

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2025**

Chairman John Berends called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 3:00 p.m. with Commissioners Ron Antony and Mitch Kling also present. Also present were County Administrator Angie Steinbach, County Attorney Mark Gruenes and HR Manager Ashley Soine. Commissioners Glen Kack and Greg Renneke were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda 12-02-25-01 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 12-02-25-02 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the consent agenda item as follows: November 18, 2025 County Board meeting minutes; hiring of Dakota Haugen as a Highway Maintenance Worker, his salary will be grade 9, step 3, his start date is December 8, 2025. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Citizen Comments None

Approval of Disbursements/Review Auditor's Warrants 12-02-25-03 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$94,278.67 Ditch Fund, \$59,344.33 Revenue Fund, \$60,223.77 Road & Bridge Fund, \$27,813.90 Human Services Fund; and acknowledged review of the Auditor's warrants. An itemized listing of all warrants over \$2,000 and an aggregate total for warrants under \$2,000 are published on the County website under the Finance & Administration Department. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Commissioner Renneke joined the meeting.

Commissioners' Report Commissioner Antony reported on Emergency Communication Board, State Emergency Communication Board Finance, Minnesota Valley Regional Railroad Authority and Counties Providing Technology. Commissioner Kling reported on Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, Historical Society, Soil and Water Conservation District, Planning Commission and Pioneerland Library System. Commissioner Renneke had no reports. Commissioner Berends reported on Prairie Lakes Youth Program and Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission Executive Board.

Administrator Steinbach's report included meetings attended, current projects being worked on and future meetings to attend. Administrator Steinbach's report is included in the Board packet.

Regular Agenda

Conditional Use Permit Request YM-655-25, USS Larson Solar, LLC, Minneapolis, MN 12-02-25-04 Jolene Johnson, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission to construct a 3.91 MW Community Solar Garden. The site is in the Rural Preservation Management District, on parcel #08-033-3010; in the northwest one-quarter of the southwest one-quarter (NW¼ SW¼) of Section 33 in Lisbon Township, T-115N R-41-W. The Yellow Medicine County Land and Related Resource Management Ordinance, Section VI, Subdivision 2.0, which requires a Conditional Use permit for solar energy farms.

Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve Conditional Use Permit YM-655-25 for USS Larson Solar, LLC with the following conditions:

1. Prior to construction, the applicant/owner shall provide cash escrow in the amount of \$136,850 (\$35,000 per mw x 3.91) which shall be submitted to the Yellow Medicine County Land and Resource Management Office to cover the costs of decommissioning and site restoration upon project termination.
2. Upon expiration or revocation of this permit, or voluntary termination of the project, the owner/operator and/or landowner shall decommission the solar garden in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan dated November 7, 2025. Removal and disposal of the site components shall be completed within six months of termination.
3. Owner must notify the Zoning Coordinator if the system is no longer producing energy. The solar garden shall be considered abandoned if the use is discontinued (no energy production) for a period of 12 consecutive months or more unless a plan has been submitted and approved by the Zoning Coordinator outlining steps and a schedule for returning the solar garden to service.
4. Owner of the project shall notify the Land and Resource Management Office of any change in ownership of the project, including name of the new owner, mailing address, contact person and phone number.
5. A farm field style fence, not exceeding eight feet (8') in height, shall be installed around the perimeter of the entire site.
6. Except for the designated roadways, the project area shall be re-vegetated as a low-growing, pollinator friendly native prairie. The vegetation in the project and surrounding area shall be maintained to promote the pollinator friendly native prairie and to limit any noxious weeds.
7. This Conditional Use permit shall expire upon termination of this project.
8. A sign shall be erected and maintained at the solar garden entrance listing current contact information for the solar garden.
9. Owner must notify the Zoning Coordinator when the system is energized.
10. The owner/operator shall provide proof of bodily injury/property damage, and public liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for any occurrence.

Motion carried with Commissioners Antony, Kling and Berends voting in favor and Commissioner Renneke voting against.

Law Enforcement Center Lease Agreement 12-02-25-05 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the Law Enforcement Center Lease Agreement with the City of Granite Falls. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #35-2025 12-02-25-06 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve Resolution #35-2025 which approves off-site gambling for the Canby Fire Department Relief Organization. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #36-2025 12-02-25-07 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve Resolution #36-2025 which approves off-site gambling for the Canby Sportsmen's Club, Inc. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Dan Moravetz, Highway Department, gave an update.

Area II MN River Basin Project 12-02-25-08 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the Area II Minnesota River Basin Project as proposed for Norman 7 Grade Stabilization Restoration Project. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Area II Joint Powers Agreement 12-02-25-09 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the updated Area II Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Close Meeting 12-02-25-10 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to close the meeting at 4:12 p.m. The meeting was closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05 to discuss labor negotiations. Those present were the County Board members, County Administrator Angie Steinbach, Finance Manager Dana Homan, County Attorney Mark Gruenes and Human Resources Manager Ashley Soine. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Open Meeting 12-02-25-11 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to open the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

The board recessed for break at 4:28 p.m.

The board reconvened at 4:40 p.m.

Minnesota Paid Leave Policy 12-02-25-12 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the Minnesota Paid Leave Policy as presented. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2026 Salaries and Per Diems 12-02-25-13 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to table the agenda items (7.10-7.14) regarding 2026 salaries and per diems to the next board meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Dana Homan, Finance Manager, gave a budget update.

Chair Berends opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. regarding the 2026 Fee Schedule.

Close Public Hearing 12-02-25-14 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to close the public hearing at 5:38 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Fee Schedule and Resolution #34-2025 12-02-25-15 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule and Resolution #34-2025 as presented. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Other Business None

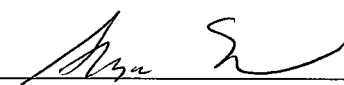
Informational None

Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Adjourn 12-02-25-16 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness


John Berends, Chair

Attest:


Angie Steinbach, County Administrator