



**Mission:**

**Working Together to Deliver Quality Services that are Valued by the Community, Today and Tomorrow**

**Vision:**

**A modern community where all are treated as neighbors**

---

**Regular Meeting of the Isanti County Board of Commissioners  
Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Government Center Board Room**

---

Members Present: Chairperson Greg Anderson; Commissioners Susan Morris, Terry Turnquist, Dave Oslund, and Mike Warring

Members Absent: None

Others Present: J Lines, J Edblad, P Messer, M Jensen, E Yerigan, C Struss, and T Bergloff  
(Reporter: J Kotila, J Wagner)

00o Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

00o Public Comment Session. There was not public comment.

20/07-14 Motion by Morris, seconded by Turnquist, to approve the July 15, 2020, County Board Agenda with the following additions: A-6 – Approve Resolution for Authorization of Non-Elected Department Head Group Participation in Health Care Savings Plan; and A-8 – Letter of Support for Veterans Park. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-15 Motion by Oslund, seconded by Warring, to approve the July 1, 2020, County Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-16 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Oslund, to approve the following Personnel Action Items: to ratify the hire of Jeannette Danielson, full time Case Aide, effective July 16, 2020; to ratify the hire of Gabriela Nelson, part time Deputy Auditor I, effective July 20, 2020; to ratify the hire of Sharon Riehm, temporary Administrative Assistant I – Elections Staff, effective July 14, 2020; and to accept the resignation of Amy Peterson, effective July 26, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-17 Motion by Morris, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Lower St. Croix comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-18 Motion by Oslund, seconded by Warring, to approve the following Utility Permits: Permit No. 20-07-28: Connexus Energy – underground power line on CSAH 8, to serve 8345 261<sup>st</sup> Avenue; and Permit No. 20-07-29: CenturyLink – underground communications line on CR 37, near TH 47. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-19 Motion by Morris, seconded by Turnquist, to approve the following resolution: Resolution for Authorization of Non-Elected Department Head Group Participation in Health Care Savings Plan. WHEREAS, The Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP), administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), offers Minnesota public employees a tax-free account to be used for reimbursement of eligible post-employment medical expenses; and WHEREAS, Isanti County Board of Commissioners has offered all employee bargaining groups the option of participating in such a plan; and WHEREAS, the County Board recognizes non-contract employees as a bargaining group; and WHEREAS, the County Board has formed the non-contract employees into three representative groups effective June 1, 2014; and WHEREAS, one of the three groups, the Department Head Group, has agreed

by a majority vote to participate in a HCSP; and WHEREAS, the Department Head group has further agreed by a majority vote to approve HCSP contributions of 50% of the employee's severance pay pursuant to Isanti County Personnel Policy 16.3 D AND 50% of the employee's unused vacation leave, which specifically excludes sick bank converted hours, AND 1% of gross earnings via payroll deduction for those with years of service between 0 and 15 years, AND 2% off gross earnings via payroll deduction for those with years of service exceeding 15 years (to begin at the commencement of the 15th year). NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Isanti County Board of Commissioners authorizes this request by the Department Head group and agrees to comply with all MSRS requirements to implement the HCSP; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Agreement will last from July 16, 2020, to July 31, 2022. However, the Agreement will continue past this date if the Department Head Group does not propose a change. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-20 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following claims and warrants:

Advanced Correctional Healthcare	\$14,830.86	Glens Tire	\$6,015.00
CenturyLink	\$26,723.78	Knife River Corp	\$15,191.73
Chisago County Treasurer	\$16,840.98	Larsons Auto Body	\$12,368.28
Contech Engineered Solutions	\$10,548.13	Marco Technologies	\$7,861.27
Election Systems & Software	\$6,630.00	MnCCC	\$19,126.05
Emergency Equipment Connections	\$9,800.84	Star Quality Glass	\$12,248.43
Enterprise FM Trust - Car Sales	\$8,254.91	WaterGuards LLC	\$17,432.50
Frontier Precision	\$7,302.70	Total Claims & Warrants	\$191,175.46

Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-21 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Oslund, to approve the letter of support for grant funds from Knife River Corporation for the Veteran's Memorial Park. Motion carried unanimously.

O0o Mark Jensen, Fiscal Supervisor, presented the agency's monthly financial report to the Board.

O0o Penny Messer, Director of Family Services, presented the department's spotlight presentation.

20/07-22 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Warring, to approve the contract between Family Services and Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment, Inc. Industries Division. Motion carried. Abstained: Morris.

O0o The Board was advised that the number of Income Maintenance cases as shown by the MAXIS system as of June 30, 2020, was 2,172.

