

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: February 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present: 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, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Financial Assistance Fiscal Supervisor Heidi Harms, Public Health Supervisor Jordan Knoke, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Highway Maintenance Foreman Jordan Goeden, Larry Gaustad, John Beckman, and Mark Klinski

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

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

Public Comment:

John Beckman from Houston Township said he was there on behalf of the Houston County Township Association. He said the townships saw there would be talk about the quarter, quarter rule at the meeting. He said the townships meant no disrespect, but they felt that the 1 per quarter, quarter rule was good. He said the benefits to the rule outweighed the negatives. He urged the board to keep things the status quo.

### APPOINTMENTS

Interim Auditor/Treasurer, Polly Heberlein, reviewed the County's Cash and Investments through December 31, 2025. Heberlein said the County had 54 investment accounts with a total balance of \$10,637,207.86.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda. Approved items are below.

- 1) Change the employment status of Nicole Karl, Eligibility Worker, from probationary to regular, effective March 2nd, 2026.

**ACTION ITEMS**

File No. 1 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the 2026 Community Clinic Grant Agreement with Minnesota Department of Health in the amount of \$13,873 and authorize Public Health Supervisor/CHS Administrator to sign the grant agreement.

File No. 2 – Commissioner Schuldt moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept the Garden-in-a-Box Program from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and authorize Public Health Supervisor to accept the application.

File No. 3 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Myhre seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve purchase of Skid Steer from RDO Equipment for the John Deere 324 G. Bid is below.

**Houston County Highway Department  
2026 Equipment**

Agenda Item	RDO Equipment Co John Deere 324G	Midwest Machinery John Deere 324G
<b>Skid Steer</b>	89,196.00	64,000.00
<b>Sourcewell Contract Discount</b>	(26,758.80)	
<b>RDO Discount</b>	(3,000.00)	
<b>Skid Steer Purchase Price</b>	<b>59,437.20</b>	<b>64,000.00</b>

File No. 4 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion unanimously carried to review and approve payments. Payments are below.

**REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS**

**2026/02/13 AUDITOR WARRANTS:**

<b>VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	98,343.43
OLMSTED SWCD	5,686.88
SE SWCD TECHNICAL SUPPORT JPB	21,689.15
WABASHA COUNTY SWCD	25,211.95
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	150,931.41
10 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	4,500.58
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	155,431.99
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**REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS**

**2026/02/24 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:**

<b>VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
ABILITY BUILDING COMMUNITY	2,213.71
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC	3,165.00
ENTERPRISE FM	11,306.11
EPA AUDIO VISUAL INC	4,416.27
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR	2,782.30
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	3,624.95
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	2,764.78
TREASURER TWP OF BLACKHAMMER	23,194.40
TREASURER TWP OF BROWNSVILLE	21,330.44
TREASURER TWP OF CALEDONIA	30,450.65
TREASURER TWP OF CROOKED CREEK	17,278.32
TREASURER TWP OF HOKAH	16,055.89
TREASURER TWP OF HOUSTON	18,882.92
TREASURER TWP OF JEFFERSON	6,736.03
TREASURER TWP OF LA CRESCENT	36,508.12
TREASURER TWP OF MAYVILLE	20,174.24
TREASURER TWP OF MONEY CREEK	28,559.54
TREASURER TWP OF MOUND PRAIRIE	27,706.03
TREASURER TWP OF SHELDON	14,185.79
TREASURER TWP OF SPRING GROVE	23,240.56
TREASURER TWP OF UNION	16,112.67
TREASURER TWP OF WILMINGTON	26,921.35
TREASURER TWP OF WINNEBAGO	17,043.40
TREASURER TWP OF YUCATAN	22,045.65
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	396,699.12
16 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	7,825.46
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	404,524.58
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	86,778.45
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	491,303.03
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## DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commissioners discussed the quarter/quarter rule in Houston County as requested for discussion by Commissioner Myhre. Commissioner Myhre said he wanted more people to be able to live next to their parents, and wanted to make it easier for people to come back to Houston County to live. He said he wanted to change the rule to two per quarter, quarter. Commissioner Myhre said he didn't know how people could afford 40 acres. Commissioner Johnson explained that people did not need to own 40 acres to build in Houston County, rather it simply needed to be an open quarter, quarter to build a house with a conditional use permit. Commissioner Schuldt said he didn't want to see farmland lost in Houston County but asked if there was a way to preserve prime ag land, and also allow more housing in Houston County. Commissioner Schuldt said he wanted to look at all options. He gave an example of someone who had wanted to build where a former homestead had been. Commissioner Zehnder said he had had a lot of time to think about the matter and he did not think it was the right time to look at another large topic. He said the County was already considering a solar ordinance, a possible shotgun ordinance, and other things that needed to be handled first. Commissioner Johnson was not in favor of changing the rule and suggested waiting until the full board could discuss the matter and decide if it should be looked into further as Commissioner Wright was absent. He said it did not make sense to study the matter and use staff time if the rule didn't end up being changed. Commissioner Johnson quoted the Comprehensive Land Use Plan saying: "The County has enacted zoning ordinances that permit for agricultural use by right and has historically limited development of single family residences to densities of one dwelling unit per one 40 acre quarter, quarter section in past iterations of agricultural zoning districts. The County has also strived to continue to preserve commercial agriculture as a viable, permanent land use and as a significant economic activity in the County". Commissioner Johnson said for farmers in the County like himself the ag land in the County was their office. Commissioner Myhre asked if they had to wait three or four years to look into the matter. Commissioner Myhre said Houston County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was the "worst" he had ever seen. Commissioner Johnson reminded Commissioner Myhre that Commissioner Myhre had voted yes to adopt the plan. No official decisions were made on the matter. It would be discussed again when the full board was present.

Coordinator Parker said Houston County's Resolution they had passed, Resolution No. 26-08 A Resolution of the Houston County Board of Commissioners Opposing the Proposed 765 kV "Gopher to Badger Link" Transmission Project Within Houston County, Minnesota had been submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) the week prior. The comment was still not showing in the State's system, and the County had heard from others that some comments from last week were also not showing. Wagner had contacted the State PUC that morning. The PUC was looking into the matter.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including a Department Head Meeting and Root River Watershed One meeting.

Commissioners Myhre and Schuldt said they had not been given enough notice to attend the township meeting the day prior.

Closing Public Comment:

Mark Klinski from Union Township said he was part of the Houston County Township Association. He said he thought the County was capable of discussing more than one rule at a time including the quarter, quarter rule. He said the Townships would be having their annual meeting in early April and they would make sure to invite the Commissioners in advance.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on February 24, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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

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