



Mission:
**Working Together to Deliver Quality Services Valued by the
Community, Today and for Generations to Come.**

**Regular Meeting of the Isanti County Board of Commissioners
Government Center Board Room
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**

Chairman Alan Duff, Commissioners: Bill Berg, Steve Westerberg, Todd Christensen, Kristi LaRowe
Members Absent: None
Others Present: A Usher, J Edblad, H Sward, A Larson, H Nelson, J Donnay, D Lakeberg, J Bergerson
Reporters: B Stickles

00o Chairman Duff called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

00o Public Comment Session. No public comment was made.

26/01-33 Motion by Berg, seconded by Christensen, to approve the January 20, 2026, County Board Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-34 Motion by Christensen, seconded by LaRowe, to approve the letter to State Lawmakers. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-35 Motion by Christensen, seconded by Westerberg, to approve the January 6, 2026, County Board Meeting Minutes and Minutes Summary as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-36 Motion by Westerberg, seconded by Berg, to approve the consent agenda, excluding item B-1, which was removed for separate consideration. Items approved under the consent agenda included: January 6, 2026, County Board Meeting Minutes and Minutes Summary, Personnel Committee Action Items, Personnel Action Items, December 2025 donations to Isanti County totaling \$8,460.00, Bonds for Employees under Minnesota Statute 382.10, Final Plat for The Bluff of the River, Utility Permits, and claims and warrants totaling \$566,112.67. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-37 Motion by Berg, seconded by Westerberg, to approve the following Isanti County Health and Human Services consent agenda items: payments and vouchers totaling \$272,144.90, contract between R7E AMHI and A Place For You, contract between R7E AMHI and Chisago County HHS, contract between R7E AMHI and Growing Connections, contract between R7E AMHI and Joel K., contract between R7E AMHI and Juettner Marketing, contract between R7E AMHI and Lakes and Pines CAC, contract between R7E AMHI and Michelle O., contract between R7E AMHI and Mille Lacs CCVS, contract between R7E AMHI and Pine County HHS, contract between R7E AMHI and Rise Inc., contract between R7E AMHI and Stacy J., contract between R7E AMHI and Stark Transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-38 Motion by Berg, seconded by Westerberg, to approve the purchase of a new vaccine refrigerator for Public Health from Hemler Scientific in the amount of \$9,520.39 funded with RSG and FPHR Grants. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-39 Motion by Westerberg, seconded by Christensen, to approve to the On-Sale Liquor License Application for Grandy Nine Golf and Camp. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-40 Motion by Berg, seconded by Christensen, to approve the request of Josiah & Rachel Tiegs, 6805 253rd Avenue NW, St. Francis, MN 55070 to present a preliminary plat of Tiegs Addition. Legal

description is the E ½ of the E ½ of the SW¼ of Section 15, Township 34, Range 25, Stanford Township, with one condition: A wetland permit may be required if the existing access on Lot 2 needs to be upgraded. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-41 Motion by LaRowe, seconded by Westerberg, to approve the request of Joshua Rhoades, 31874 Zest Street NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 to present a preliminary plat of Rhoades Acres. Legal description is the W ½ of the SE ¼ Fct. Except: S 528' of W 412.5' of Section 2, Township 35, Range 23, Isanti Township. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-42 Motion by Berg, seconded by Christensen, to approve the request of Reliable Land & Trust, PO Box 32, Cambridge, MN 55008 to present a preliminary plat of Stanford Meadows West. Legal description is the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 3, Township 34, Range 24, Stanford Township. Motion carried unanimously.

00o The Commissioners were informed by Amanda Usher that item number 5 from the January 8th, 2026, Planning Commission Meeting was tabled.

