

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2026

Chairman John Berends called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Ron Antony, Glen Kack and Greg Renneke also present. Also present were County Administrator Angie Steinbach, County Attorney Mark Gruenes and HR Manager Ashley Soine. Commissioner Mitch Kling was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda 01-06-26-01 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Election of Chair 01-06-26-02 Chair Berends called for nominations for the 2026 County Board Chair. Commissioner Antony nominated Commissioner Kling. Chair Berends called for additional nominations three times and heard none. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to close nominations for Commissioner Kling for 2026 County Board Chair. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Election of Vice-Chair 01-06-26-03 Former Chair Berends called for nominations for 2026 County Vice-Chair. Commissioner Renneke nominated Commissioner Antony. Former Chair Berends called for additional nominations three times and heard none. Motion by Commissioner Renneke and seconded by Commissioner Kack to close nominations for Commissioner Antony for 2026 County Board Vice-Chair. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 01-06-26-04 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the consent agenda items as follows: December 16, 2025 County Board meeting minutes; County Feedlot Program Work Plan for 2026-2027; hiring of Trisha Rose-nau as the part-time Assistant Custodian, her salary will be grade 4, step 1, her start date is January 7, 2026. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Citizen Comments None

Approval of Disbursements/Review Auditor's Warrants 01-06-26-05 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$5,314.11 Ditch Fund, \$327,309.12 Revenue Fund, \$142,912.43 Road & Bridge Fund, \$142,219.29 Human Services Fund; and acknowledged review of the Auditor's warrants. An itemized listing of all warrants over \$2,000 and an aggregate total for warrants under \$2,000 are published on the County website under the Finance & Administration Department. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Commissioners' Report Commissioner Berends reported on Prairie Lakes Youth Program. Commissioner Kack reported on Area II/RCRCA and Prairie Five. Commissioner Renneke had no reports. Commissioner Antony reported on Public Safety- State Commission, Emergency Communication Board, Union Negotiations and Minnesota Valley Regional Railroad Authority.

Administrator Steinbach's report included meetings attended, current projects being worked on and future meetings to attend. Administrator Steinbach's report is included in the Board packet.

Regular Agenda

2026 Organizational Business

Committee/Board/Task Force/Delegate Appointments 01-06-26-06 The Board reviewed the list of committees, task force and board assignments. Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the list of committees, board, task force and delegate appointments for 2026 as amended. Motion carried with all voting in favor. A complete list of appointments is on file with the Finance & Administration Department and on the county website.

Meeting Dates and Times 01-06-26-07 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to set regular County Board meetings for the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Yellow Medicine County Board Room. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Gopher Bounty 01-06-26-08 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to keep the gopher bounty the same for 2026 with a 50/50 match with townships up to \$2 per gopher. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Beaver Bounty 01-06-26-09 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Berends to approve a \$100 beaver bounty with prior authorization from the County Ditch Inspector for beavers trapped within the ditch system (paid through the ditch fund) and \$100 beaver bounty for the LQP Spillway (paid out of the LQP Floodway Reserve Fund). Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Mileage Rate 01-06-26-10 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Berends to follow the IRS rate which is 72.5 cents per mile for 2026. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Designate Website 01-06-26-11 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to designate the Yellow Medicine County (Highway Department) website as the official publication for transportation project bidding. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Official Newspaper 01-06-26-12 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to designate the Canby News as the

official 2026 County newspaper. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Meal Reimbursement 01-06-26-13 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Berends to increase the meal reimbursement amount to \$70 per day for 2026. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Charging Attorney Costs to Human Services 01-06-26-14 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve charging the actual costs of the County Attorney's Office services provided to Human Services to the Human Services Fund. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #03-2026 Tax Forfeit Fees 01-06-26-15 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve Resolution #03-2026 as presented authorizing 20% of the tax-forfeit proceeds remaining after the appointments required under M.S. 282.08, Subdivisions 1 through 3, be used for the acquisition and maintenance of county parks and recreational areas. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #05-2026 Personnel Committee 01-06-26-16 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Berends to approve Resolution #05-2026 which gives the Personnel Committee authorization to advertise replacement positions. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

MOU with Safe Generations Consulting 01-06-26-17 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Generations Consulting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Dan Moravetz, Tony Sather and Andy Lee, Highway Department, gave an update.

Set Minimum Salary for Attorney and Sheriff 01-06-26-18 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resolution #02-2026 which sets the minimum salary to be paid to the Sheriff and Attorney for the following term. The County Attorney shall not be paid less than \$113,499.98 and the County Sheriff shall not be paid less than \$95,296.78. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Request for Penalty Waiver 01-06-26-19 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to deny the request for a penalty waiver for Larry Anderson (PID 18-029-1021) in the amount of \$141.76. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Request for Penalty Waiver 01-06-26-20 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to deny the request for a penalty waiver for Barbara Schalek (PIDs 31-440-0105 and 31-034-3031) in the amount of \$256.23. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2026 Prosecution Contracts with Cities 01-06-26-21 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the 2026 Agreements for Prosecution Services for the City of Hazel Run, City of Wood Lake, City of Echo and City of Clarkfield. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

MN DNR Proposed State Land Acquisition Resolution 01-06-26-22 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the Minnesota DNR Proposed State Land Acquisition Resolution #04-2026. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Becci ten Bense, Executive Director for WRAP, presented information regarding the request for Statewide Affordable Housing Aid funds.

WRAP Proposal for County Statewide Affordable Housing Aid 01-06-26-23 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the \$18,000 request from WRAP for Statewide Affordable Housing Aid funds. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Donation Resolution #01-2026 01-06-26-24 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resolution #01-2026 which Accepts Gifts and Grants for the YMC Sheriff's Department. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

The board recessed for break at 11:08 a.m.

The board reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

Dana Homan, Finance Manager, discussed the budget.

Close Meeting 01-06-26-25 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to close the meeting at 11:21 a.m. The meeting was closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05 to discuss labor negotiations. Those present were the County Board members, County Administrator Angie Steinbach, Finance Manager Dana Homan, County Attorney Mark Gruenes and Human Resources Manager Ashley Soine. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Open Meeting 01-06-26-26 Motion by Commissioner Berends and seconded by Commissioner Kack to open the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Other Business None

Informational None

Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Vice Chair Antony adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Witness: John Berends, Chair

Attest: Angie Steinbach, County Administrator