

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS, GOODHUE COUNTY, MN**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

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The Goodhue County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Goodhue County Boardroom, Red Wing, MN, with Commissioners Flanders, Betcher, Majerus, Anderson and Greseth all present.

C/Greseth asked for any disclosure of interest. There were none.

- <sup>1</sup> Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Betcher, and carried to approve the September 3, 2024, County Board meeting minutes.
- <sup>2</sup> Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the September 17, 2024, County Board Agenda.
- <sup>3</sup> Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Majerus, and carried to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Approve the sale of two trailer via Public Surplus.
2. Approve the sale of obsolete items using on-line auction.
3. Approve the agreement for Bridge L2510 replacement.
4. Approve the amended LELS 91 memorandum of agreement Corporal

**HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**2025 Insurance.** Staff recommended adopting the insurance plan renewals including the proposed changes as presented in the staff report starting January 1, 2025.

- <sup>4</sup> Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Greseth, and carried to approve the insurance plan renewals for 2025 as presented.

**August 2, 2024, Personnel Committee Report.** The Personnel Committee met on Friday, August 2, with the following items on the agenda:

*Facilities Maintenance-Central Service Assistant.* The Personnel Committee recommended approval to hire a Administrative Assistant-Central Services position in Facilities Maintenance Department.

C/Betcher questioned if a grant writer position could be merged between the two positions, Administrative Assistant and the Communications and Outreach position.

Finance Director, Lucas Dahling, commented that there have been several occurrences where taxpayers drop off money to pay their taxes at the door. He stressed the importance, from a financial security standpoint, of having a county employee who has reviewed the county policies and undergone the appropriate background checks versus paying a temp agency employee.

C/Majerus noted that the board doesn't need to act on the issue, however, unless the board came to a consensus to remove the positions, they are included in the budget if the budget gets approved.

C/Greseth stated that there will be more discussion in the future regarding this position and things could be removed up until the board approved the final budget in December. No action was taken.

**September 16, 2024, Personnel Committee Report.** The Personnel Committee met on Monday, September 16, with the following items on the agenda:

*Outreach & Communications Specialist.* The Personnel Committee recommended bringing the position forward to the board for discussion. This was not a position that required board approval to backfill, however, since it was partly funded by ARPA in the past, staff was seeking direction to proceed.

C/Greseth questioned if current staff could pick up the responsibilities instead of replacing the position. C/Majerus stated that he has never supported this position and would not in the future.

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C/Betcher suggested another budget workshop to discuss the issues still in question.

The board discussed adding grant writing duties to the position description. Administrator Arneson stated that some grant writing responsibilities could be added to the job description, however, each department would need to have the time to manage the grant and often there is a financial commitment required from the county.

Administrator Arneson stated that he would add grant writing responsibilities to the position description and have HR get it ready to post.

**LAND USE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Request to set public hearing for Goodhue County Cannabis Ordinance.** Staff recommended the board set the public hearing date for the Goodhue County Cannabis Ordinance for Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the county board room.

C/Anderson requested that the proposed ordinance be sent to the board as soon as possible so the board could review in advance of the public hearing.

<sup>5</sup> Moved by C/Majerus, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve to set a public hearing date for the Goodhue County Cannabis Ordinance for Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Goodhue County Boardroom.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Lake Byllesby Parking Lot.** Staff recommended the board keep the Byllesby Park parking lot addition with a cost of \$50,000 in the proposed 2025 budget with a funding source of fund balance from public works.

C/Anderson supported moving forward with the parking lot as presented.

C/Majerus noted that since the funding source is fund balance, he suggested waiting until there is quantifiable data before moving forward with the project. C/Greseth, C/Flanders, and C/Betcher agreed.

Consensus of the board was to wait until there is quantifiable data to support the need to move forward with paving of the parking lot with the funding source being fund balance.

**Consider participating in costs for installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacon on CSAH 62 in Pine Island.**

The City of Pine Island (City) is requesting that the County participate in the costs associated with the removal of existing crosswalk signage and the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) system at the intersection of CSAH 62 (Main Street) and 2nd Street SW. Total cost to the county would be \$10,625 and there was no current funding source. Mr. Greenwood noted that if board chose to approve this request, they should also consider that requests may be made by other agencies.

C/Anderson stated that he would support the request, but questioned if this could be part of the safe routes to school program. Mr. Greenwood stated that Pine Island did not have a safe routes to school plan and many times these items are funded through those types of plans.

C/Greseth pointed out that it is a county road and there are a lot of walkers in the area. He supported the request with funding coming from fund balance.

C/Betcher suggested there be a process in place if the county is approached by other entities for cost sharing on these types of projects. Mr. Greenwood agreed that a participation policy was needed.

C/Flanders questioned if Toward Zero Deaths was something that could be checked into for possible funding options. She also would like to see Pine Island develop a Safe Routes To School Plan so they could get funding through that process. Mr. Greenwood felt that it would take possibly a year to get a plan in place and qualify for funding. The current system they are using is outdated and they were no longer able to get parts to fix it.

<sup>6</sup> Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Majerus, and carried to approve participating in the cost sharing for installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) on CSAH 62 in Pine Island.

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7 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Betcher, and carried to approve to recess the county board meeting.

8 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Betcher, and carried to approve to reconvene the county board meeting.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**SEMMCHRA 2025 Levy Request.** Buffy Beranek, Executive Director of SEMMCHRA, presented the 2025 preliminary budget and levy request to the board.

