

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: August 4, 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 Kaita Gorsuch, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Public Health Director Jordan Knoke, Public Health Educator Bri Ceaser, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Sheriff Brian Swedberg, IT Director Andy Milde, Emergency Management Director Mark Olson, Interim Attorney Suzanne Bublitz, and Assistant County Attorney Daniel Coogan

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from July 28, 2026.

Public Comment:

None.

APPOINTMENTS

At 9:37 a.m. Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion carried unanimously to enter into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b), attorney-client privilege, to consult with the County Attorney regarding potential litigation. All the Commissioners, Interim Attorney Bublitz, Assistant Attorney Coogan, It Director Milde, Sheriff Swedberg, Emergency Management Director Olson, and Coordinator Parker attended the closed session.

At 10:21 a.m. Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion carried unanimously to return to regular session. Interim Attorney Bubnitz said they had discussed a potential lawsuit.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Accept \$1000 donation from Medica to support Elder Day/Flu vaccine Clinic. Funds will be used for door prizes and refreshments.
- 2) Accept \$1000 donation from BlueCross BlueShield to support Elder Day/Flu vaccine Clinic. Funds will be used for door prizes and refreshments.
- 3) Accept resignation from Tammy Klinski effective August 12th, 2026 with thanks for her for 1.5 years of service.
- 4) Review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS

2026/08/04 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
CLEAN HARBORS ENV SERVICES	6,465.90
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	5,332.65
DELTA DENTAL	7,992.10
FREEDOM AUTO LLC	3,660.99
GROUND BREAKING CONNECTIONS LLC	7,083.33
IUOE LOCAL 49 FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS	28,475.00
MEDICA	269,699.42
MILESTONE MATERIALS	2,805.95
MINNOWA CONSTRUCTION INC	6,152.35
MN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	2,500.82
MORRIE'S ONALASKA CHEVROLET	2,070.74
SCHNEIDER CORPORATION/THE	3,256.80
	345,496.05
26 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	10,454.61
	355,950.66
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	22897.46
	378,848.12

ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 26-20 to approve the Certificate of Final Acceptance for SAP 028-599-101, the Oakland bridge project constructed by Minnowa Construction. The total contract was \$615,234.68. Resolution is below.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-20

FINAL ACCEPTANCE FOR SAP 028-599-101 OAKLAND DRIVE BRIDGE CONTRACT # 5165

FAHRNER ASPHALT SEALERS, LLC

AUGUST 4, 2026

WHEREAS, Contract No. 5165, SAP 028-599-101, Oakland Drive Bridge, has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises,

NOW, THEN BE IT RESOLVED, That we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Houston and authorize final payment as specified herein.

File No. 2 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve airport lease agreements for Ryan Kerr and the Red Barons. Engineer Pogodzinski said the airport t-hanger project would be completed soon.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coordinator Parker said he had attended a meeting with Dairyland Power regarding the proposed 765 kV transmission line project in Houston County along with Engineer Pogodzinski and Commissioners Wright and Myhre. The meeting was a technical meeting. Dairyland Power said they had briefly looked into other options, but they wanted to keep the proposed new line in the existing corridor. The County had asked about the possibility of burying the line and had been told by Dairyland that it was not technically feasible to do so. Dairyland would be filing a route permit in the fall of 2026 with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and the PUC would decide if the project would move forward. At that time an environmental impact statement would be provided. Engineer Pogodzinski said Dairyland had asked about possible future projects at the airport that could impact the line. Dairyland had also met with the FAA. He said they would be crossing 8 County roads and 10 township roads. They would be sending the County a list of roadways. There would be approximately 150-200 towers in the County if the project moved forward. Dairyland was anticipating a decision from the PUC in Quarter 1 of 2028. In 2029 they

would be requesting permits if the project was approved by the PUC. Commissioner Wright said under current Minnesota law, public utility providers had a legal right to access public rights-of-way and local easements to install infrastructure for major utility expansions approve by the PUC. Counties and townships did not have the power to ban utility lines but did have legal authority to regulate how the installation occurred to protect local infrastructure and public safety.

EDA Director & Coordinator Support Wagner said she had received a call from one of the townships regarding the resolution the County had passed opposing the proposed 765kV “Gopher to Badger Link” Transmission Project within Houston County. There had been some confusion regarding the resolution. Wagner said she had told the township officer the County could email the resolution that had been adopted. Townships were welcome to use the resolution as a guide or adapt it as they saw fit if they wished to use it. Wagner had also told the township officer that Counties and townships did not have the authority to ban utility lines but did have the authority to regulate how the installation occurred to protect local infrastructure and public safety. Commissioner Wright said the response the County received to the resolution should also be shared with townships.

Coordinator Parker said he had attended an AMC Modernization Committee meeting the week prior.

Commissioner Myhre said National Night Out would take place that evening.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including an ECB, Semcac Orientation, Community Health, and One Watershed meeting.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m. The next meeting would be a workgroup session on August 11th, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Brent Parker, Coordinator