

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: July 28, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present: Cindy Wright, Eric Johnson, Kurt Zehnder (joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.), 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, Houston County Historical Society President Jenene Hosch, and Houston County Historical Society Treasurer Deb Wray

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for former Commissioner Bob Burns.

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

Commissioner Wright said there were a couple typos that needed to be updated in the previous minutes under file No. 3. Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from July 21, 2026 with the corrections.

Public Comment:

None.

APPOINTMENTS

Houston County Historical Society President Jenene Hoch and Treasurer Deb Wray presented the Historical Society's projected budget from October 1, 2026-September 30, 2026 to the Commissioners. The total expenses were expected to be \$87,065. Houston County typically levied \$42,500 to go to the Historical Society. The Historical Society raised the rest of the funds through memberships, memorials, donations, and rummage sales. The Historical Society was considering changing their fiscal year and this would be presented to their board in November.

Wray said in the next three to five years most of their buildings would need maintenance repairs. Insurance costs were also going up. The Historical Society hosted events. People were encouraged to become members. They were working to improve relations with the fair board and would soon be included in some of the fair advertisements on the fair website as buildings would be open to the public during the Houston County Fair. The Board of Commissioners thanked the Houston County Historical Society for all their work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Myhre asked about consent agenda item No. 2: approving a competitive search for 1 FTE Environmental Services / Surveyor Technician (B22). An open position in the Environmental Services office had been filled recently by an internal candidate. This had created another open position in the Environmental Services office. The open position was evaluated. The surveyor technician duties had been added to the open position as there had been a recent retirement in the surveyor's office that would not be replaced. The Environmental Services / Surveyor Technician duties had been combined. Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion carried four to one to approve the consent agenda. All Commissioners voted yes except for Commissioner Myhre who voted no. Approved items are below.

- 1) Approve a competitive search for 1 FTE Community Health Worker (B22).
- 2) Approve a competitive search for 1 FTE Environmental Services / Surveyor Technician (B22).
- 3) Review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS

2026/07/28 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
BKC CONSTRUCTION LLC	546,721.90
BLUFF COUNTRY BRINE LLC	8,586.60
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS INC	228,857.71
CALEDONIA/CITY OF	2,228.12
COMPUTER FORENSIC SERVICES LLC	48,301.41
DUNN BLACKTOP COMPANY	3,579,530.69
HOKAH CO-OP OIL ASSN	7,651.24
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	13,502.88
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR	7,836.55
MILESTONE MATERIALS	4,200.90
	4,447,418.00
17 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	10,083.21

	4,457,501.21
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	20,865.33
	<u>4,478,366.54</u>

REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS

2026/07/16 AUDITOR WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	<u>10,436.32</u>
	10,436.32
2 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	<u>427.35</u>
	<u>10,863.67</u>

REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS

2026/07/22 AUDITOR WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
UBIQUITI	<u>6,852.89</u>
	<u>6,852.89</u>

ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Commissioners discussed selecting two members of the County board to be appointed to the County Canvassing Board for the State Primary Election to be held on August 11, 2026 with Interim Auditor/Treasurer Heberlein. Board members appointed to the canvassing board could not be candidates at the election per *MN 204C.31. subd 1*. The canvassing meeting would be scheduled for August 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner’s room. Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion carried to appoint Commissioner Zehnder and Commissioner Wright to the County Canvassing Board. Commissioners Wright, Zehnder, and Myhre voted yes. Commissioners Johnson and Schuldt abstained as they would be candidates in the election.

File No. 2 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve an amendment that extended the contract for Medical Examiner services starting in 2027.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coordinator Parker said there had been a department head meeting the day prior. He was working individually with departments on capital improvement plans. Department Heads were also working on strategic planning. Coordinator Parker wished Commissioner Myhre a Happy Birthday.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including a Department Head, Semcac, and Finance meeting.

Commissioner Wright said she had been speaking with Dr. W. Ben Johnson who had concerns with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and proposed 765kV transmission line that was being proposed in Houston County. Wright said Dr. Johnson had concerns about recent PUC process changes and the safety of the line. Commissioner Wright was frustrated with the response the County had received after submitting a resolution opposing the 765kV transmission line. She too had safety concerns.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on August 4th, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Brent Parker, Coordinator