



December 16, 2025
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Nicollet County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Nicollet County Board Room. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Dranttel, Dehen, Kolars, Zins, and Helget. County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer and County Administrator Landkamer were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Dehen to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda:

- a. November 25, 2025 Board Minutes
- b. December 4, 2025 Budget and Tax Levy Minutes
- c. Nicollet County State of MN Snowmobile Grant Contract and Trails Association Agreement
- d. Acceptance of the State Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Off Highway Vehicle Safety Grant and Snowmobile Safety Grant
- e. Legal Services Contract January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2025 – Smith
- f. Legal Services Contract January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2025 - Weinandt
- g. 2026-2027 State of Minnesota-County Child Support Program Cooperative Agreement
- h. End of Probations
- i. Approval of Bills
- j. Assessor Abatement and Clerical Error Corrections Annual Report – Informational Only

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Appearances -There were no public appearances.

Sheriff's Office

Consider Opioid Funds Request

Chief Deputy Petersen requested approval to use Opioid funds in the amount of \$4,500 related to the Cellebrite program. This is the County's contribution as a member of the Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force.

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the use of Opioid funds in the amount of \$4,500. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Health and Human Services

Consideration of 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement for Brown County Evaluation Center

Director Sassenberg requested approval of the 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement for Brown County Evaluation Center which includes a 5.26 % increase in the daily rate for detoxification services. The increase is due to the rising costs associated with labor, medications and food.

Motion by Commissioner Kolar and seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve the 2026 Purchase of Service Agreement for the Brown County Evaluation Center. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Works

Consider Project Acceptance and Final Payment for Project SAP 052-615-025

County Engineer/Director Greenwood requested Acceptance and approval of Final Payment for Project SAP 052-615-025.

Motion by Commissioner Helget and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to accept and approve the final payment for Project SAP 052-615-025. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Director Greenwood provided an update of County Road 37 Bridge Project and the status of the bidding process.

Finance

Public Hearing 9:15 a.m. – Capital Improvement Plan 2026-2030, Resolution and Plan Adoption

Director McCormick provided information on the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Plan identifies estimated capital expenditures and funding sources for a five-year period. Additionally, having a CIP allows the County Board, Administration, and Department Heads to make informed financial decisions on the County's capital improvement needs. Chair Drantel opened the meeting for public comment. No comments were received during the public comment portion and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan and Resolution. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Human Resources

Consider an Amendment to the Earned Safe and Sick Time and the Adoption of the Minnesota Paid Leave Policies

Director Flier requested approval of the amendments to the Earned Safe and Sick Time (ESST) policy and adoption of the Minnesota Paid Leave (MPL) policy. The ESST amendments reflect changes to the Minnesota law that went into effect January 1, 2025. The MPL policy will be effective January 1, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the amendments to the ESST policy and adopt the MPL policy. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Administration

Consider Sheriff Appointment Resolution

Administrator Landkamer requested approval of the Resolution appointing Aaron Petersen as the Nicollet County Sheriff effective December 31, 2025 at 12:01 p.m. The appointment is for the remainder of the term. Nicollet County Sheriff Dave Lange's retirement is effective December 31, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Dehen to approve the resolution appointing Aaron Petersen as the Nicollet County Sheriff effective December 31, 2025 at 12:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Public Hearing 9:30 a.m. – 2026 Fee Schedule and Resolution

Administrator Landkamer provided a summary of the proposed fee schedule amendments that are proposed to be effective January 1, 2026. Annually, department heads review the fee schedule and recommend changes as needed. Chair Dranttel opened the meeting for public comment. No comments were received during the public comment portion and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule and Resolution. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consider 2026 Levy Resolution

County Administrator Landkamer requested approval of the 2026 Levy Resolution. This will set the 2026 Nicollet County Net property tax levy at \$29,988,069 or a 7.1% increase from the 2025 net property tax levy.

Motion by Commissioner Helget and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the 2026 Levy Resolution. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consider 2026 Budget Resolution

County Administrator Landkamer requested approval of the 2026 Budget Resolution. This will set the 2026 Nicollet County Budget at \$61,062,546

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the 2026 Budget Resolution. Motion carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

Commissioner Kolars voiced his support of the 2026 Budget upon his return to the meeting.

Consider 2026 Elected Officials Compensation and Per Diem Resolution

County Administrator Landkamer requested approval of the Resolution setting the 2026 salaries for the County Commissioners, the Sheriff, and the County Attorney and setting the per diem rate of \$70 per day.

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approved the 2026 Elected Officials Compensation and Per Diem Resolution. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consider Withdraw from the Rural Minnesota Energy Board – Joint Powers Agreement

Administrator Landkamer requested approved to withdraw from the Rural Minnesota Energy Board – Joint Powers Agreement. The County has experienced growing budget pressures resulting from rising operational costs, increased demand for services, cost shifts from the state and federal governments, and limited growth in revenue. The withdraw will be effective July 1, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the withdraw from the Rural Minnesota Energy Board – Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

County Attorney Update

County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fisher reported she is leading a state-wide training for law enforcement on report writing and investigation for child abuse cases and a Conference for Stake Holders.

Chair Report:

- SCMMCHRA Meeting
- Board Workshop
- Personnel Committee Meeting
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting
- Traverse Township Meeting
- TdS Board Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting
- St. Peter Liaison Meeting

Commissioner Committee Reports, Meetings & Conferences

Commissioner Mark Dehen

- Budget and Tax Levy Meeting
- REDA Annual Meeting
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting
- Board Workshop
- SCHSAC Meeting
- MRCI Finance and Board Meeting
- Nicollet Township Association Meeting
- Explore Extension
- Connecting Nicollet County

Commissioner Nicole Helget

- Board Workshop
- NACO Arts and Culture
- NACO EELU
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting
- AMC Annual Conference

- Township Association Meeting
- Good Neighbor Council Meeting

Commissioner Kurt Zins

- Personnel Committee Meeting
- Board Workshop
- SWCD Meeting
- Township Association Meeting
- Building Committee Meeting
- Housing Advisory Meeting
- Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission Meeting
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting

Commissioner Jack Kolars

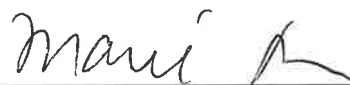
- Building Committee Meeting
- Housing Advisory Meeting
- AMC Annual Conference
- Board Workshop
- Nicollet Township Association Meeting
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting

Approve Per Diems and Expenses:

Motion by Commissioner Helget and seconded by Commissioner Dehen to approve the expenses and per diems for the meetings noted above during the Commissioner Reports and/or as submitted on approved expense reports, and authorize payment of those expenses and per diems by the Finance Office. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

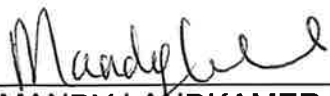
Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.



MARIE DRANTTEL, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



MANDY LANDKAMER,
CLERK TO THE BOARD

