

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda 12-16-25-01 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 12-16-25-02 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the consent agenda items as follows: December 2, 2025 County Board meeting minutes; December 2, 2025 Truth in Taxation meeting minutes; Human Service Budget Amendment for 2025; Land Use Contracts for Aggregate Stockpile with Arlyss Jacobson Johnson and Edna Nothem in the amount of \$2,000 each for a two-year lease; Ag BMP Budget Amendment for 2025; permanent status for employee; hiring of Nijie Nauden a the Restorative Justice Program Assistant, her salary will be grade 13, step 2, her start date is January 5, 2026; resignation of Kay Zempel, part-time Property & Public Services Deputy. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Citizen Comments None

Approval of Disbursements/Review Auditor’s Warrants 12-16-25-03 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$192,308.14 Ditch Fund, \$113,720.88 Revenue Fund, \$96,254.48 Road & Bridge Fund, \$158,469.20 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 Kling reported on union negotiations, Historical Society Annual Meeting, meeting with Administrator and 6W Community Corrections. Commissioner Antony reported on union negotiations, Workforce Council, 6W Community Corrections, AMC Conference and State Radio Board Finance Committee. Commissioner Renneke had no reports. Commissioner Kack reported on Western Mental Health Center. Commissioner Berends reported on meeting with Administrator, AMC Conference, PrimeWest Health, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission and Area Transportation Board.

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

Troy Dale, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager with MN DNR, presented information on a land acquisition proposal.

Land Acquisition Resolution 12-16-25-04 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the land acquisition resolution. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Culvert Replacement Quotes 12-16-25-05 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the low quote from Rinker Materials in the amount of \$18,389.12 for materials for culvert replacement on County Road E3. One other quote was received. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Rae Ann Keeler-Aus, Family Services, gave an update.

Countryside Public Health 12-16-25-06 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the 2026 Purchase of Service Contract with Countryside Public Health. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Chippewa County Family Services 12-16-25-07 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the Purchase of Service Contract between Chippewa County Family Services for Vulnerable Adult/Adult Protection Investigations. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Chair Berends opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. regarding the Yellow Medicine County Comprehensive Plan.

Close Public Hearing 12-16-25-08 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to close the public hearing at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

YMC Comprehensive Plan 12-16-25-09 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to adopt the Yellow Medicine County Comprehensive Plan as presented. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Josh Peterson, Native Resource Preservation, presented information on a Natural Resource Preservation Grant Opportunity.

Natural Resources Grant Opportunity 12-16-25-10 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve the Natural Resources Grant opportunity. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Denny Pederson, IT Department, gave an update.

Brian Rosenau, Assessor, gave an overview of the 2026 Assessment Year Projections.

The board recessed for break at 10:59 a.m.

The board reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Close Meeting 12-16-25-11 Motion by Commissioner Kack and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to close the meeting at 11:11 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 12-16-25-12 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to open the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

LELS Labor Contract 12-16-25-13 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the LELS Labor Contract for 2026-2028. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Teamsters Labor Contract 12-16-25-14 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve the Teamsters Labor Contract for 2026-2028. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2026 Salary for Non-union Employees 12-02-25-15 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve a 5% wage adjustment in 2026 for non-union employees. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #39-2025 and 2026 Salary for Sheriff 12-02-25-16 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve Resolution #39-2025 which establishes 2026 compensation amounts for the Yellow Medicine County Sheriff. The Sheriff’s salary will be \$142,025 annually. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #29-2025 and 2026 Salary for Attorney 12-02-25-17 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve Resolution #29-2025 which establishes 2026 compensation amounts for the Yellow Medicine County Attorney. The Attorney’s salary will be \$144,887.95 annually. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #33-2025 for 2026 Commissioner Per Diem 12-02-25-18 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resolution #33-2025 which sets the 2026 per diems paid to Commissioners for other meetings attended at a maximum of \$200/day (no change from 2025). Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #32-2025 and 2026 Salary for Commissioners 12-02-25-19 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve a 5% wage adjustment for Commissioners and Resolution #32-2025 which establishes 2026 compensation amounts for Yellow Medicine County Commissioners. Commissioner salary will be \$27,825 annually and the Chairperson will receive \$29,025 annually (\$1,200 more than base Commissioner salary). Motion carried with Commissioners Kling, Kack and Renneke voting in favor and Commissioners Antony and Berends voting against.

Resolution #38-2025 to Commit Fund Balance 12-16-25-20 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kling to approve Resolution #38-2025 to commit fund balance from the General Revenue Fund and Road & Bridge Fund as presented. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Resolution #37-2025 for 2025 Donations 12-16-25-21 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve Resolution #37-2025 which accepts gifts and grants that were received in 2025. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Dana Homan, Finance Manager, gave a budget update.

Payable 2026 Tax Levy 12-16-25-22 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Kack to approve a 5.55% net levy increase for 2026 for a total net tax levy of \$14,437,316 and to approve the 2026 budget as follows:

Revenue Fund	\$9,039,871
Road & Bridge Fund	\$2,641,206
Human Services Fund	\$2,951,782
Library	\$108,665
Tax Abatement	\$9,000
Water Plan	\$9,005
Justice Center Bond Principal and Interest	\$425,750
Total Certified 2026 Gross Tax Levy	\$15,185,279
Less: 2026 Certified County Program Aid	\$747,963
Total Certified 2026 Net Tax Levy	\$14,437,316

Fund	Revenues	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
General	11,487,476	11,987,476	(500,000)
Road & Bridge	10,335,978	11,078,513	(742,535)
Human Services	5,561,400	5,561,400	-
Bond Debt	425,750	425,750	-
Total Budget	27,810,604	29,053,139	(1,242,535)

Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Close Regular Meeting 12-16-25-23 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Antony to close the meeting at 12:02 p.m. The meeting was closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05 to discuss Administrator Steinbach’s performance evaluation. Those present were the County Board members, County Administrator Angie Steinbach and Human Resource Manager Ashley Soine. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Open Regular Meeting 12-16-25-24 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to open the regular meeting at 12:17 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Administrator Review 12-16-25-25 The Board summarized the closed meeting. Administrator Steinbach met expectations on all categories. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the satisfactory performance review for Administrator Steinbach. 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.

Adjourn 12-16-25-26 Motion by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Kack to adjourn at 12:21 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness: John Berends, Chair
Attest: Angie Steinbach, County Administrator