

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

April 8, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
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COUNTY OF STEELE }

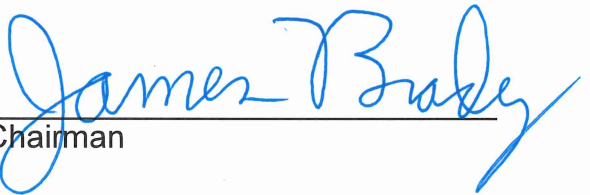
The Steele County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session at 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2025 with Commissioner's Glynn, Prokopec, Abbe, Krueger and Brady present. Also present were County Engineer Paul Sponholz, Human Resources Director Gina McGuire, Finance Director Candi Lemarr, County Assessor Brian Anderson, County Attorney Robert Jarrett, Public Health Director Amber Aaseth, IT Director Dave Purscell, MNP Director Tara Reich, County Administrator Renae Fry and Executive Assistant Rebecca Kubicek.

Brandon Theobald and Brandyn Chezick from WHKS spoke regarding the Havana intersection. The 2025-2029 Highway Capital Improvement Plan includes a project to improve the intersection of CSAH 2, CSAH 43, CR 171 and CR 180 in Havana Township. The skewed and closely spaced intersections of the county highways, along with poor intersection site lines and the close proximity to a railroad crossing, contributes to the intersection having the highest crash rates in the county. The County retained WHKS to complete a feasibility study, studying possible alternatives, and then recommend an alternative for construction. The Department held two public information meetings receiving feedback on the alternatives. WHKS has completed a draft report with four recommendations. A fifth recommendation was added by the public. The project team evaluated and talked about the 5 alternatives ranking the 4th alternative as recommended. The Commissioners asked questions and requested the item come back to the Board on April 22.

Renae updated the commissioners regarding actions taken in response to the Board's action to adopt a resolution to terminate the MNPrairie Joint Powers Agreement. Renae sent letters to the commissioners of DHS and DCYF and is waiting for instruction from the two agencies. She sent emails to the board chairs of Waseca and Dodge Counties asking that each board consider adopting their own resolution to terminate the JPA. The Steele County resolution is on the MNPrairie Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for April 15, but there has been no response from Dodge and Waseca Counties as to when their boards might consider the request to approve a resolution. Work is underway to activate an information helpline in the form of a phone number and email address. The system should be up and running soon and will serve as a resource for MNPrairie employees as well as Steele County employees with questions about the county's work to set up its own human services department. Renae, Gina, Rob and Candi interviewed HMA, a

consulting firm that specializes in human services. HMA representatives will attend the April 22 work session to introduce themselves and their organization. Staff will bring a proposed master services agreement to the board work session on April 22 for review. The specific scope of work addenda should be available for board review and consideration at the May 13 work session and board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.


Chairman

ATTEST: 
Administrator