

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2021**

Chairman Gary Johnson called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Glen Kack, Ron Antony, Greg Renneke and John Berends also present. Also present were County Administrator Angie Steinbach and HR Manager Ashley Soine.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approve Agenda 07-13-21-01** Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the agenda with the following change: move the Establishment of CD 5 Final Hearing at 12:30 from the Regular Agenda to the Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Events section. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Consent Agenda 07-13-21-02** Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the consent agenda items as follows: June 22, 2021 County Board meeting minutes; June 22, 2021 County Board of Equalization minutes; T-CPR Agreement with Hennepin Healthcare; Unclaimed Property Staff Authorization; Budget Amendment Forms; hiring of Leslie Craig as a part-time Assistant Custodian, her salary will be grade 4, step 1, her start date is July 19, 2021; hiring of Ali Mensink as Administrative Secretary in the Sheriff's Office, her salary will be grade 7, step 3, her start date is July 19, 2021; hiring of Dave Hillerud as the Mechanic at the Highway Department, his salary will be grade 9, step 10, his tentative start date is July 27, 2021; resignation of Lana Edman, Property & Public Services Deputy/CMA effective October 4, 2021; County Fairgrounds Property Management Quarterly Update and Payment Request in the amount of \$1,312.50. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Citizen Comments** None

**Approval of Disbursements/Review Auditor's Warrants 07-13-21-03** Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Berends to approve the commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$19,175.73 Ditch Fund, \$86,712.15 Revenue Fund, \$26,379.90 Road & Bridge Fund, \$59,009.44 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.

**Commissioners' Report** Commissioner Kack reported on U of M Extension, Highway Equipment meeting, Fair Board, Area II/RCRCA, Western Mental Health Center, LQP-Yellow Bank Watershed, Board of Equalization meeting and Labor Management Committee. Commissioner Berends reported on Board of Equalization meeting and planning meeting for City of Granite Falls. Commissioner Johnson reported on U of M Extension, Prairie Five, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, Labor Management Committee and 6W Community Corrections. Commissioner Renneke reported on Highway Equipment meeting, Board of Equalization meeting and Parks Committee. Commissioner Antony reported on Board of Equalization meeting, 6W Community Corrections, Parks Committee, Planning Commission, LQP-Yellow Bank Watershed, Counties Providing Technology, Emergency Communication Board and MCIT.

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**

Andy Sander, Highway Department, gave an update.

**Motor Grader Tires 07-13-21-04** Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the tire upgrade for the motor grader from the state bid in the amount of \$2,980 (17.5" R25 Michelin XSNPLUS tires on 14" x 25" multi piece rims). Motion carried with all voting in favor.

The board recessed for break at 10:33 a.m.

The board reconvened for break at 10:50 a.m.

Jason Overby, Mitch Kling and Randy Kraus, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, presented their Annual Financial Report and gave an update.

Sarah Vonderharr, Prevention Specialist at the Chemical Health Coalition/PACT For Families, gave an update and presented information on their funding request for 2022.

Dawn Hegland and Melissa Streich, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, gave an update and presented information on the funding request for 2022.

Kim Jelen, Property & Public Services Deputy, was presented to the board.

**Conditional Use Permit Request YM-616-21, Novel Energy Solutions, LLC 07-13-21-05**

Jolene Johnson, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve conditional use permit request YM-616-21 for Novel Energy Solutions, LCC, St. Paul, MN, to construct a 1 MW Community Solar Garden on approximately 10 acres of land in the Rural Preservation Management District located in the southwest one-quarter of the southwest one-quarter (SW¼ SW¼) of Section 2 in Friendship Township T-115-N R-41-W. The Yellow Medicine County Land Use and Related Resource Management Ordinance Section 6.0, Subdivision 2.0 requires a Conditional Use permit for Solar Energy Farms.

Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Berends to approve Conditional Use Permit YM-616-21 for Novel Energy Solutions, LLC with the following conditions:

1. Prior to construction, the applicant/owner shall provide a performance bond in the amount of \$35,000 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 May 25, 2021. Removal and disposal of the site components shall be completed within six months of termination.
3. 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.
4. A six foot high (6') chain link fence shall be installed and maintained surrounding the entire site.
5. 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.
6. This Conditional Use permit shall expire upon termination of this project.
7. Parcel #05-002-3010 consisting of 16.1 acres shall not be subdivided.

Motion carried with Commissioner Antony, Berends and Kack voting in favor and Commissioner Renneke and Johnson voting against.

**Conditional Use Permit Request YM-617-21, USS Wolf Solar LLC 07-13-21-06**

Jolene Johnson, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve conditional use permit request YM-617-21 for USS Wolf Solar LLC, Minneapolis, MN, to construct a 1 MW Community Solar Garden on approximately 7 acres of land in the Rural Preservation Management District located in the northeast one-quarter of the northwest one-quarter (NE¼ NW¼) of Section 7 in Posen Township T-113-N R-39-W. The Yellow Medicine County Land Use and Related Resource Management Ordinance Section 6.0, Subdivision 2.0 requires a Conditional Use permit for Solar Energy Farms.

Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve Conditional Use Permit YM-617-21 for USS Wolf Solar LLC with the following conditions:

1. Prior to construction, the applicant/owner shall provide a performance bond in the amount of \$35,000 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 May 25, 2021. Removal and disposal of the site components shall be completed within six months of termination.
3. 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.
4. A six foot high (6') farm field style fence shall be installed and maintained surrounding the entire site.
5. 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.
6. This Conditional Use permit shall expire upon termination of this project.
7. The Landscape Screening plan submitted as a part of the Conditional Use permit application packet shall be followed. The Plan consists of one row of Eastern Red Cedar trees to be planted on the north side of the site.

Motion carried with Commissioner Berends, Antony and Kack voting in favor and Commissioner Renneke and Johnson voting against.

**Conditional Use Permit Request YM-618-21, Northern Natural Gas Company 07-13-21-07**

Jolene Johnson, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented information from the Planning Commission regarding a request from Northern Natural Gas Company. Since the Planning Commission meeting, some of the information has changed, therefore the recommendation was to table the request until a future board meeting after the Planning Commission could review the updated information. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Berends to table the request until a future board meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Replace PPSD Deputy/CMA Position 07-13-21-08** Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the replacement of the Property & Public Services Deputy/CMA position with a Deputy Assessor/Appraiser. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Late Tax Payment Penalty 07-13-21-09** Motion by Commissioner Renneke and seconded by Commissioner Berends to deny the request to waive penalty for late property tax payments for Orville and Helen Schultz on multiple parcels in the amount of \$931.08. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Resolution #36-2021 Exempt Gambling Permit 07-13-21-10** Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resolution #36-2021 which approves off-site gambling for the Western MN Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

The Board discussed the upcoming budget work session with Department Heads that is scheduled for July 22, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

**Resolution #35-2021 Authorize Sale of Bonds 07-13-21-11** Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resoltuion #35-2021 for providing for the sale of \$3,605,000 General Obligation Drainage Bonds, Series 2021A. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Resolution #34-2021 Reimbursement Declaration 07-13-21-12** Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve Resolution #34-2021 relating to financing of certain proposed projects to be undertaken by the county; establishing compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Other Business** None

**Informational** May 2021 Jail Report and Minnesota Energy Resource Corp (MERC)- Tax Court petition settlement for taxes payable in 2021

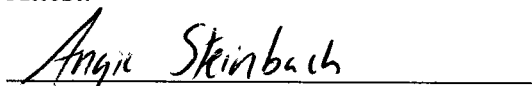
**Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events** The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

**Adjourn 07-13-21-13** Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to adjourn at 12:28 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness:

  
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Gary Johnson, Chair

Attest:

  
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Angie Steinbach, County Administrator