

August 25, 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.mn.us
No comments were received.

20-412

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Thomas A. Egan

Second: Joe Atkins

On a motion by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, seconded by Commissioner Joe Atkins, the agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Mary Liz Holberg

On a motion by Commissioner Liz Workman, seconded by Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

County Board/County Administration

Information On CARES Act Funding Requests From Other Entities

This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. No action was requested.

Physical Development

20-413

Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement And Subrecipient Agreement With Dakota County Community Development Agency For Implementation Of Dakota County Small Business Relief Grant

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Program

WHEREAS, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) was established to assist States and eligible units of local government with COVID-19-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County received \$52 million of CARES CRF dollars from the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, one of the eligible uses of CRF dollars is providing grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-346 (July 14, 2020), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners established the Dakota County Small Business Relief Grant Program (Program), funded with \$10 million of CRF funds and up to \$400,000 for administrative expenses; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20-346 also authorized the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) implement the Program on behalf of Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney's Office recommends Dakota County and the CDA enter into a joint powers agreement and a subrecipient agreement to formally establish the partnership to fund and administer the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to execute a joint powers agreement and subrecipient agreement between Dakota County and the Dakota County Community Development Agency for the implementation of the Dakota County Small Business Relief Grant Program.

REGULAR AGENDA

County Board/County Administration

20-414

Discussion And Direction On Future Board And Committee Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic

First Assistant County Attorney Tom Donely briefed this item and responded to questions.

Motion: Thomas A. Egan

Second: Liz Workman

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has labeled COVID-19 as a pandemic illness; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a risk to the health, welfare, and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-01, "Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19," declaring a peacetime emergency under Minn. Stat. § 12.31, subd. 2; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's emergency declaration must be extended every 30-days and was most recently extended thru September 11, 2020 by Executive Order 20-83, dated August 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Governor will continue to extend the statewide emergency declaration while there is a risk to the health, welfare, and safety of the public related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Dakota County Manager and the Risk and Homeland Security Manager, the Chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners declared a local state of emergency in Dakota

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County on March 17, 2020 pursuant to Minn. State § 12.29; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-139 (March 20, 2020), the County Board of Commissioners continued the local state of emergency in Dakota County finding that the COVID19 pandemic, the potential for outbreak in Dakota County, and the need for extraordinary and immediate measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Dakota County residents and employees will not be resolved in the immediate future; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, Board Committees of the Whole, and Special Board Committees are subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minn. Stat. Ch. 13D); and

WHEREAS, due to the health emergency, it has not been prudent, practical or feasible to conduct public meetings at the regular meeting locations; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 20, 2020, all Dakota County subject to the Open Meeting Law have been conducted remotely pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021; and

WHEREAS, technology in the County Boardroom made it infeasible for anyone to participate in the remote meetings from the Boardroom; and

WHEREAS, the technology in the Boardroom has been updated to allow Commissioners, staff and public to participate in a meeting while others may participate in the meeting remotely; and

WHEREAS, it continues to not be prudent or practical to hold regular in-person meetings due to the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, individuals at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 have been advised to limit interaction in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, as the health emergency continues to evolve, there may be circumstances in which an individual will not be able to attend a meeting in person due to quarantine or other medical concerns related to the health emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is not practical or prudent to require all Commissioners, public and staff to appear in person at the regular meeting locations due to social distancing requirements and individual medical concerns related to the health emergency; and

WHEREAS, a hybrid approach would allow for some people to attend meetings in the Boardroom while maintaining social distance requirements and retaining the ability to attend remotely for those who it is not practical, prudent or feasible to attend in person due to the health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby finds that the COVID19 pandemic and the need for extraordinary and immediate measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Dakota County residents and employees will not be resolved in the immediate future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners beginning on September 22, 2020, will conduct meetings governed by Minn. Stat. Ch. 13D through telephone or other electronic means with the option for members of the public or County officials to present at the County Boardroom located at the Dakota County Administration Center, 1590 Highway 55, Hastings, MN 55033.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Community Services

Update On Dakota County CARES Eviction Prevention Program And Resources For Homeowner Assistance

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Deputy Director Madeline Kastler, Dakota County Community Development Agency Executive Director Tony Schertler, and Director of Community and Economic Development Lisa Alfson 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.

Operations, Management And Budget

Update On Broadband Letter Of Interest

Chief Information Officer Dan Cater briefed this item and responded to questions. Staff were directed to move forward with an agreement with Charter Communications to implement broadband connectivity improvements and to bring an action item to the County Board on September 1, 2020.

Physical Development

Update On Dakota County Small Business Relief Grant Program

Dakota County Community Development Agency Executive Director Tony Schertler, and Director of Community and Economic Development Lisa Alfson 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.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Matt Smith gave an update on the following:

- Centennial Events celebrating Women's Suffrage
- Cares Funding - Allocations to date

Information

See Attachment A - Future Board Meetings And Other Board Activities

20-415

Adjournment

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Kathleen A. Gaylord

On a motion by Commissioner Liz Workman, seconded by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Mike Slavik
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager