

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: February 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present:

Cindy Wright, Kurt Zehnder, Robert Schuldt, and Greg Myhre

Others Present:

Interim Auditor/Treasurer Polly Heberlein, The Caledonia Argus Associate Editor Katia Gorsuch, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Social Services Supervisor Bethany Moen, Fiscal Supervisor Heidi Harms, Public Health Supervisor Jordan Knoke, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Environmental Services Director Amelia Meiners, and Interim Attorney Suzanne Bublitz

### Board Workgroup Session

The Commissioners discussed with Engineer Pogodzinski the City of La Crescent's , City of La Crescent draft Active Transportation Action Plan. Pogodzinski said a main priority of the City of La Crescent was to slow traffic down to increase safety for bikes and pedestrians. Pogodzinski said statute dictated that the speed limit on County roads in urbanized areas be 30 miles per hour. The County could not enforce a lower speed limit on County roads. Cities could lower speed limits on their City streets with ordinances, but these would not apply to County streets. County roads were mentioned within the plan. Pogodzinski said sometimes it seemed that solutions were coming ahead of a plan being formed. Commissioner Wright said she had participated in planning meetings and wanted to see the City of La Crescent get additional input from residents. She said she appreciated being involved from the County perspective. Commissioner Schuldt brought up some concerns in relation to the plan noting the County roads in the plan were truck routes and changing or narrowing those roads in the future would impact businesses and traffic. The board discussed that residents and businesses traveled on County roads through the City and it was not only residents of the City traveling on the roads. It was the general consensus of the board that the City of La Crescent should focus on City roads. The County wanted to continue to participate in planning meetings especially when it came to County roads. The County did not have an interest in narrowing County roads. The County wanted to focus on identifying problems, and not finding solutions before identifying problems. Lastly, the County wanted to be involved in the process. Pogodzinski would communicate this to the City.

Environmental Services Director Meiners discussed with the board a need for a new hook truck in the future to replace the current one. The current County hook truck was a 2007 and had lots of miles. It was also a stick truck and in hiring new staff the County was starting to see less

people who knew how to operate a stick shift. Meiners recommended getting an automatic truck. It was possible the current truck could be traded in.

Parker discussed the organizational structure of the County with the board, and possible future changes.

Parker said a MariBell resolution was being worked on and would hopefully be on the agenda the following week. Parker had sent some further information regarding the project to the Commissioners. A Certificate of Need application for the line had been submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The public could send comments to the Public Utilities Commission. The County's future resolution on the matter could also be submitted by the County.

Parker shared with the board a list of 54 zoning related ordinances that at some point would need to be looked at and reviewed. The ordinance list had been put together by the zoning office. Parker said reviewing the ordinances would be a time consuming process.

The workgroup session ended at 11:10 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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

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