20/07-23 On motion by Mike Warring and seconded by Dave Oslund: 1) Approval was given for all public assistance and social service actions, public assistance and social service expenditures, and social welfare expenditures as listed on the agenda of this meeting and as detailed in supporting documents maintained in the Family Services Department and 2) Payment of the following Family Services Department claims for Public Assistance, Administration, and Social Services was approved:

Anoka Metro RTC	\$43,276.00	Moose Lake RTC	\$5,203.91
Canvas Health	\$45,974.20	Reource Training & Solutions	\$8,856.24
Department of Human Svcs	\$22,231.36	Rise Incorporated	\$27,498.00
Isanti County Auditor Treasurer	\$26,976.00	SDL Services LLC	\$15,000.00
Isanti County Family Services	\$5,558.34	Therapeutic Services Agency	\$7,449.35

Kanabec Co Family Services	\$23,394.50	Village Ranch	\$5,643.90
Mille Lacs Acady - Ship & Safari	\$9,314.17	Auditors	\$67,230.63
		Total Family Services Vouchers	\$313,606.60

Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-24 Motion by Morris, seconded by Oslund, to approve the following resolution: RESOLUTION OF ISANTI COUNTY. BE IT RESOLVED by Isanti County that the County enter into the attached Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2019, Chapter 10, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Isanti County that Dan Meyer, the County Veterans Services Director, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County. WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at Isanti County Government Center this August 19th, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-25 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Warring, to appoint Commissioner Oslund and Commissioner Morris to the primary election canvassing board to be held August 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., and the General Election canvassing board. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-26 Motion by Oslund, seconded by Warring, to approve the temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the Isanti County Agricultural Society for events to be held on August 22, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIONS

20/07-27 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Oslund, to approve the request of Denis Villella, 12079 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Brainerd, MN 56401, (Property address: 26200 Highway 47 NW, Isanti, MN 55040) to present a preliminary plat of Hi Circle Vee. Legal description is the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ fct. of Section 7, Township 34, Range 24, Stanford Township, with the following conditions: 1. An easement for the septic for Lot 1 Block 1 must be recorded when the final plat is recorded. 2. Lot 1 and Lot 2 will have a shared access off State Highway 47 and must be recorded when the final plat is recorded. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-28 Motion by Morris, seconded by Warring, to approve the request of Gary Edblad & Jean M Jones-Edblad, 36700 County Road 6 NE, Cambridge, MN 55008, to present a preliminary plat of Hastings Addition. Legal description is Outlot B Stanchfield Brook & N ½ of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 4, Township 36, Range 23, Cambridge Township, with the following conditions: 1. A 66' access easement must be provided for Lot 2 Block 1. Motion carried. Abstained: Oslund.

20/07-29 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Oslund, to approve the request of Timothy & Rita Hughes, 36977 7<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Stanchfield, MN 55080, for an Interim Use Permit for a kennel. Legal description is Lot 1 Block 1 Birchridge Addition of Section 6, Township 36, Range 23, Cambridge Township, with the following conditions: 1. Maximum of 6 dogs on the property. 2. Occasional and unannounced visits from the Isanti County Zoning Office. 3. A yearly visit from a Veterinarian and an annual letter submitted to the Isanti County Zoning Office from the visit. 4. The Interim Use Permit will

cease once Mr. Hughes sells/vacates the property and/or if they no longer have dogs for one consecutive year. 5. Must comply with the Minnesota Animal Welfare Act. 6. Must have proper drainage. 7. No commercial breeding to sell animals. 8. No commercial boarding of animals onsite. 9. No public onsite. These are dogs owned by Mr. Hughes therefore, no onsite parking is required for this interim use permit. Findings: 1. The maximum number of six dogs that have been existing on the property with no objections from the closest neighboring properties so the interim use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the immediate vicinity. 2. The closest neighboring properties have no objections to this request so the establishment of the interim use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of surrounding vacant property for uses predominant in the area. 3. There is a 20' x 24' heated structure for the dogs with outside runs with 18000 square feet fenced in area so that adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary facilitates have been or are being provided. 4. The dogs are for Mr. Hughes personal use with no commercial boarding or breeding with the animal waste being composted onsite with no advertising sign so that adequate measures have been or will be taken to prevent or control offensive odors, fumes, dust, noise and vibration so that none of these will constitute a nuisance, and to control lighted signs and other lights in such a manner that no disturbance to neighboring properties will result. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-30 Motion by Oslund, seconded by Morris, to approve the request of Blue Bird LLC, 30289 Washington Street, Isanti, MN 55040, (Property Address: 30023 Aberdeen Ct NE, Isanti, MN 55040) for a conditional use permit for a billboard (on premise sign). Legal description is Lot 1 Block 1 of Northland Addition of Section 20, Township 35, Range 23, Isanti Township, with the following conditions: 1. This is for a 5'.6" x 16' single pole billboard. 2. The overall height not to exceed 35' above the average grade. 3. Must obtain all necessary building permits. 4. Lighting must be directed away from traffic and neighboring properties. 5. Must meet applicable setbacks. Findings: 1. There are several trees buffering the residential neighboring houses so it is well screened so that the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the immediate vicinity. 2. The surrounding properties are zoned Business District with several billboards in the area so the establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of surrounding vacant property for uses predominant in the area. 3. There are existing trees to buffer the residential properties for lighting so that adequate measures have been or will be taken to prevent or control offensive odors, fumes, dust, noise and vibration so that none of these will constitute a nuisance, and to control lighted signs and other lights in such a manner that no disturbance to neighboring properties will result. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-31 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Warring, to approve the request of Craig Bjorklund, 27072 Polk Street NE, Isanti, MN 55040, and EDF Renewables, 10 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55413, for a conditional use permit for a solar energy farm. Legal description is the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ & S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 24, Township 34, Range 25, Stanford Township, with the following conditions: 1. This project is for a 7 Megawatt community solar energy system. 2. The maximum height of the Solar Panels shall be 15'. 3. Construction and maintenance activities must be done during daylight hours. 4. Must adhere to the MN Wetland Conservation Act. 5. All onsite power and communication lines running between banks of solar panels and buildings shall be buried underground on premise. 6. Erosion control measures must be in place prior to construction. 7. This community solar energy system and its components must meet the setback, height and coverage limitations in the Agriculture/Residential district. 8. This project shall require a building permit, shall be subject to the approval of the County Building Official, and shall be consistent with the State of Minnesota Building Code, Electrical and Energy Codes. 9. The owner or operator shall contain all unenclosed electrical conductors located above ground within structures that control access. 10. Buffer screening and landscaping shall minimize the visual impact of above grade site improvements where visible from

adjacent residential properties and public right of way. All buffer screening must provide year round screening. 11. Two rows staggered of conifer trees that must be a minimum of eight (8) feet in height at the time of installation, and reach a minimum maturity height of twelve (12) feet will be required to screen the use from public right of way and immediately adjacent properties and applicant must maintain the initial plantings and maintain the buffer at all times for the lease time agreement. 12. Areas of bare ground shall be re-vegetated with low growing pollinator friendly seed mix. 13. Security and perimeter fencing is required to be at least eight feet (8') in height around the surrounding facility and must accommodate unimpeded wildlife migration. 14. Must preserve the natural landscape and minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the project during construction and maintenance. 15. Owner/Operator shall decommission the solar panels in the event they are not used for 12 consecutive months; including removal of all structures and foundations, removal of electrical transmission components and restoration of soil and vegetation. The owner/operator shall ensure financial resources will be available to fully decommission the site and shall post a bond letter or credit or establish an escrow account per the submitted decommission plan. 16. Vehicle and utility access to the proposed project site must be on Bjorklund's property or an agreement with the adjacent neighbors. Findings: 1. There are to be two staggered rows of conifer trees that must be a minimum of eight (8) feet in height at the time of installation, and reach a minimum maturity height of twelve (12) feet will be required to screen the use from public right of way and immediate adjacent properties and applicant must maintain the initial plantings and maintain the buffer at all times for the lease time agreement so the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the immediate vicinity. 2. The energy service will go to the adjacent neighbors and surrounding area so that adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary facilities have been or are being provided. 3. Where visible from adjacent residential properties and public rights of way, buffer screening and landscaping shall minimize the visual impact of above grade site improvement. All buffer screening must provide year round screening so that adequate measures have been or will be taken to prevent or control offensive odors, fumes, dust, noise and vibration so that none of these will constitute a nuisance, and to control lighted signs and other lights in such a manner that no disturbance to neighboring properties will occur. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-32 Motion by Turnquist, seconded by Morris, to deny the request of Bryce Sorenson from the Isanti County Fair Board to waive a building permit fee of \$1,183.59, per Minnesota Statute 326B.151. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-33 Motion by Morris, seconded by Oslund, to move into closed session (10:32 a.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

O0o At this time, the County Board moved to a closed session to determine the asking price for real property (Property Address: 244 Birch Street South, Cambridge, MN 55008) to be sold by the government entity pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subdivision 3.

20/07-34 Motion by Morris, seconded by Oslund, to move out of closed session (11:08 a.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-35 Motion by Morris, seconded by Warring, to accept sealed bids for the property located at 244 Birch Street South, Cambridge, MN 55008, bids will be accepted beginning Monday, July 27, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. until Friday, August 14, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

20/07-36 Motion by Morris, seconded by Turnquist, to adjourn (11:30 a.m.). Motion carried unanimously.

Julia Lines, County Administrator

---

Greg Anderson, County Board Chairperson

---

By: Hallee Turner, Administrative Assistant II