

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Government Center
Anoka, Minnesota

March 10, 2026

Chair Schulte called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and called for participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	District #1	John Heinrich
	District #2	Julie Braastad
	District #3	Jeff Reinert
	District #4	Scott Schulte
	District #5	Mike Gamache
	District #6	Julie Jeppson
	District #7	Mandy Meisner

Others Present: Jim Dickinson, County Administrator; Bryan Frantz, Assistant County Attorney; staff, other governmental officials, and citizens

Commissioner Braastad made motion accepting the regular claims paid over \$500 for the periods ending January 23, 2026, February 6, 2026, and February 20, 2026, and purchase-card claims paid for the periods ending January 23, 2026, February 6, 2026, and February 20, 2026. (Claims are on file in the County Administration Office.) Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jeppson made motion approving the minutes from the February 17, 2026, Anoka County board meeting. Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Haven for Heroes Co-Director Bart Ward provided background information and an update on the organization's progress. He also expressed appreciation to local businesses and volunteers for their generous contributions and donations that have helped make the project successful. Ellen Ward added further details about the many volunteers involved and the significant impact of their efforts.

Commissioner Schulte recognized and thanked Senator Jim Abeler and his wife, Barb, for their dedication and support in advancing the project. He also extended his gratitude to all who have served and to those who continue working to strengthen and improve Haven for Heroes.

Lt. James Schilling was honored for receiving the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Supervisor of the Year Award, recognizing his extraordinary leadership, cooperation, and service during one of Anoka County's largest and most complex investigations. The award stems from Lieutenant Schilling's leadership during the joint investigation into the disappearance of Manny Collins. His efforts ultimately helped locate the remains, bringing long-awaited closure to the victim's mother.

Commissioner Meisner made motion approving the following Management Committee of the Whole recommendation from the meeting of February 17, 2026:

Consent

1. Renewing the Workday Human Resources Management System (HRMS) module under Master Services Agreement #SCON26-00000205 in the amount of \$4,355,294.00 for a seven-year period through March 22, 2033.

Commissioner Heinrich seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

* * * * *

Commissioner Reinert made motion approving the following Transportation/Parks Committee of the Whole recommendations from the meeting of March 3, 2026:

Consent

1. Contract #SCON26-00000930, in the amount of \$767,802.75, to JL Theis, Inc., for Project SAP 002-632-022.
2. Contract #SCON26-00000895, a Professional Services Contract with TKDA for construction administration services for Project SAP 002-602-014 in the amount of \$88,600.00.
3. Contract #SCON26-00000896, a Professional Services Contract with TKDA, for construction administration services for Project SAP 002-606-015 in the amount of \$130,200.00.

Commissioner Gamache seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

* *

Commissioner Schulte offered the following resolution and made motion approving the following Transportation/Parks Committee of the Whole recommendation from the meeting of March 3, 2026:

Action

4. **Resolution #2026-25:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION
OF VAN BUREN STREET FOR THE ANOKA COUNTY JAIL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Anoka County (“the County”) has a critical public need to reconstruct its jail facility and its parking ramp located in downtown Anoka on county-owned land, which requires utilizing a portion of Van Buren Street (collectively, the “Jail Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the County owns the land on both sides of Van Buren Street between Third and Fourth Avenues, and the Jail Project requires a larger footprint than the current facility, making it necessary to incorporate Van Buren Street to meet Department of Corrections standards, support increased capacity, ensure safe inmate movement, and maintain efficient operations; and,

WHEREAS, the segment of Van Buren Street, legally described in Exhibit A and depicted in Exhibit B, is necessary for completion of the Jail Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners has been advised by staff of the need to secure land rights for the Jail Project as soon as possible due to zoning delays caused by the City of Anoka and the imminent, deteriorating condition of the existing jail facility and parking ramp; and,

WHEREAS, to begin construction of the Jail Project, the County will require title and possession of the segment of Van Buren Street legally described in Exhibit A, pursuant to Minnesota’s Quick Take process under the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 117.042; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Anoka adopted Resolution 2024-058 on August 5, 2024, which formally opposed both the Jail Project and the vacation of Van Buren Street, making any County petition to vacate the street futile:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby authorizes the County Attorney’s Office to proceed to acquire the identified segment of Van Buren Street deemed necessary for the Jail Project, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and applicable case law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the acquisition of the public street described above by eminent domain, as the street cannot be obtained through negotiation or vacation, thereby requiring the County to take title and possession prior to the filing of the commissioners’ award pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 117.011 and 117.042.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Attorney is requested to file the necessary petition for this acquisition and to prosecute such action to a successful conclusion unless or until it is abandoned, dismissed, or terminated by the County or the Court.

Upon roll call vote following discussion, Commissioners Gamache, Jeppson, Meisner, Braastad, and Schulte voted “yes.” Commissioners Heinrich and Reinert voted “no.” Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

* * * * *

Commissioner Schulte made motion approving the Anoka County Board of Commissioners Operating Procedures and Guidelines. Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote following discussion, Commissioners Gamache, Jeppson, Meisner, and Schulte voted "yes." Commissioners Braastad and Reinert voted "no." Commissioner Heinrich abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Heinrich made motion approving the following relating to appropriations for 2026 Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances:

1. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 375.35, Anoka County appropriates \$250 to each post of a recognized military service person's organization or society organized, holding charter from Congress or incorporated in this state, for the purpose of defraying Memorial Day and Veterans Day exercise expenses, held within Anoka County, provided a written request is submitted to County Administration by December 31, 2026.
2. Appropriating, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 375.34, up to \$3,500 to the Anoka County Veterans Council to aid in the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Commissioner Braastad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reinert made motion appointing Dale Stoesz, representing District #3, to the Library Advisory Board, as recommended by Commissioner Reinert, for a three-year term expiring January 2029. Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The county board meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

ATTEST: **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

By: _____
Jim Dickinson
County Administrator

By: _____
Scott Schulte, its Chair

*Motion carried means all commissioners in attendance voted affirmatively unless otherwise noted.
All contracts are subject to review by the attorney's office and are on file in the respective departments.
Resolutions are declared adopted unless otherwise noted and exhibits are on file in the County Administration Office.*