

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD

February 3, 2026

9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session February 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board Members were present: Jim Branstad, Scott Westman, Bill Miller, Dillon Melheim and Jim Pettersen. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as amended.

Melheim moved, Branstad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the January 20th regular meeting.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the payment of bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund - \$109,775.45; Solid Waste Fund - \$390.00; Ditch Fund - \$1,833.20; Road and Bridge Fund - \$11,962.67; and to pay the following credit cards; General Fund - \$6,249.27; Solid Waste Fund - \$997.96; Road and Bridge Fund - \$855.61; Library Fund - \$164.94; Soil and Water Conservation - \$4,308.21.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Godahl Recreation Association's application for Exempt Permit for Godahl Days.

Branstad moved, Westman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the representation agreement with Madden Galanter Hansen, PLLC through December 31, 2026, and allow County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling to sign agreement.

County Engineer Michael McCarty presented to the Board to approve the purchase of a tandem axle truck with upfitting equipment in the amount of \$346,262.28 and snow removal equipment in the amount of \$7,990.88. Quotes were obtained using the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchase Venture pricing for the following equipment:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Mack Tandem Truck	Nuss Truck & Equipment	\$159,335.28
Mack Truck Uplifting	Towmaster Truck Equipment	\$186,927.00
Snow Blower Attachment	SANCO Equipment of Mankato	\$7,990.88

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the purchase of the equipment.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve placing the 2012 Mack GU713 and 2017 Freightliner 114SD, for resale on MNBid with a reserve value.

McCarty presented for approval an agreement to obtain subsurface exploration services from Braun InterTech for the Helling Pit in the amount of \$11,735.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the agreement with Braun InterTech.

Melheim provided an update from the Fair Board about planting new trees and maintenance concerns, noting that the roller rink roof is leaking and the ground beneath the beef barn door has lifted due to recent snowfall.

Westman inquired with the board about any recent developments regarding recycling. The board noted that the same complaints persist, particularly that the lids are too heavy and create challenges for users, limiting effective recycling efforts.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling presented to the board the County Ditch 1 ditch assessment of \$85,000 with collection beginning in 2026. The redetermination of benefits was completed in 2025, and the ditch system will purchase the required buffer. Tracts with an assessment of over \$500 will be assessed at an interest rate of 4.00% payable over 3 years.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the ditch assessment for County Ditch 1.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 AM.

Scott Westman, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Susan Montemayor, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer

