

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Government Center
Anoka, Minnesota

March 10, 2020

Chair Schulte called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and called for participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	District #1	Matt Look
	District #2	Julie Braastad
	District #3	Robyn West
	District #4	Mandy Meisner
	District #5	Mike Gamache
	District #6	Jeff Reinert
	District #7	Scott Schulte

Others Present: Rhonda Sivarajah, County Administrator; Tony Palumbo, County Attorney; staff, other governmental officials, and citizens

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Commissioner Braastad made motion accepting the regular claims paid over \$500 for the period ending February 28, 2020, and purchase-card claims paid for the period ending February 28, 2020. (Claims are on file in the County Administration Office.) Commissioner West seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Look made motion approving the minutes from the February 25, 2020, Anoka County board meeting. Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Emergency Management Director Terry Stoltzman was recognized for receiving an Outstanding Community Partnership Award from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for initiatives that enhance the field of emergency management.

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Emergency Management Director Terry Stoltzman and Disease Prevention and Control Public Health Nurse Susan Perkins presented information related to the recent coronavirus outbreak, Anoka County's efforts in preparedness, and a review of recommendations for personal protection. Additional information is available on the Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services website.

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Finance and Central Services staff were recognized for receiving a Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting 2019 from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the county's comprehensive annual financial report.

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Chair Schulte recognized Linwood Township Supervisor Ed Kramer who was in attendance.

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Commissioner West presented the Management Committee report from the meeting of February 25, 2020. All items were of an informational nature and required no board action. (Report is on file in the County Administration Office.)

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Commissioner Braastad presented the Intergovernmental and Community Relations Committee Chair report.

1. Commissioner Braastad offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #2020-29

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DEDICATED GIFT
FOR ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES**

WHEREAS, various organizations in and around the County of Anoka have provided donations to the Anoka County Veteran Services; and,

WHEREAS, the following organizations have donated the specified sum to the Anoka County Veteran Services as follows:

Ham Lake Lanes	\$295.00
Hidden Haven Country Club	\$50.00
Smokey's Pub and Grill	\$50.00
E.J.'s Inc.	\$50.00

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute § 465.03 requires a county to accept the gift by resolution expressed in terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the funds in accordance with the donor's terms is in the best interest of the County of Anoka:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept the above-described gifts from said organizations in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to Ham Lake Lanes, Hidden Haven Country Club, Smokey's Pub and Grill, and E.J.'s Inc.

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

2. Commissioner Braastad offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #2020-30

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT VIABILITY
OF VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAMS IN MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, volunteer drivers in Minnesota provided more than 168,000 rides of older adults and other non-drivers, giving them access to healthcare and other essential community services; and,

WHEREAS, organizations with volunteer driver programs in Minnesota served over 77,474 people in 2018 covering more than 9.5 million miles; and,

WHEREAS, Anoka County's volunteer driver program MedLink served 6,967 people in 2019 covering 137,260 miles; and,

WHEREAS, organizations that provide rides or transport for meals and other services have faced increasing barriers to recruiting and retaining volunteers which include:

- Some auto insurance carriers are increasing their insurance rates on volunteer drivers treating them like a for-hire transportation service
- Volunteers must pay federal and state income tax on mileage reimbursement received over the IRS set rate of 14 cents per mile when the reimbursement exceeds \$600 a year; and,

WHEREAS, HF2377 and SF2324 will provide the following changes to address the barriers individual drivers and organizations face:

- Clearly define a volunteer driver in law as not "for-hire"
- Protect volunteer drivers from increased insurance rates
- Create a state income tax subtraction for volunteer drivers to reduce their tax liability in Minnesota

- Cap the liability of nonprofit organizations that offer volunteer driver services at \$1.5 million:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners join with others in the Volunteer Driver Coalition in support of HF2377 and SF2324.

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

3. Commissioner Braastad offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #2020-31

ANOKA COUNTY OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES WATERSHED DISTRICT SPENDING REQUIREMENTS BY POLITICAL REGIONS OR BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, many watershed districts use district-wide taxes to fund programs and projects; and,

WHEREAS, many watershed districts fund the highest priority regional solutions based on science, hydrology, and critical input from partners; and,

WHEREAS, the Watershed Act demonstrates the legislature’s determination that water resources are best managed on a watershed basis and not at the city or county levels; and,

WHEREAS, the Watershed Act, the Watershed Act Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, and other watershed management laws established watershed districts to reduce the political nature of water and ensure fair and equitable management of the resource; and,

WHEREAS, the State’s One Watershed One Plan policies demonstrate a continued need for watershed-based solutions; and,

WHEREAS, HF2314 and SF 2372 were introduced during the 2019 legislative session to set spending requirements on the Rice Creek Watershed District based on a county boundary; and,

WHEREAS, any legislation that restricts watershed district spending by county or political boundaries interferes with a district’s fundamental responsibility to implement critical flood control and water quality projects; and,

WHEREAS, any legislation that restricts watershed district spending by county or political boundaries jeopardizes the ability to do regional projects; and,

WHEREAS, no action was taken on HF 2314 and SF 2372, however this legislation could be considered during 2020 or legislation could be introduced that would have similar effects in other regions across the state:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners opposes legislation that establishes spending requirements or restricts watershed district spending by political regions or boundaries.

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

The county board meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

ATTEST:

**COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

By: _____
Rhonda Sivarajah
County Administrator

By: _____
Scott Schulte, its Chair

Motion carried means all commissioners in attendance voted affirmatively unless otherwise noted.