C/Anderson made a motion to approve option B of the report with a levy of \$604,424. Motion died for a lack of second.

9 Moved by C/Majerus, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the following resolution approving preliminary special benefit tax levy of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, Subd. 6, and approving a budget for fiscal year 2025:

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") was created by action of the Boards of Commissioners of Dodge, Goodhue, Wabasha and Goodhue Counties (collectively referred to as the "Counties") pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.004; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such action on the part of the Counties and Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.001 to 469.047 (the "Act"), the Authority was granted all of the same functions, rights, powers, duties, privileges, immunities and limitations as are provided for housing and redevelopment authorities created for cities under the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act permits the Authority to levy and collect a special benefit tax of up to .0185% of taxable market value upon all taxable property, both real and personal, within the Authority's area of operation; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the Board of Commissioners of Goodhue County approve the levy of such a preliminary special benefit tax in the amount of **\$379,424** to be levied upon all taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation contained within Goodhue County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Goodhue County has considered such request by the Authority and believes that consenting to such a preliminary special benefit tax levy by the Authority is in the best interests of Goodhue County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is also required pursuant to Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act to, in connection with the levy of such a special benefit tax, formulate and file a budget in accordance with the budget procedures of the Counties in the same manner as required of executive departments of the Counties and the amount of the tax levy for the following year shall be based upon that budget and approved by the Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has presented to the Board of Commissioners of Goodhue County a copy of a proposed budget for its operations for fiscal year 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Goodhue County as follows:  
 Section 1. That the budget for fiscal year 2025 for the operations of the Authority as presented for consideration by the Board of Commissioners of Goodhue County is hereby in all respects approved.  
 Section 2. That the levy of a preliminary special benefit tax pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, subd. 6, is hereby consented to with respect to taxes payable in calendar year 2025 in the amount of **\$379,424** to be levied upon all taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within Goodhue County

**2025 Preliminary Levy Report.** Minnesota State Statute established September 30 as the deadline for the County to certify to the County Auditor the proposed property tax levy for taxes payable in the following year. The final levy,

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which can be lower, not higher than the approved preliminary levy, will be approved by the board at the December board meeting. Staff recommends the board approve the following resolution establishing the 2025 Goodhue County preliminary property tax levy for 2025 at \$45,725,455.

C/Flanders requested the board add \$5,000 for Hope and Harbor Resource Center. C/Anderson could support the issue however, wanted to see more coordination among people working with the homeless come together and have a cohesive effort. He suggested using fund balance for the additional \$5,000.

10 Moved by C/Betcher, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried (4-1-0) with C/Majerus dissenting to approve to add \$5,000 to the 2025 county budget for funding to the Hope & Harbor Resource center with use of fund balance as the funding source.

11 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried (4-1-0) with C/Majerus dissenting to approve the following resolution establishing the 2025 Goodhue County preliminary tax levy:

WHEREAS, Goodhue County Department Heads have submitted proposed 2025 department budgets which included anticipated revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The County Administrator has compiled all 2025 funding requests, revised, and presented said requests to the County Board; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, That the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to the County Auditor-Treasurer and the State of Minnesota the proposed preliminary property tax levy for 2025:

Total Levy \$45,725,455

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Auditor-Treasurer hereby certify the above referenced Preliminary levy to the Minnesota Department of Revenue

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

C/Betcher	•
C/Greseth	•
C/Anderson	•
C/Majerus	•
C/Flanders	•
Administrator Arneson	•

**New Business.**

**Review and Approve the County Claims**

12 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Majerus, and carried to approve to pay the County claims in the amount of 01-General Revenue \$190,618.10, 03-Public Works \$1,648,706.03, 11- Human Service Fund \$43,043.63, 12- GC Family Services Collaborative \$00, 15- County Ditch 1 \$00, 20-National Opioid Settlement Fund \$00, 25- EDA \$680.40, 34-Capital Equipment \$20,092.27, 35-Debt Services \$00, 61-Waste Management \$10,771.45, 72-Other Agency Funds \$1.00, 81-Settlement \$00, in the total amount of \$1,913,912.88.

**Adjourn**

13 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Majerus, and carried to approve to adjourn the September 17, 2024, County Board Meeting.

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SCOTT O. ARNESON  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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TODD GRESETH, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTE

1. Approved the September 3, 2024, board meeting minutes. (Motion carried 5-0)
2. Approved the county board agenda. (Motion carried 5-0)
3. Approved the consent agenda. (Motion carried 5-0)
4. Approved the 2025 Insurance Rates. (Motion carried 5-0)
5. Approved to set a public hearing for the cannabis ordinance. (Motion carried 5-0)
6. Approved the cost share with the city of Pine Island for installation of rapid flashing beacon. (Motion carried 5-0)
7. Approved to recess the county board meeting. (Motion carried 5-0)
8. Approved to reconvene the county board meeting. (Motion carried 5-0)
9. Approved the 2025 Preliminary SEMMCHRA Levy. (Motion carried 5-0)
10. Approved to add funding for Hope & Harbor Resource Center to the 2025 budget. (Motion carried 4-1-0)
11. Approved the 2025 preliminary levy request. (Motion carried 4-1-0)
12. Approved the county claims. (Motion carried 5-0)
13. Approved to adjourn the September 17, 2024, County Board Meeting. (Motion carried 5-0)