

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD

March 3, 2026

9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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, Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Scott Westman and Jim Pettersen. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Melheim moved, Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the amended minutes of the February 17th regular meeting.

The Board has discussed holding a public hearing on the proposed shotgun-only ordinance to allow for public comment and input.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to hold a hearing on April 7 at 9:00 AM during the Board's regular meeting in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse in the City of St. James.

County Engineer Michael McCarty presented quotations for seal coat rock and oil from Martin Marietta for 1/4 W CHIP – QZ from the New Ulm Quarry at \$27.00 per unit and the Sioux Rock Quarry at \$22.15 per unit; the Board requested additional quotes from other companies to be obtained and presented for consideration at the next Board meeting.

McCarty presented the Board with pricing available through the Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture (State Bid) for seal oil products supplied by Flint Hills Resources, including seal oil at \$808.70 per ton and fog seal oil at \$871.56 per ton.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the quotations for seal oil from Flint Hills Resources at \$808.70 per ton and fog seal oil from Flint Hills Resources at \$871.56 per ton.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: Commissioners Bills: General Fund - \$117,899.49; Solid Waste - \$8,801.72; Soil & Water Conservation - \$342.83; Ditch Fund - \$4,385.00; and Road And Bridge Commissioner Bills: Road And Bridge Fund - \$12,296.67; and to pay the following credit cards: General Fund - \$8,202.69; Solid Waste Fund - \$18.53; Road And Bridge Fund - \$915.96; Library Fund - \$62.49; Soil & Water Conservation - \$742.46; and to approve the February Per Diems.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to pass the following:

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
Resolution 26-3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF
WATONWAN IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE
2025 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG)
ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND AUTHORIZE THE
FOLLOWING:**

WHEREAS, annually Watonwan County is awarded the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) from the State of Minnesota related to emergency management; and

WHEREAS, the EMPG requires a local match of county expenditures, as well as quarterly and annual reports to be completed and submitted; and

WHEREAS, timely execution of this grant is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Chairman, County Auditor, or Emergency Management Director are authorized to execute this grant agreement on behalf of Watonwan County.

Melheim moved, Westman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve use of the roller rink by the National Micro Mini Tractor Pullers Association from March 19–21, 2026.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve Keri Bohnert’s lease for a vendor show at the roller rink and surrounding grass area from September 25–26, 2026.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the resignation not in good standing of Andrea-Rae Knowles.

Commissioner Westman inquired about the Minnesota Family Leave Act, requesting information on how it applies to County employees and any potential policy implications. All questions and concerns were fully addressed.

The Board was provided with the 2025 Audit Engagement letter from the State Auditor’s Office. Authorization was requested to allow the State Auditor’s Office to begin the 2025 audit.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve authorization for the State Auditor’s Office to begin the 2025 audit.

The Board was notified that the Minnesota Department of Human Services has completed a thorough review of the County’s audit for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Melheim moved, Pettersen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:45 AM.

Scott Westman, Chairman
Watsonwan County Board

Susan Montemayor, Deputy Clerk
Watsonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watsonwan County Auditor/Treasurer