BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS, GOODHUE COUNTY, MN
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

The Goodhue County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room, Red Wing, MN, with C/Flanders, C/Betcher, C/Greseth, C/Majerus and C/Anderson all present.

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

1 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the September 1, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.

2 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Greseth, and carried to approve the September 15, 2026, County Board Agenda.

C/Betcher moved the HOPE Coalition proclamation to the beginning of the agenda.

C/Anderson requested the Cannon Valley Trail request be addressed prior to setting the Preliminary Levy.

3 Moved by C/Majerus, seconded by C/Anderson, and carried to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Approve Final Payments for the 2026 Bridge Maintenance Contract- C.P. 025-426-001

HOPE Coalition- Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation. Melissa Drenckhahn, Outreach Manager with HOPE Coalition recommended the board approve the proposed resolution recognizing the month of October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

4 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the following proclamation in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

WHEARAS, domestic violence is a serious public health issue affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEARAS, an average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, and 1 in 4 Minnesota women report experiencing domestic violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime, and 1 in 2 Minnesota women report experiencing sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEARAS, every human deserves to live their lives with dignity and respect, free from violence; and

WHEARAS, domestic violence can take the form of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, technological and economic abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides a brilliant opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victim/survivors; and

WHEREAS, at least 24 Minnesota children lost a parent to domestic violence in 2024, and 4 of those children witnessed their parent murdered or found the body, and this emotional and physical trauma can have lifelong impacts; and

WHEREAS, advocates and advocacy organizations assisting those impacted by domestic violence are part of Minnesota’s robust public safety network, which includes law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, and public health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all residents of Goodhue County, do hereby proclaim and recognize the month of October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all residents to stand together against domestic violence, to offer support and compassion to survivors, and to dedicate their time and talents to improving the quality of life for all of our neighbors.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

2027 Insurance Renewals. Human Resource Manager, Jessica Ahlbrecht, updated the board on the 2027 Insurance Renewal rates. The insurance committee recommended the following: Accept health insurance renewal proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN; Increase plans 1 & 3 deductibles to $3,500 (single) and $7,000 (family) to maintain embedded deductible status; Increase plans 2 & 4 deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums to $8,700 (single) and $17,400 (family) to maintain minimum value plan designation; Accept dental insurance renewal proposal from MetLife; and Accept all other plan renewals for 2027 (no plan design or premium changes).

5 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Greseth, and carried to approve the following insurance committee recommendations:

1. Accept health insurance renewal proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN.
2. Increase plans 1 & 3 deductibles to $3,500 (single) and $7,000 (family) to maintain embedded deductible status.
3. Increase plans 2 & 4 deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums to $8,700 (single) and $17,400 (family) to maintain minimum value plan designation.
4. Accept dental insurance renewal proposal from MetLife.
5. Accept all other plan renewals for 2027 (no plan design or premium changes).

Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting with the following items on the agenda:

Sheriff's Office- Hire Additional Patrol Deputy. The Personnel Committee recommended the board approve to hire one additional temporary patrol deputy due to long-term absences with unknown return-to-work dates. The intent would be to absorb the next vacancy through attrition rather than backfilling it.

Surveyor & GIS- Additional Surveyor and Administrative Assistant. The Personnel Committee recommended the board approve to hire one additional surveyor and the Administrative Assistant for Surveyor-GIS offices. If we are able to fill the Surveyor position, it would be funded through use of fund balance in that year and added to the budget in future years.

6 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Greseth, and carried to approve to hire the following:

- One additional temporary patrol deputy
- Surveyor
- Administrative Assistant in the Surveyor/GIS department

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Additional Information for Statewide Affordable Housing Aid Options. Staff provided an update to the County's Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) program on September 1st, 2026. Board Members requested additional information regarding both Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity and Three Rivers Community Action's ability to utilize SAHA funding to create new affordable housing units within Goodhue County. Both Bob Hawley, Executive Director of Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity, and Laura Helle, Housing and Homeownership Director of Three Rivers Community Action, asserted that any and all funding could be utilized by their organizations for the creation of new affordable housing units within Goodhue County.

7 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve staff recommendation and reset the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) program. The current balance of $351,391.55 of SAHA funds is to be split as follows:

- one half (1/2) to be used by Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity for the creation of new affordable housing units within Goodhue County, and
- one half (1/2) to be used by Three Rivers Community Action for the creation of new affordable housing units within Goodhue County.
- address any additional funds received when it becomes available.

