborative.

Additional budget information was also addressed as follows: comparison of estimated market values for total agricultural properties and total non-agricultural properties, impact of the levy increase on the county and factors impacting the 2025 budget. Administrator Hansen also noted that preparation of the budget is a lengthy process and departments continually look for ways to limit the need for property taxes by seeking grants and reviewing departmental activity.

Chairman Veerkamp called for testimony from the public regarding the proposed 2025 Brown County Budget and levy. There was no testimony from the general public.

Chairman Veerkamp expressed thanks to those in attendance, and also thanked the department heads and staff for their efforts in preparing the draft 2025 budget. It was noted that the County Board will consider adoption of the final payable 2025 property tax levy and budget at the regular County Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, in Room 204 of the Brown County Courthouse.

Adjournment

At 6:13 PM, Chairman Veerkamp closed the Public Meeting, and recovered the Regular Meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Veerkamp declared the Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Notice

*Redwood-Brown County Joint JD 5 Drainage Authority Meeting on December 3, 2024, at 3:45 pm.
County Board Workshop took place following the Truth-in-Taxation Meeting.*



Jeff Veerkamp, Chair
Board of Brown County Commissioners
Brown County, Minnesota

ATTEST:

Sam Hansen
Brown County Administrator
Brown County, Minnesota