

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

March 11, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
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COUNTY OF STEELE }

The Steele County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session at 3:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025 with Commissioner's Brady, Glynn, Prokopec and Krueger present, Commissioner Abbe absent. Also present were Human Resources Director Gina McGuire, Finance Director Candi Lemarr, IT Director Dave Purscell, Facilities and Fleet Director Jake Rysavy, County Assessor Brian Anderson, County Attorney Robert Jarrett, Public Health Director Amber Aaseth and County Administrator Renae Fry.

Four Seasons Roof – The Board discussed the different roof styles and their estimated cost. The bidding process was reviewed in the context of using quoted services under a negotiated consortial arrangement through OMNIA whereby unit pricing is competitively bid as if part of the state contract pricing process. Jake prefers the built-up roof, but the time needed to complete construction is proving to be problematic. His secondary alternative is the fully adhered roof style that Schwickerts can install yet this year. Glynn asked for additional time to consider this topic, but the remaining board members supported moving the topic to the regular board meeting for action.

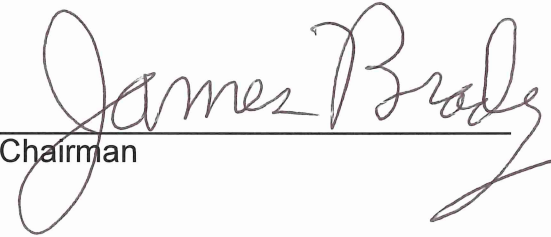
Four Season Side Glass – Steve presented the quote for replacing the glass on the east rink with a taller, more resilient acrylic product. The product is being used by professional hockey arenas. The item was budgeted for and included in the 2025 CIP, but the quoted cost came in higher than expected due to the need for midsection bracing. The HVAC repair quotes are coming in lower than expected so the cumulative total cost for all CIP items for the facility are coming in under budget. Staff are seeking Board approval because the quotes obtained for the glass are higher than the line item budgeted amount for this project. The Board is moving this to the regular board meeting for formal action.

AMC Legislative Conference Report – Commissioner Krueger gave a report from his attendance at the AMC Legislative Conference and his recent meetings with state elected officials.

Affordable Housing Aid Policies – Renae presented a proposed request for proposals for use in soliciting project ideas to be funded using the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid money. She explained the application timeline and other key elements of the proposed RFP. The Board supported the process and this item will be brought back to the Board at their March 25 board meeting for formal consideration.

Homeless Aid Policies - Renae presented a proposed request for proposals for use in soliciting project ideas to be funded using the Homeless Aid money. She explained the application timeline and other key elements of the proposed RFP. The Board supported the process and this item will be brought back to the Board at their March 25 board meeting for formal consideration.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.


Chairman

ATTEST: 
Administrator

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

February 25, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
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COUNTY OF STEELE }

The Steele County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2025 with Commissioner's Krueger, Glynn, Prokopec, and Abbe present, Commissioner Brady absent. Also present were Human Resources Director Gina McGuire, Finance Director Candi Lemarr, IT Director Dave Purscell, County Engineer Paul Sponholz, County Assessor Brian Anderson, County Sheriff Lon Thiele, County Attorney Robert Jarrett, County Administrator Renae Fry and Executive Assistant Rebecca Kubicek.

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the agenda with the following changes: the time of the Public Works Committee meeting was corrected to be at 10:00 a.m. and the Procurement position action item was added from the Work Session. Ayes all.

Public Comment: 2 spoke against the Eastside Corridor.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Abbe, to approve Consent Agenda. Ayes all.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve the minutes of February 11, 2025 Board Meeting
- B. Approve the minutes of February 11, 2025 Board Work Session
- C. Approve Bills and Journal Entries
- D. Approve Personnel Report

Resignations/Retirements/Terminations:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Kevin Lindquist	Hwy Maintenance Supervisor	Highway	05/30/2025

Open Positions-Pending Board Approval:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Highway Maintenance Supervisor	Highway	Backfill Lindquist (retirement)

- E. Approve Consumption & Display Permit renewal for Blooming Prairie Country Club.

- F. Approve Annual Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification and authorize the vice-chair to sign.
- G. Appoint Kimberly Britt to Steele County Community Corrections Advisory Board.
- H. Approve Agreement with Summit Township for replacement of a township bridge.
- I. Approve Agreement with Clinton Falls for replacement of a township bridge.
- J. Approve updated Abatement Policy and Procedure.
- K. Reappoint Mike Jones to the Cedar River Watershed District

General Agenda:

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec to approve the Citizen Appointee's Code of Conduct. Ayes all.

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec to approve the Procurement Specialist position. Ayes all.

Commissioner Prokopec offered the following **Resolution**, seconded by Commissioner Abbe

**Steele County Highway Right of Way Plat 23
2025-015**

WHEREAS, Steele County Highway Right-of-Way Plat No. 23 has been prepared for the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway 28 from South Beaver Lake Road to North Beaver Lake Road, and

WHEREAS, the Steele County Highway Engineer has certified that the highway location and right-of-way is correctly located on the plat, and

WHEREAS, the Steele County Surveyor has checked and approved the plat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Steele County Highway Right-of-Way Plat No. 23 is hereby approved and accepted.

Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Property Tax & Elections Office.

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec to approve ordering in 2025 equipment listed on the Highway 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, including two tandem dump and plow trucks and their appurtenant equipment and one wing mower. Ayes all.

