

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

July 22, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
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COUNTY OF STEELE }

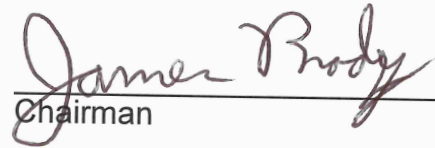
The Steele County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session at 4:00 p.m. on July 22, 2025 and roll call was taken. Commissioner's Krueger, Brady, Glynn, and Prokopec were present and Commissioner Abbe participating remotely. Also present Human Resources Director Gina McGuire, Finance Director Candi Lemarr, IT Director Dave Purscell, County Assessor Brian Anderson, County Attorney Robert Jarrett, MNP Director Tara Reich, Public Health Director Amber Aaseth, County Administrator Renae Fry and Executive Assistant Rebecca Kubicek.

Administrator Renae Fry talked about special appropriations for the upcoming 2026 budget. There was discussion surrounding the following areas: Does the Board want the County to solicit requests or have the organizations be responsible to submit requests on their own. Should there be an application process similar to what Public Health does, to ensure groups meet a minimum criteria and supply information required for the Board to make a decision. Should the County require presentations, if yes, should they be at Board meetings, Work Session or both and in what months should these take place. Should the County be asking for written narratives explaining how the organizations serve the public and if they receive County funds is the purpose measurable (reportable). Finally, for smaller appropriations require written narratives and larger amounts speak to the board. There will be more discussion at the next budget meeting on August 7th. After that meeting, an updated process can be written.

Human Service update was given by Administrator Renae Fry. HMA met with Kari and Eric, the Outreach Liaisons for DCYF and DHS. It has been determined that Steele County will be issued a new number as a provider of human services. This allows us to set up account numbers and get things moving faster. Neither organization has a process to remove a member county from a joint powers organization. They are taking the process of merging entities and working backwards to dismantle. DCYF project analyst has been assigned to the project and MIT and DHS will be contributing entities to ensure their needs are met. HMA is identified as Steele County's primary contact, but the analyst may be contacting staff members for more information. HMA has completed the defined tasks under the first Statement of Work and will be presenting at the August work session. During this meeting, HMA will report on their research and recommendations regarding leadership, staffing, setting a budget, and determining a transition timeline. Collaboration and coordination between other departments gives the County areas for improvement.

Following the closed session from the July 8th meeting, the County Attorney was to find an outside attorney to represent the County regarding its claims against MNPrairie. Kennedy & Graven was selected to represent us in this matter.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.


Chairman

ATTEST: 
Administrator