

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: June 2, 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 Wanda Hanson, The Caledonia Argus Associate Editor Kaita Gorsuch, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Attorney Suzanne Bublitz, John Haines, Steve Breuer, Tom Ready, Tim Runningen, and Clayton Johnson

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 Wright, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from May 26, 2026.

Public Comment:

Clayton Johnson from Black Hammer Township said he had a question about Ordinance 18 that was recently passed. He said under enforcement the Houston County Sheriff was listed to enforce the ordinance but not the DNR. Johnson said other counties with similar ordinances had followed the same format and had listed the DNR. Johnson said he just wanted to make sure the DNR would enforce Houston County's shotgun only rule for deer hunting. Coordinator Parker said the Sheriff could charge people in violation under the County Ordinance, while the DNR could charge under State statute.

APPOINTMENTS

Sheriff Swedberg recognized the 47 years Carrie O'Heron had served at the Houston County Sheriff's Office. He said she was very dedicated to her job and came every day with a good attitude. The County was happy for her as she would be retiring, but she would be greatly missed.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), President and CEO, Benya Kraus gave a presentation to the board. Kraus introduced herself to the board saying she had recently become SMIF's President and CEO after Tim Penny retired after many years. She said she knew she had big shoes to fill, but was up for the challenge. SMIF was celebrating their 40 year anniversary in 2026. 40 years prior the organization had been founded in the midst of the farm crisis, and had supported rural communities ever since. SMIF was a regional development and philanthropic organization that fostered economic and community vitality in 20 counties of Southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership. Kraus thanked Houston County for their support and said SMIF was supported by each of the 20 counties it served. She said in rural communities it took one in every six residents to wear a community hat. Kraus said SMIF had put 8 million dollars back into the region recently, and almost \$200,000 in Houston County in the last few years. Kraus said SMIF had a focus both on entrepreneurship and childcare in rural communities. She said both Spring Grove and Caledonia had participated in SMIF's REV program. SMIF had an Acres for Good program that was a farmland succession program. The Commissioners thanked Kraus for SMIF's work and for introducing herself to the board. They congratulated and welcomed her on her new position with SMIF.

Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subdivision 2 (b), to discuss preliminary allegations and private personnel data related to an employee grievance. The Commissioners, Coordinator Parker, Attorney Bublitz, and LELS 60 Union Business Agent Rick Mathis, attended the closed session.

Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Zehnder seconded, motion unanimously carried to come out of closed session and return to regular session at 10:29 a.m. Coordinator Parker gave a summary of the closed session saying they had discussed preliminary allegations and private personnel data related to an employee grievance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1) Change the employment status of Kelly Zielinski, Collections Officer, from probationary to regular, effective June 1, 2026.
- 2) Hire Arland Sears as a 67-day temporary/casual Drop Site Supervisor, at a pay rate of \$18.11 per hour.
- 3) Accept Resignation of Patricia Goetzinger – Krall effective June 2nd, 2026, with thanks for her 1 year and 10 months of service.
- 4) Review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS

2026/05/15 AUDITOR WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	74,581.58
SCHUMACHER'S NURSERY	2,553.50
VISA	12,176.48
WINONA COUNTY SWCD	25,487.14
	<u>114,798.70</u>
14 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	4,745.35
	<u><u>119,544.05</u></u>

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS**2026/05/26 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:**

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
CLEAN HARBORS ENV SERVICES	4,435.59
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY COMPANY	8,516.40
CRESCENT INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES	3,393.95
FAHRNER ASPHALT SEALERS LLC	6,544.92
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES	2,133.08
WINONA CONTROLS INC	2,079.04
	<u>27,102.98</u>
25 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	10,237.01
	<u><u>37,339.99</u></u>

ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 26-16 for Final Acceptance for CP 2026-04 Crack fill for Fahrner Asphalt Sealer's LLC. Resolution is below.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-16

**FINAL ACCEPTANCE FOR CP 2026-04
CRACK FILL
CONTRACT # 086**

FAHRNER ASPHALT SEALERS, LLC

MAY 26, 2026

WHEREAS, Contract No. 086, CP 2026-04 Crackfill, 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 Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the change order for La Crosse Glass and Overheard Door for the west entrance door. Upon further examination of the existing entrance it was discovered that the current system above the entrance was failing and replacement was recommended. Engineer Pogodzinski said Coordinator Parker and Attorney Bublitz had discussed the matter with him and it was recommended to replace the entire system instead of just the doors for liability purposes as there were safety concerns due to potential future failure of the system. Therefore, the change order had been requested. The final amount to be added to the original proposal would be \$33,081 and although this had not been budgeted there was money in the capital improvement fund for the additional work.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coordinator Parker said there was an upcoming Joint Board of Health meeting that day. He said the County was working on the County Facebook account and would be putting more notices and information on Facebook.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including an Airport, Finance, ECB, Airport, SMART Trails, and SELCO meeting.

Commissioner Wright said she had met with the new La Crescent City administrator.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Schuldt, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on June 2, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Brent Parker, Coordinator