

September 15, 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.

20-435

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Liz Holberg

Second: Liz Workman

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Thomas A. Egan

Second: Mary Liz Holberg

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

Operations, Management And Budget

20-436

Authorization To Execute Agreement With Hiawatha Communications Ltd. To Implement Broadband Connectivity Improvements For COVID-19 Response, Amend 2020 Non-Departmental Budget And Amend 2020 Information Technology Budget

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dakota County residents, families and schools are experiencing a greater need for affordable, fast and reliable internet connectivity; and

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WHEREAS, Dakota County received funds to use through the Federal CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that assisting broadband carriers to implement immediate broadband connectivity improvements to unserved and underserved areas of Dakota County is a necessary and reasonable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore eligible for the use of CARES Act funds; and

WHEREAS, the County Board directed staff to seek out interest from providers in expending their network in unserved and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, staff sent letters of interest to providers on July 28, 2020 and received six proposals; and

WHEREAS, staff presented the six proposals to the County Board at the August 25, 2020 County Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, the County Board directed staff to award Broadband Connectivity funds to Hiawatha Communications LTD (HBC); and

WHEREAS, speeds of service will be offered in Nininger, New Trier, Hampton and Miesville between 10 Mbps minimum and a maximum of 100 Mbps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chief Information Officer to award Broadband Connectivity Cares Act funds to and execute an agreement, approved as to form by the County Attorney's Office, with Hiawatha Communications Ltd., in an amount not to exceed \$800,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Non-Departmental budget as follows:

Expense	
Cares Act Expense	<u>(\$800,000)</u>
Total Expense	(\$800,000)

Revenue	
CARES Act Revenue	<u>(\$800,000)</u>
Total Revenue	(\$800,000)

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2020 Information Technology budget as follows:

Expense	
Cares Act Expense	<u>(\$800,000)</u>
Total Expense	(\$800,000)

Revenue	
CARES Act Revenue	<u>(\$800,000)</u>
Total Revenue	(\$800,000)

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Services And Revenue

20-437

Approval Of Abatement Of Penalty On Second Half 2020 Property Taxes Until November 16, 2020

Director of Property Taxation and Records Amy Koethe briefed this item and responded to questions.

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Motion: Kathleen A. Gaylord

Second: Chris Gerlach

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

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, by Resolution No. 20-213 (April 28, 2020), the Board took action to provide property tax relief to taxpayers experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19, and authorized a penalty waiver until July 15, 2020 on first half 2020 property taxes for eligible taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the County Board may consider waiving the penalty on second half 2020 property taxes through Monday, November 16, 2020, to provide certain taxpayers additional time to make payment; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers eligible for the penalty abatement would include all properties except 1) taxpayers who escrow their property tax payment through a mortgage or escrow service, and 2) taxpayers whose properties are classified as utility, railroad, machinery and transmission line tax. Agricultural properties have a November 15 due date by statute; 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 penalty for late payment of property taxes, that would otherwise be imposed between October 16, 2020 and November 16, 2020 on second half taxes, be waived for taxpayers except the following: 1) taxpayers who escrow their property tax payment through a mortgage or escrow service, 2) taxpayers with properties classified as utility, railroad, machinery and transmission line tax, and 3) agricultural property with a November 15 due date by statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That early tax distributions will be made, as is practical and reasonable, to impacted local taxing districts.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Legislative Update

Stinson LLP Government Relations Director Jeremy Estenson 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 Committee.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Matt Smith gave a brief update on future Board meetings and what precautions are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The boardroom will be open to the public starting September 22, 2020. Commissioners may be in person or remain in a virtual environment as meetings shift to using a hybrid format. When possible, staff will continue to present and attend remotely.

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Information

See Attachment A - Future Board Meetings And Other Board Activities

20-438

Adjournment

Motion: Kathleen A. Gaylord

Second: Thomas A. Egan

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Thomas A. Egan, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Mike Slavik
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager