

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: March 17, 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, Finance Director Carol Lapham, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, and Environmental Services Director Amelia Meiners

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Johnson said the programming update from UMN Extension had needed to be rescheduled. 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 Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the special meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.

Commissioner Johnson said discussion regarding the County's quarter, quarter rule needed to be added to the workgroup session minutes as it has been accidentally missed. Commissioner Wright added that the Commissioners had discussed that the Environmental Services Office was busy and did not have time to study the matter currently. Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve the workgroup session minutes with the changes.

Public Comment:

None.

### APPOINTMENTS

None.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Hire Karen Fryseth as a 1 FTE Child Support Officer (B24 – Step 2) with a start date of March 30th, 2026.
- 2) Transfer Andrea Lien from Adult Protection Social Worker to a 1 FTE HCBS Social Worker (Lateral Transfer / C41 – Step 3) effective immediately.
- 3) Approve a competitive search for another 1 FTE Adult Protection Social Worker (C41).

## ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to appoint Lane Zaffke to a 1<sup>st</sup> term on the Houston County Extension Committee. His term dates would be from the appointment date through 12/31/2028.

File No. 2 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Michel and Susan Bashaw for a single-family dwelling on less than 40 acres in the Agriculture Protection District in La Crescent Township.

File No. 3 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Barta Family Trust for a cabin in the Agriculture Protection District in Houston Township.

File No. 4 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to award project SAP 028-607-008 / SAP 028-618-009 for the paving on CSAH 7 and CSAH 18 to Dunn Blacktop in the amount of \$4,849,295.18. One bid was received. Bid is below.

SAP 028-607-008 and SAP 028-618-009	
Dunn Blacktop Company	\$4,849,295.18

File No. 5 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept the low bid from Bruening Rock Products in the amount of \$381,242.12 for CP 2026-01 Shouldering. Abstract is below.

CP 2026-01 Shouldering	
Bruening Rock Products	\$381,242.12
Dunn Blacktop Company	\$441,515.23

File No. 6 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept all quotes for CP 2026-02 for aggregate stockpiles. Quotes are below.

C.P. 2026-02 (STOCKPILE QUOTES)							
Quantities	U of M	Milestone Materials State Bid Prices Through 1/30/2027	Milestone Materials Through 5/16/2026 to 5/15/2027 USE STATE UNTIL 1/30/27	Botcher Construction Co., Inc Through 5/16/2026 to 5/15/2027	Bruening Rock Products, Inc Through 5/16/2026 to 5/15/2027	Ron Weymiller Construction Through 5/16/2026 to 5/15/2027	Van Gundy Excavating Through 5/16/2026 to 5/15/2027
Stockpile Aggregate Class 5	Ton	9.20	9.60	9.50	9.35	9.75	9.50
Stockpile Aggregate Class 5Q	Ton		9.60		9.35		9.50
Stockpile Aggregate Class 5 Modified	Ton		9.60		9.35		9.50
Stockpile - Gabion Stone	Ton		23.50	20.00	14.25		22.50
Rip Rap, Class I	Ton		23.50	15.00	14.25		22.50
Rip Rap, Class II	Ton		21.00	15.00	14.25	15.50	20.00
Rip Rap, Class III	Ton	18.00	18.75	15.00	14.25	15.50	18.00
Rip Rap, Class IV	Ton	18.00	18.75	15.00	14.25		18.00
Rip Rap, Class V	Ton	18.00	18.75	15.00	14.25		18.00
Quarry-Run Riprap	Ton		7.50	8.50	8.50	8.10	9.00

File No. 7 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept all quotes for CP 2026-03 for equipment rental. Quotes are below.

C.P. 2026-03 Equipment Rental																
Cost Code	Equipment	Specification	Capacity/ Size	HP	Notes	Unit	Labor code	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Griffin Construction Co., Inc	Landstrom Brothers, LLC	Myler Construction LLC	Schwabert Landscaping	New County Excavating, LLP	WY Trucking & Coor, LLC
8191	Chain Saw	Bar Length	25 In			hour		75.00	120.00	80.00	100.00	70.00	85.00	80.00	90.00	90.00
8250	Dozer, Crawler		to 65			hour		101	120.00	105.00	110.00	90.00	90.00	95.00	95.00	90.00
8251	Dozer, Crawler		to 105			hour		364		145.00			175.00			
8252	Dozer, Crawler		to 160			hour		364		181.00					160.00	185.00
8281	Dozer, Crawler		to 200			hour		364		227.00			205.00		195.00	195.00
8282	Excavator, Hydraulic	Bucket Capacity	1.0 CY	to 90	Crawler, Truck & Wheel Includes bucket	hour		364		290.00	270.00		255.00		225.00	
8283	Excavator, Hydraulic	Bucket Capacity	1.5 CY	to 160	Crawler, Truck & Wheel Includes bucket	hour		313		163.00			170.00		150.00	150.00
8284	Excavator, Hydraulic	Bucket Capacity	2.5 CY	to 265	Crawler, Truck & Wheel Includes bucket	hour		313		182.00			175.00		175.00	190.00
8333	Excavator, Hydraulic	Bucket Capacity	4.5 CY	to 420	Crawler, Truck & Wheel Includes bucket	hour		305		272.00	280.00		255.00		240.00	
8340	Graders	Moldboard Size	14 Ft	to 235	Includes Pigid and Articulate equipment	hour		306		243.00	320.00		325.00		300.00	
8540	Loader, Skid-Steer	Operating Capacity	1000 Lbs	to 35		hour		344	120.00	141.00			155.00	150.00		
8542	Loader, Skid-Steer	Operating Capacity	2000 Lbs	to 65		hour		344	120.00	141.00	160.00		165.00	150.00	125.00	110.00
8543	Loader, Skid-Steer	Operating Capacity	3000 Lbs	to 85		hour		344	120.00	153.00	170.00		175.00	150.00		110.00
8392	Loader, Skid-Steer	Operating Capacity	4000 Lbs	to 94		hour		344		150.00	173.00	150.00	185.00	175.00	150.00	
8393	Loader, Wheel	Bucket Capacity	2 CY	to 105		hour		344		182.00			175.00			
8394	Loader, Wheel	Bucket Capacity	3 CY	to 152		hour		344		202.00			185.00			
8395	Loader, Wheel	Bucket Capacity	4 CY	to 200		hour		344		242.00	205.00		205.00		180.00	
8571	Loader, Wheel	Bucket Capacity	5 CY	to 250		hour		315		290.00			225.00		200.00	
8572	Loader-Backhoe, Wheel	Capacity	1 CY	to 70	Loader and Backhoe Buckets included	hour		313		182.00			175.00			
	Loader-Backhoe, Wheel	Loader Bucket Capacity	1.5 CY	to 95	Loader and Backhoe Buckets included	hour		313		193.00			185.00			
8721	Truck, Dump	Truck Capacity	4 CY			hour			50.00			90.00	105.00	100.00		
8722	Truck, Dump	Truck Capacity	10 CY	to 235		hour		413		126.00			135.00			110.00
8723	Truck, Dump	Truck Capacity	12 CY	to 255		hour		407		126.00	130.00		145.00		125.00	110.00
8780	Truck, Dump	Truck Capacity	18 CY	to 330		hour		604		168.00			165.00		145.00	
8781	Truck, Water	Tank Capacity	2500 Gal	to 175	Include pump and rear spray system	hour		613		134.00	140.00					
2123.61	Truck, Water	Tank Capacity	4000 Gal	to 250	Include pump and rear spray system	hour		607		173.00					150.00	
	Tandem Truck w/ Pup Trailer	Truck Capacity Pup Capacity	10 CY 10 CY			hour		602		162.00						
	Grapple Truck	Tandem Grapple				hour						180.00				
	Grapple Haul Truck	50 yard box				hour										
	Grapple Haul Truck	60 yard box				hour				250.00						
	Bucket and Truck	60 ft				hour				250.00			140.00			
	Bucket and Truck	30 ft				hour							125.00			
	Bucket and Truck	65 ft				hour										
	Semi Tractor w/ belly dump					hour		602		151.00	140.00					
2123.521	Semi Tractor w/ end dump					hour				151.00	140.00					
	Semi Tractor w/ side dump					hour				139.00	140.00					
2123.61	Lowboy					hour		603		336.00	250.00				250.00	
	Shouldering Machine					hour		383		207.00						

C.P. 2026-03 Equipment Rental																
Cost Code	Equipment	Specification	Capacity/ Size	HP	Notes	Unit	Labor code	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Harvestor Landscaping & Tree	Griffin Construction Co., Inc	Landstrom Brothers, LLC	Myler Construction LLC	Schwabert Landscaping	New County Excavating, LLP	WY Trucking & Coor, LLC
	Power Broom					hour				139.00			175.00			150.00
	Pneumatic - Tired Roller					hour				181.00						
	Hydroseeder	Mixed tank				hour	203			125.00			900.00	650.00	650.00	
	Hydroseeder	Mixed tank				hour	203						900.00	900.00	1,200.00	
	Turf Tractor & Tiller					hour	203	100.00		145.00			145.00	150.00		
	Small Square Bale Muncher					hour	203						275.00	350.00	300.00	
	Large Square Bale Muncher					hour	203						325.00	350.00	350.00	
	Skid Loader Attachments	Harley Rake Land Leveler			w/Skidsteer	hour	344				190.00		200.00	175.00		150.00
	Silt Fence Machine					hour				106.00			200.00	180.00	165.00	
	Silt Fence Machine					lin ft	366			1.58			7.00	6.00		
	Haul Truck					hour	204			221.00	260.00 315.00				200.00	
	Sheeps Foot					hour	396			139.00	210.00				140.00	
	Skidder					hour	385					155.00	200.00		150.00	
	65 Ton Crane					hour	304			358.00						
	Excavator with Hydraulic Hammer					hour	304			277.00			350.00		300.00	250.00
	OUTSIDE OF PROPOSAL															
	Feller Buncher					hour									375.00	
	Stamp Grader				14ch Diameter	hour							7.00			
	Chipper					hour							90.00			
	Mini Excavator				16 18" - 20" bucket	hour				100.00						
	Mini Excavator				16 Auger	hour				100.00						
	Post Pounder (Gas) Tool Only					hour				10.00						

File No. 8 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to accept the low quote from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers LLC, in the amount of \$131,600.00 for CP 2026-04 Crack Filling. Abstract is below.

CP 2026-04 Crackfilling	
Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC	\$ 131,600.00
American Pavement Solutions	\$ 133,000.00

File No. 9 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried accept the low bid from Scott Construction Inc. in the amount of \$503,789.01 for CP 2026-06 Bituminous Seal Coat. Abstract is below.

CP 2026-06 Bituminous Seal Coat	
Scott Construction, Inc	\$503,789.01
Allied Blacktop Company	\$570,294.54
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.	\$580,587.40
Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC	\$581,028.31

File No. 10 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a sign cutter from Traff Tech in the amount of \$8,475.00.

File No. 10 – Commissioner Wright moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 26-10 setting minimum salary for any officials elected in 2026. Resolution is below.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 26-10

#### MINIMUM SALARY FOR OFFICIALS ELECTED IN 2026

WHEREAS, The Houston County Board of Commissioners must set a minimum salary for any newly elected officials.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Houston County Board of Commissioners, the following minimum salaries exist for any officials elected in 2026:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
County Attorney	\$5000
County Recorder	\$5000
County Auditor/Treasurer	\$5000
County Sheriff	\$5000
County Commissioner	\$5000

File No. 10 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 26-11 opposing the proposed expansion beyond

the existing trout streams already designated, unless Houston County can be an active part of the process, be shown proper documentation for the necessity of expansion and how this could lead to additional stream miles capable of sustaining a trout population. Resolution is below.

RESOLUTION NO. 26 – 11

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS; In 2018, the Buffer Law was enacted through Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources. Due to this law the Department of Natural Resources, property owners, and County Officials followed buffer maps to protect existing streams and rivers within Houston County that were designated for fishing and recreation;

WHEREAS; the Department of Natural Resources is now proposing to expand the designated trout streams, which is approximately 37.4 additional miles upland from existing buffers;

WHEREAS Houston County Officials and Houston County landowners have received notices, which include maps, that show the proposed expansion area; the maps are hard to interpret and appear to be areas without flowing water capable of trout habitat, therefore being expanded beyond what is practical for the stated purpose, and is asking counties to enforce additional miles without input or guidance;

Now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Houston County Board of Commissioners are opposed to the proposed expansion beyond the existing trout streams already designated, unless Houston County can be an active part of the process, be shown proper documentation for the necessity of expansion and how this could lead to additional stream miles capable of sustaining a trout population.

File No. 13 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to review and approve payments. Payments are below.

**REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS**

**2026/03/17 AUDITOR WARRANTS:**

<u>VENDOR NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
DAVE SYVERSON TRUCK CENTER	252,368.07
DELTA DENTAL	7,816.80
IUOE LOCAL 49 FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS	28,475.00
MEDICA	255,236.84

MN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	2,675.15
	<u>546,571.86</u>
5 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	2,037.49
	<u><u>548,609.35</u></u>

**REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT**

**2026/03/17 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:**

<b>VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
ACEN TEK	4,719.70
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCAR	8,112.33
BOLTON & MENK INC	4,500.00
CALEDONIA/CITY OF	14,960.92
COMPUTER FORENSIC SERVICES LLC	48,301.41
ENTERPRISE FM	6,423.14
GROUNDBREAKING CONNECTIONS LLC	7,083.33
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	20,292.13
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	36,936.81
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR	14,464.64
LA CROSSE GLASS & OVERHEAD DOOR	7,696.00
MIENERGY COOPERATIVE	2,382.64
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	11,377.16
MN STATE TREASURER	3,506.50
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	2,764.78
OFFICE OF MNIT SERVICES	3,624.14
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	10,000.00
RICHARD'S SANITATION LLC	15,666.46
SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP	48,263.42
VERIZON	2,678.52
VISA	6,252.49
WELLS FARGO BANK	202,863.75
	<u>482,870.27</u>
66 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	30,804.55
	<u><u>513,674.82</u></u>

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

176,857.91

690,532.73

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming events and meetings including a Solid Waste, Bluff Country Collaborative Career Fair and Hiring Event, Workforce Development Inc., Jail/Sheriff's Office, Planning Commission, and Township Annual Meetings.

Commissioner Zehnder said the jail had been busy recently with 17 adult inmates in one day. The jail was averaging 5.9 adults per day, and had also had juveniles regularly. The jail had recently received a grant that would provide new equipment to help monitor inmates. He said staff were doing a great job at the jail.

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 9:50 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on March 24, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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

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