Commissioner Abbe offered the following **Resolution**, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec

**SUPPORTING SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL
POWER AGENCY'S REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION EXEMPTING THE
STEELE ENERGY STATION (SES) FROM PERSONAL PROPERTY
TAX
2025-014**

WHEREAS, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) is constructing a combustion turbine generation facility fueled by natural gas with an expected capacity of 49 Megawatts {the "Project"}; and

WHEREAS, the Project is proposed to be constructed on the on the western edge of Owatonna with construction expected to commence in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Project will provide construction employment during the construction of the new electric generating facility; and

WHEREAS, the Project will provide additional full-time employment opportunities in the City of Owatonna once it is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Project will provide wholesale electricity to benefit the 17 Members of SMMPA including the City of Owatonna, with a facility fully capable of operating in the existing Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) market; and

WHEREAS, the Project will not only provide enhanced reliability for SMMPA Members, but also will be designed to, in combination with the existing Owatonna Energy Station, furnish backup and emergency power service to the City of Owatonna in the event of transmission emergencies or outages; and

WHEREAS, the Project will provide in lieu of real property tax revenues on the parcel, and the investment by SMMPA will increase the in lieu of real property tax value; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature has granted personal property tax exemptions to more than twenty proposed power plants in Minnesota since 2000, and as a result, personal property tax exemptions are critical to be competitive with other existing and proposed plants that have received an exemption in Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Steele County, acting by and through its County Board, resolves:

1. That the construction of a 49 MW combustion turbine electric generation facility using natural gas in the City of Owatonna would provide reliability and other economic benefits with no material adverse impact on county governmental services; and
2. That the County supports an amendment to the Minnesota property tax statutes exempting the Project's electrical generation equipment from personal property taxes, taxing only its real property value via in lieu of taxes based upon the real property tax rate structure. Such an amendment would result in taxation similar to other previously exempted electric generation projects in Minnesota.

Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Property Tax & Elections Office.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Glynn reported his attendance at JD6 meeting and Historical Society meeting.

Commissioner Prokopec reported his attendance at JD6 meeting, Public Health and Safety Committee, Steele County Collaborative, and Spero.

Commissioner Abbe reported his attendance at JD6 meeting, Land Use and Records Committee, MNP Joint Power meeting, and Rice / Steele 911 meeting.

Commissioner Krueger reported his attendance at South Country Utilization Committee, MNP Finance meeting and a Joint Powers meeting, SMART Trails meeting, and met with County Engineer regarding the railroad.

Commissioner Brady was absent and not reporting.

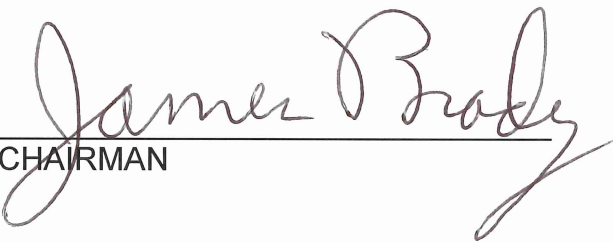
County Attorney had nothing to report.

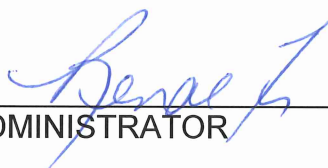
County Administrator reported she will be serving on the United Way Board of Directors and also serving on its strategic impact committee. She will be at the capitol on Wednesday, meeting with elected officials.

LISTING OF BILLS
February 25, 2025

ArchKey Technologies	11,039.00
Cen Tee Cast Metal Products	2,560.67
City Of Blooming Prairie	12,187.05
City Of Ellendale	8,167.58
City Of Medford	11,268.64
City Of Owatonna	75,595.24
Community Co-op Oil Assn	20,139.91
Counties Providing Technology	4,651.00
CPS Technology Solutions	3,735.00
CRK Properties LLC	7,031.50
Freeborn County Auditor-Treas	6,795.88
Government Capital Securities Corp	3,750.00
Information Systems Corp	6,455.00
LeVander, Gillen & Miller PA	2,225.00
Madden Galanter Hansen LLP	2,867.00
Moore Md/Kellyanna J	4,099.58
Semrex	2,160.00
Steele County Highway Dept	6,223.90
Summit Food Services LLC	3,606.79
Thompson Sanitation	75,740.24
Thomson Reuters - West	2,707.36
Treas Of Aurora Township	24,223.42
Treas Of Berlin Township	28,187.86
Treas Of Blooming Prairie Township	46,449.19
Treas Of Clinton Falls Township	17,383.92
Treas Of Deerfield Township	23,929.22
Treas Of Havana Township	25,938.64
Treas Of Lemond Township	27,462.62
Treas Of Medford Township	21,328.01
Treas Of Meriden Township	29,620.81
Treas Of Merton Township	20,665.50
Treas Of Owatonna Township	20,621.84
Treas Of Somerset Township	32,879.63
Treas Of Summit Township	30,359.34
UKG Kronos Systems LLC	3,864.01
Waseca County Land & Water Resources	9,877.90
85 Payments less than 2000	28,969.54
Final Total:	664,767.79

Motion by Commissioner Prokopec, seconded by Commissioner Abbe to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 5:32 p.m. Ayes all.


CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: 
ADMINISTRATOR