

April 28, 2020

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DAKOTA)
OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD)

Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord
Commissioner Thomas A. Egan
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Chris Gerlach

Also in attendance were: Matt Smith, County Manager; James Backstrom, County Attorney; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, Commissioners participated in this meeting via telephone and the Board meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Video and audio of this County Board meeting are available on the Dakota County website.

Pledge Of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Mike Slavik who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience

Chair Slavik noted that all public comments can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mm.us

It is noted that a comment came into the County Administration inbox, this comment was distributed to all seven Commissioners.

- Barbara Cox, Sr. Director of Government Relations (HealthPartners) pertaining to Item 7.1 *Property Taxation And Records* - Approval Of Abatement Of Penalty On First Half 2020 Property Taxes Until July 15, 2020.

20-211

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Liz Holberg

Second: Kathleen A. Gaylord

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Thomas A. Egan

On a motion by Commissioner Liz Workman, seconded by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

County Board/County Administration

20-212

Designation Of Dakota County Tribune As Official Newspaper Of Record

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is required by Minn. Stat. § 375.12 to advertise for bids

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for County legal printing and award of bid at the first Board meeting of the year; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-007 (January 7, 2020), the County Board awarded the bid for the printing of County legal notices to the Hastings Star Gazette; and

WHEREAS, the Hastings Star Gazette has been the official newspaper of record for Dakota County to date; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, County Administration was notified that due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, RiverTown Multimedia who publishes the Hastings Star Gazette has made the decision to cease publication, and the final issue will be May 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 375.12 allows the County Board to designate another newspaper for the remainder of the year if the official newspaper of the County ceases to exist for any reason except consolidation with another newspaper; and

WHEREAS; recommendation of designating the Dakota County Tribune as the official newspaper for the remainder of the year, is based on priority of designation from Minn. Stat. § 331A.04.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby designates the Dakota County Tribune as the official newspaper of record for Dakota County from May 8, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County Administration Department is authorized to contract with the Dakota County Tribune for printing of County legal notices and designates newspapers for various publications, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

REGULAR AGENDA

County Board/County Administration

Update On Monitoring And Response To Cornoavirus Outbreak

Director of Public Health Bonnie Brueshoff, Director of Social Services Evan Henspeter, Deputy Director of Social Services Emily Schug, and Deputy County Manager Jean Erickson briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by Board members.

Legislative Update

Stinson, LLP Government Solutions Director Paul Cassidy gave a brief update on the legislative session and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No staff direction was given by the Board.

Public Services And Revenue

20-213

Approval Of Abatement Of Penalty On First Half 2020 Property Taxes Until July 15, 2020

Director of Public Services and Revenue Tom Novak and Director of Property Taxation and Records briefed this item and responded to questions.

Motion: Mary Liz Holberg

Second: Kathleen A. Gaylord

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners declared a local emergency pursuant to Minn. Stat. §12.29, with consent from the County Board by Resolution No. 20-139 on March 20, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency and the Governor of the State of Minnesota has declared a Peacetime State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Dakota County Board of Commissioners recognize the financial impact the COVID-19 pandemic has on property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 279.01, Subd. 2, authorizes a county board to abate penalty for late payment of property taxes in the current year upon finding that the imposition of the penalty would be unjust and unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, at this time of a declared local emergency, the imposition of a penalty for certain taxpayers can be considered unjust and unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, property taxes are a fundamental revenue source for local taxing districts to ensure sustainability of essential services and statutory mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby waive the penalty for late payment of property taxes that would otherwise be imposed between May 16, 2020 and July 15, 2020, for all taxpayers except the following: 1) taxpayers who escrow their property tax payment through a mortgage or escrow service, and 2) taxpayers with properties classified and utility, railroad, machinery and transmission lines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That early and additional tax distributions will be made, as is practical and reasonable, to local taxing districts to mitigate the effects of late collections as a result of a penalty abatement period.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

County Manager's Report

County Manager Matt Smith gave a brief update on the following:

- Overview of dollars associated with payroll and the COVID-19 pandemic
- CARES Act

Adjournment

Motion: Thomas A. Egan

Second: Chris Gerlach

On a motion by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, seconded by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Mike Slavik
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager