

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

October 28, 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 October 28, 2025 with Commissioner's Krueger, Brady, Glynn, Prokopec, and Abbe present. Also present were Public Works Director Ronald Gaines, County Attorney Robert Jarrett, Public Health Ethan Rindfleisch, County Administrator Renae Fry and Executive Assistant Rebecca Kubicek.

Jessica Green from Northland Securities gave a presentation discussing how the use of Steele County reserves may affect the county's credit rating. The county's reserves policy sets a minimum balance for assigned and unassigned general funds at 45%. If the fund balance exceeds 55%, the policy indicates that the "board will consider" the use of fund balance for one-time expenditures such as for capital projects. The percentage of assigned/unassigned general fund balance as compared to the operating budget for year end 2023 was 65.52%. The percentage increased to 74.49% for year-end 2024, putting the balance above the 55% desired maximum. Jessica relayed information to the Board there are no concerns regarding the impact to the credit rating if the planned funds are used for CIP.

Leota Lind gave a presentation regrading Steele County Health Alliance. She discussed the five goals for SCHA which are: Work collaboratively with DHS to solidify the role of County Based Purchasing (CBP) in delivery of Minnesota Health Care Programs, Work with other CBPs to educate legislators and County Commissioners about the unique value and health outcomes and economic impact of CBP as well as examples of successful legislative strategies they can support, marketing campaign to our members, evaluate and develop programs and services offered to address Social Determinants of Health and health equity to current members and to work with MN Community Measurement to develop tools and measures that compare rural and urban health care data re: utilization, cost and member outcomes.

Renae presented a funding request related to the Steele County Statewide Affordable Housing Aid Funds. Steele County received funds under SAHA and similar to the process adopted for the homeless funds program, the board approved an RFP process. Solicitation of proposals went out last spring. We received one proposal from the city of Owatonna which included information regarding the building of affordable single-family homes, targeting households earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), with a priority focus on those below 50%AMI, in accordance with SAHA's affordability thresholds. The project also supports creating accessible housing for families who may otherwise, never be able to achieve homeownership, which are explicitly prioritized under the SAHA program. The \$200,000 requested

would go for the infrastructure costs of the proposed 10 home development. The Board requested a continuance.

Discussion regarding the Amendment to Ordinance #42 was moved to the Board agenda as the first item on regular agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.


Chairman

ATTEST: 
Administrator