

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

March 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 March 25, 2025 with Commissioner's Brady, Glynn, Prokopec, Abbe and Krueger present. 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 Attorney Robert Jarrett, PT&E Jennifer Mueller, MNPrairie Director Tara Reich, County Sheriff Lon Thiele, Public Health Director Amber Aaseth, County Administrator Renae Fry and Executive Assistant Rebecca Kubicek.

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Abbe to approve the agenda with a reduction of \$25.71 in the payment of the bills and to bring forward MNPrairie Resolution "Terminate Minnesota Prairie County Alliance Joint Powers Agreement" from the work session. Ayes all.

Public Comment: Two people spoke regarding the upcoming item - Termination of MNPrairie Joint Powers Agreement

Correspondence: City of Owatonna TIF for District No. 3-18 letter from Northland Public Finance

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

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve the minutes of March 11, 2025 Board Meeting
- B. Approve the minutes of March 11, 2025 Board Work Session
- C. Approve the minutes of March 13, 2025 Board Special Session
- D. Approve Bills and Journal Entries
- E. Approve Personnel Report

New Hires/Promotions/Demotions/Transfers (Positions previously approved by Board):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position/Dept.</i>	<i>Rating/Step</i>	<i>Date</i>
Noah Blum	Engineering Tech I/Highway	B23/4	03/25/2025
Courtnee Kopachek	Correctional Officer/DC	B24/2	03/31/2025

- F. Approve Body Art Establishment Temporary License for Seven Tattoo Parlor for March 28th – March 30th at the Four Seasons Centre.

- G. Adopt **Resolution 25-016** approving the Restorative Practices Advisory Committee (RPAC) member appointments.
- H. Approve Public Health to receive an annual allocation of 10% of the Opioid Settlement Funds awarded by the County each year for administration of this funding.
- I. Approve Fitness Room Policy at the Detention Center.
- J. Approve amendments to the 2025 Fee Schedule.
- K. Approve Landfill Certificate letter for Blue Earth and authorize the chair to sign.
- L. Approve Professional Services Contract with Erickson Engineering for the design of the replacement of Clinton Falls Township Bridge 74514 in an amount not to exceed \$27,990 and authorize the County Engineer to sign the contract.

General Agenda:

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec to approve the Request for Proposal for the Disbursement of the Steele County Local Homeless Prevention Aid Funds. Ayes all.

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Abbe to approve the Request for Proposal for the Disbursement of the Steele County Statewide Affordable Housing Aid Funds, approve Scoring Matrix and authorize Staff to Administer the plan contained in the approved RFP. Ayes all.

Motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Prokopec to approve the Amendments to the Steele County Local Housing Trust Fund Ordinance # 40. Ayes all.

Commissioner Krueger offered the following **Resolution with attached recommendations**, seconded by Commissioner Glynn

Terminate Minnesota Prairie County Alliance Joint Powers Agreement

2025-017

WHEREAS, the Steele County Board of Commissioners entered into a joint powers agreement to create Minnesota Prairie County Alliance on May 19, 2014, hereafter referred to as "JPA";

WHEREAS, the JPA created a Joint Powers Board, hereafter referred to as "JPB"; the JPB was delegated the Steele County's powers to administer essential human services programs and services mandated by federal or state law;

WHEREAS, the termination clauses contained in Section 15.2 of the JPA states "[t]his Agreement continues in force until two-thirds of the boards of

commissioners of the Member Counties that have not given a notice to withdraw adopt resolutions to terminate this Agreement.”; and

WHEREAS, the Steele County Board of Commissioners has not given notice to withdraw;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Steele County Board of Commissioners votes to terminate the Minnesota Prairie County Alliance agreement, with immediate effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Joint Powers Board remains active until December 31, 2026, or until an earlier time, to conduct the winding down of JPB affairs and conduct an orderly transition to County operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED it is the intention of the Steele County Board of Commissioners to allow the Joint Powers Board as needed authority to conduct essential human services operations until such time operations can be transitioned to the County. Steele County retains exclusive authority and control over required human services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Steele County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to take all action necessary to re-establish the Steele County Department of Human Services.

