

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: March 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present: Cindy Wright, Eric Johnson, Kurt Zehnder, Robert Schuldt, and Greg Myhre

Others Present: Interim Auditor/Treasurer Polly Heberlein, Fillmore County Journal Reporter Charlene Selbee, The Caledonia Argus Associate Editor Katia Gorsuch, Coordinator Brent Parker, Finance Director Carol Lapham, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Interim Recorder Michelle Werner, Attorney Suzanne Bublitz, Fiscal Supervisor Heidi Harms, Public Health Supervisor Jordan Knoke, Bob Burns, Mark Klinski, and Yvonne Krogstad

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Johnson said additional donations had come in for the Extension Tesmer Farm Safety Day that should be added to Action Item No. 7. Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the update.

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 17, 2026.

Public Comment:

Yvonne Krogstad spoke to the board about a courtesy care for the airport. She said she believed people flying into the airport should have friends, or business partners pick them up. She said a courtesy car was an expense the taxpayers should not have to pay for.

### APPOINTMENTS

At 9:05 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to open a public hearing regarding a proposal to change the offices of Recorder and Auditor/Treasurer from elected positions to appointed positions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes.

Coordinator Parker said a hearing needed to take place the day of the decision.

Yvonne Krogstad said making the position appointed would be taking away another right of the citizens of the County. She urged the board to leave the positions elected.

Bob Burns from Caledonia said when a person was elected you didn't know what you were going to get. He said the County could get a better quality employee by hiring someone. Burns said he thought it was okay to switch from elected to appointed. He said that way you know what you are getting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to come out of the public hearing and return to the regular session.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda. Approved items are below.

- 1) Hire April Ledebuhr-Kerrigan as a 1 FTE Public Health Nurse (C42 – Step 3), with a start date of April 8, 2026.
- 2) Hire Thomas Pecinovsky as a 1 FTE Recycling Lead Worker (B23 – Step 3), with a start date of April 6, 2026.
- 3) Change the employment status of Daniel Coogan, Assistant County Attorney, from probationary to regular effective April 1, 2026.
- 4) Allow Public Health Supervisor to approve the MOU with Great Rivers United Way.

#### ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – The Commissioners discussed the possibility of approving Resolution No. 26-12 making the position of Auditor/Treasurer Appointed pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 375A.1205. Coordinator Parker said the vote would need to have a supermajority in order to pass. If it passed people would have an opportunity to petition against the change. Commissioner Wright said she had heard a lot from both sides. She said the County's HR department now had a process that was diligent in making sure people were performing their jobs. She said sometimes people ran for office and they were not qualified. Wright said she had researched for months what other counties were doing. Commissioner Schuldt said he believed that the people who had ran for the position in Houston County had been qualified. He said: "If it's not broke I don't think we should fix it". Commissioner Johnson said the decision was a tough one. He said in the beginning he had fought against the idea. He did have concerns about the position becoming a part of the union. Johnson said the rules for the department had gotten very complicated, and the State always had new rules that came down and needed to be followed. Commissioner Zehnder said it was an extremely tough decision, and that he needed to follow what the voters in his district wanted. Commissioner Myhre said he didn't mind changing the position from elected to appointed. He said he liked the idea that anyone from the County would be able to apply for the job if it was appointed. He said we are not shutting anybody off that way. Commissioner Wright moved, Commissioner Myhre seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 26-12 making the position of

Auditor/Treasurer appointed pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 375A.1205. The motion failed due to lack of a super majority. The Commissioners voted by roll. Commissioners Wright, Johnson, and Myhre voted yes. Commissioners Zehnder and Schuldt voted no. The position would stay an elected position.

File No. 2 – Commissioner Wright said she felt the same way about the recorder position as she did the auditor/treasurer position however she thought the County should remain consistent between the departments. Therefore, Commissioner Wright moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion unanimously carried to keep the County Recorder position elected and not change it to appointed. The Commissioners voted by roll. All Commissioners voted to keep the position elected.