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LAND USE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Consider construction management contract with Bolton and Menk. Staff recommended the board approve the contract with Bolton and Menk for construction observations services in an amount not to exceed $17,700.

8 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the contract with Bolton and Menk for construction observations services for the Kullman retaining wall encroachment project in an amount not to exceed $17,700.

Public Hearing: Consider a Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment change from CR to R1 in Florence Township Updated Solid Waste Management Plan. The County Board is being asked to hold a public hearing and consider a request submitted by Ann and Jeff Bolin, 29055 County Road 2 Blvd Frontenac, MN 55026, for a re-zoning request from CR (Commercial Recreational) to R-1 (Suburban Residential), to allow for four lots, in Florence Township.

9 Moved by C/Majerus, seconded by C/Anderson, and carried to approve to open the public hearing.

C/Betcher asked three times for public comments. There were none.

10 Moved by C/Majerus, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve to close the public hearing.

11 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to accept the application, testimony, exhibits, and other evidence presented into the record; and recommend the County Board of Commissioners Approve the map amendment request to rezone the amended survey showing lots 1-4 from CR (Commercial Recreational) to R-1 (Suburban Residential), based on findings that the proposed rezone is consistent with the goals and policies of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

New and Old Business

C/Anderson- Cannon Valley Trail Funding Request. C/Anderson supported the Cannon Valley Trail receiving full funding for their request of $157,033 for 2027, rather than be frozen at their 2026 level like the other Outside Agencies.

12 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve to fund the Cannon Valley Trail at their request of $157,033 for 2027.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy. Staff recommended the board approve the proposed resolution establishing the 2027 Goodhue County preliminary property tax levy for 2027.

13 Moved by C/Anderson, seconded by C/Flanders, and carried to approve the following resolution establishing the 2027 Goodhue County Preliminary Property Tax Levy for 2027:

WHEREAS, Goodhue County Department Heads have submitted proposed 2027 department budgets which included anticipated revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The County Administrator has compiled all 2027 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 herby certify to the County Auditor-Treasurer and the State of Minnesota the proposed preliminary property tax levy for 2027:

Total Levy $__51,447,437__

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Review and Approve the County Claims

14 Moved by C/Greseth, seconded by C/Anderson, and carried to approve to pay the County claims in the amount of 01-General Revenue $763,550.59, 03-Public Works $1,720,578.55, 11- Human Service Fund $247,711.92, 12- GC Family Services Collaborative $00, 15- County Ditch 1 $00, 20-National Opioid Settlement Fund $00, 25- EDA $250.04, 34-Capital Equipment $42,853.10, 35-Debt Services $00, 61-Waste Management $17,535.27, 72-Other Agency Funds $00, 81-Settlement $261.00, in the total amount of $2,792,740.47.

Adjourn

15 Moved by C/Greseth, seconded by C/Anderson, and carried to approve to adjourn the September 15, 2026, County Board Meeting.

SCOTT O. ARNESON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SUSAN BETCHER, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTE

1. Approved the September 1, 2026, board meeting minutes. (Motion carried 5-0)
2. Approved the September 15, 2026, county board agenda. (Motion carried 5-0)
3. Approved the consent agenda. (Motion carried 5-0)
4. Approved the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation. (Motion carried 5-0)
5. Approved the 2027 Insurance Renewals. (Motion carried 5-0)
6. Approved to hire a temporary Sheriff Patrol Deputy, County Surveyor, and Administrative Assistant. (Motion carried 5-0)
7. Approved to reset the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid options. (Motion carried 5-0)
8. Approved contract with Bolton and Menk for construction management. (Motion carried 5-0)
9. Approved to open the public hearing. (Motion carried 5-0)
10. Approved to close the public hearing. (Motion carried 5-0)
11. Approved the Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment in Florence Township. (Motion carried 5-0)
12. Approved the Cannon Valley Trail funding request for 2027. (Motion carried 5-0)
13. Approved the 2027 Preliminary Tax Levy. (Motion carried 5-0)
14. Approved the county claims. (Motion carried 5-0)
15. Approved to adjourn the September 15, 2026, County Board Meeting. (Motion carried 5-0)