26/01-43 Motion by Berg, seconded by Christensen, to approve the invoice for two squad builds for the Isanti County Sheriff Department totaling \$37,655.90. Squad 423 was totaled and has been submitted to MCIT for reimbursement, and Squad 126 is a new build for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-44 Motion by Westerberg, seconded by Duff, to approve staff to proceed with an architect RFP to select a design team for the Highway Facility Project. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-45 Motion by Westerberg, seconded by Christensen, to approve ISANTI COUNTY, MINNESOTA RESOLUTION NO. 26-13-02 REQUESTING MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION TO IMPOSE A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX IN THE COUNTY OF ISANTI WHEREAS, the Isanti County Highway Department is responsible for the maintenance, preservation, snow and ice control, and construction of approximately 360 miles of County roadway and 37 bridges, which are essential elements of the regional transportation network supporting residents, commuters, freight carriers, agricultural producers, businesses, and visitors throughout east-central Minnesota; and WHEREAS, Isanti County operates a single centralized maintenance facility that must support all County highway operations, equipment, and emergency response needs, underscoring the importance of a modern, reliable, and efficiently designed operations center; and WHEREAS, the current Isanti County Highway Department facility was constructed in 1949 and has been determined through professional facility assessments and operational evaluations to be functionally and physically inadequate to support modern highway operations, fleet requirements, and regional emergency response capabilities; and WHEREAS, Isanti County has completed a Highway Department Space Needs Study, detailed operational analysis, and predesign programmatic budgeting that confirms the required size, functional layout, and operational needs of the new facility, and the next phase is to proceed into full architectural and engineering design; and WHEREAS, the County has identified the Highway Department Facility as a capital improvement that provides regional benefit and has not identified more than one project for which it seeks authorization to impose a local option sales tax; and WHEREAS, the Highway Department Facility Project will serve residents and businesses of Isanti County as well as non-resident commuters, regional workers, freight haulers, agricultural producers, and visitors who rely on the County transportation system; and WHEREAS, funding the project through a local option sales tax will more equitably distribute the cost of the project among users of the regional transportation system, including non-residents who do not contribute to the County property tax base; and WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the project is \$25,000,000 plus the cost of financing, including interest, bond issuance expenses, and related project costs; and WHEREAS, based on current taxable sales and existing sales tax receipt data within Isanti County, a 0.25 percent local option sales and use tax is estimated to generate approximately \$1,700,000 annually at current levels, which would be sufficient to fund the Highway Department Facility Project costs of \$25,000,000 plus interest and related financing costs within a period not to exceed 25 years; and WHEREAS, the County has prepared documentation of the regional

significance of the project, including Census data, DEED labor force and economic analysis, and University of Minnesota Extension taxable sales research showing that approximately 27 percent of County taxable sales originate from non-residents, and documentation of regional public safety and mobility reliance on the County transportation network; and WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a local sales tax if permitted by special law enacted by the Minnesota Legislature and requires counties to submit a resolution and supporting documentation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Taxes Committees by January 31 of the year in which authorization is sought; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: 1. The Isanti County Board of Commissioners supports the authority to impose a 0.25 percent local option sales and use tax to fund the Highway Department Facility Project. 2. The amount of local option sales tax revenue utilized for the Highway Department Facility Project shall not exceed \$25,000,000 plus interest on the bonds and related financing and project costs, or a period of 25 years, whichever occurs first. 3. The County intends to issue bonds to finance the project and to apply sales tax proceeds to repayment of principal and interest. 4. The County will submit this resolution and supporting documentation to the Minnesota House and Senate Taxes Committees by January 31 of the year in which authorization is sought. 5. Upon enactment of a special law authorizing the tax, the County will adopt a resolution accepting the law and file a local approval certificate with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. 6. The County will place a ballot question regarding the tax and the project on a general election ballot within two years of legislative approval. 7. If the ballot question is approved by voters, the County will enact an ordinance imposing the tax and notify the Commissioner of Revenue at least 90 days before the start of the first calendar quarter in which the tax will be imposed. 8. The tax will remain in effect until a sum sufficient to fund the Highway Department Facility Project costs, including related financing and project costs, has been collected, or until 25 years have elapsed, whichever occurs first. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-46 Motion by Westerberg, seconded by Berg, to approve ISANTI COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 26-13-03 APPROVING MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT NO. 1061056 BE IT RESOLVED, that Isanti County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1061056 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes: To provide for routine maintenance of the described lighting system by the County upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 65, the limits of which are defined in said Agreement. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board Chair and the County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

26/01-47 Motion by Christensen, seconded by Duff, to adjourn (11:10 a.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

Amanda Usher, County Administrator

Alan Duff, County Board Chairman

By: Connie Kitner, Administrative Assistant III