File No. 3 – Interim Recorder Werner said the Recorder’s office had been receiving an increased number of phone calls concerning fraud in property transactions. Constituents were asking for a way to monitor their property. The County’s software vender did have a program that allowed alerts to be sent via email or text when a document had been recorded in an individual or business name. Other counties had the service and offered it free to constituents. Members of the public would need to sign up to receive an email or text. It was an after the fact notification, however if quick action was taken the hope was fraudulent activity could be caught and fixed. The Recorder’s office had money in their technology fund that could be used to pay for the service. Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve purchasing the Land Notification Program. The total initial cost would be \$11,000. The annual fee moving forward would be \$1,500.

File No. 4 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the low quotes from Ness Pumping and Porta Potty Rentals for both Wildcat Park and Bob Botcher Park. Quotes are below.

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
BATHROOM QUOTE  
MARCH 13, 2026 2:00 P.M.

Wildcat Park Bathrooms			Ness Pumping & Porta Potty Rentals		Kimo's Pumping Service	
			Unit Price	Total \$	Unit Price	Total \$
	6 month rental of 4 bathrooms with service					
	3 Regular bathrooms	3	90.00	\$1,620.00		\$0.00
	1 Handicap bathroom	1	175.00	\$1,050.00		\$0.00
	<b>Total for Bathrooms</b>		<b>445.00</b>	<b>\$2,670.00</b>	<b>458.20</b>	<b>\$2,749.20</b>
	Sales Tax			\$183.56		\$189.00
	<b>6 months</b>			<b>\$2,853.56</b>		<b>\$2,938.20</b>

Bob Botcher Park Bathroom			Ness Pumping & Porta Potty Rentals		Kimo's Pumping Service	
			Unit Price	Total \$	Unit Price	Total \$
	6 month rental of 1 bathrooms with service	1	85.00	\$510.00	125.00	\$750.00
	<b>Total for Bathrooms</b>					
	<b>6 months</b>			<b>\$510.00</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>

File No. 5 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve a work order under MN Dot’s Master Partnership Contract to provide pavement markings for Houston County.

File No. 6 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve treated salt quantities for the State Cooperative Purchase contract.

File No. 7 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept donations to the Extension Tesmer Farm Safety Day in the amount of \$1,225.00 and additional donations of \$2,870.00. The Commissioners thanked those who donated for their generous donations.

File No. 8 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

2026/03/24 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
ABILITY BUILDING COMMUNITY	2,118.66
CALEDONIA OIL CO INC	3,502.00
CALEDONIA SNO GOPHERS CLUB	11,345.40

CONSOLIDATED ENERGY COMPANY	7,182.00
ENTERPRISE FM	4,776.47
HOUSTON-MONEY CREEK SNOWRIDERS	5,313.00
IMPERIAL DADE	2,380.88
INSIGHTSOFTWARE LLC	13,282.70
KWIK TRIP	4,154.63
LA CRESCENT TRAIL	4,138.20
LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING LLC	3,913.10
RDO EQUIPMENT CO INC	12,392.59
SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE	3,944.22
TSG SERVER & STORAGE INC	29,950.00
VIKING RIDGE RIDERS	4,389.00
	112,782.85
22 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	7,560.25
	120,343.10
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
	120,343.10

REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS

2026/03/13 AUDITOR WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
AVENU INSIGHTS & ANALYTICS LLC	7,862.35
GOODHUE COUNTY SWCD	2,500.00
HAMMELL EQUIPMENT INC	26,900.00
TRANSCO INDUSTRIES INC	10,341.00
	47,603.35
16 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	5,957.56
	53,560.91

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming events and meetings including a Department Head, Solid Waste, AMC Legislative Update, Department of Public Health Sustainability Planning, and SELCO meeting.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on April 7, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Parker, Coordinator