Recommendations:

- Recommend to the Joint Powers Board that they issue a public statement regarding the mutual decision to dissolve MN Prairie County Alliance.
- Recommend to the Joint Powers Board that they establish a wind down transition team, seek proposals from accounting firms to conduct a forensic audit of MN Prairie County Alliance, retain an external consultant to oversee operations, including financial, during the wind down, and take such actions as may be needed to protect the interests of the three counties during the wind down period.
- The County should create its own Department of Human Services
- Direct the County Administrator and County Attorney to oversee the orderly transition of human services to county operations, including, but not limited to, recommending consulting services as may be necessary to structure the new human services department, coordinating with Waseca and Dodge counties' staff on transition matter, and developing a hiring plan so as to retain current MNPrairie staff as may be reasonable and necessary to establish and operate Steele County's new human services department.

Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Administration Office.

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

**Regarding Official Agendas, Minutes, and Records
2025-018**

WHEREAS, the Steele County Board of Commissioners must maintain official agendas, minutes, and records according to the Official Records Act. See Minn.Stat. § 15.17.

WHEREAS, Minnesota law allows records to be produced in the form of computerized records. Further, the law does not require data to be kept in any specific format nor publish a summary. See *generally* Minn.Stat. §§ 13.03; 15.17.

WHEREAS, it is more effective and efficient for government operations for all records to be kept in an electronic format for members of the public to access government records via the county webpage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED all official agendas, minutes, board packets, ordinances, and resolutions shall be maintained and published electronically. Minutes and agendas will be available on the county web page at a minimum two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall apply to this body and all formal committees of this body with an effective date of April 1, 2025.

Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Administration Office.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Glynn reported his attendance at Land Use and Records Committee, History Center and the County / Township meeting.

Commissioner Prokopec reported his attendance at Southeast Emergency Medical Services, Workforce Development Joint Powers Board, Closed Session, Steele / Waseca Drug Court, Public Safety and Health Committee, and SPERO.

Commissioner Abbe had nothing to report.

Commissioner Krueger reported his attendance at a Closed Session, Emergency Communication Board, Public Safety and Health Committee, MNP Finance and Joint Powers Board meeting, SMART Bus, Emergency Communication and Rack, County / Township meeting, and a presentation at SCHA "Let's Smile".

Commissioner Brady reported his attendance at SPERO and Closed Session.

County Attorney had nothing to report.

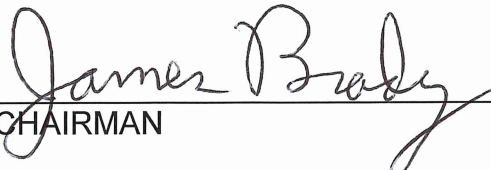
County Administrator reported that as a result of her participation at the Southeast Minnesota Together meetings, she is in conversation with a professor from Winona State University about having her students intern with Steele County.

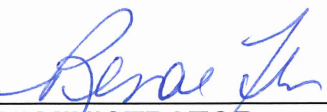
LISTING OF BILLS

March 25, 2025

Alternative Business Furniture	23,399.15
APX Construction Group LLC	148,337.32
ArchKey Technologies	22,610.00
Central Farm Services	5,317.92
Counties Providing Technology	4,651.00
Faribo Plumbing & Heating Inc	3,103.50
Granicus LLC	7,350.26
IDWholesaler	5,000.00
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	9,690.00
League Of Minnesota Cities	2,160.00
Moore Md/KellyannaJ	4,099.58
Office of MN IT Services	3,287.24
OpenGov Inc	32,172.05
Phone Station Inc	13,785.00
Sorenson's Appliance & Tv	2,528.50
STEPP MFG	60,123.50
Stewart Sanitation	2,345.90
Summit Food Services LLC	6,948.94
Thomson Reuters - West	2,707.36
UKG Kronos Systems LLC	3,565.07
WHKS & Co	49,353.85
WSB & Associates Inc	5,500.50
94 Payments less than 2000	<u>36,276.09</u>
Final Total:	454,312.73

Motion by Commissioner Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 5:30 p.m. Ayes all.


CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: 
ADMINISTRATOR

