

# ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES

Government Center  
Anoka, Minnesota

September 12, 2023

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

Present:	District #1	Matt Look
	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: Rhonda Sivarajah, County Administrator; Brad Johnson, County Attorney; staff, and citizens

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Commissioner Braastad made motion granting reductions of valuation and/or abatements of taxes, special assessments, costs, penalties and/or interest as requested and approved by the county assessor, county auditor and/or county treasurer. (A full text of persons receiving tax abatements is on file and available for public inspection in the County Administration Office.) Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Schulte made motion accepting the regular claims paid over \$500 for the period ending August 25, 2023, and purchase-card claims paid for the period ending August 25, 2023. (Claims are on file in the County Administration Office.) Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Schulte made motion approving the minutes from the August 22, 2023, Anoka County board meeting. Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Braastad presented the Transportation Committee report from the meeting of August 23, 2023.

1. Commissioner Jeppson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

### RESOLUTION #2023-99

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF A HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAT FOR PROJECT SAP 002-617-028

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 160.085, subd. 1, provides that "In order to facilitate the acquisition of right-of-way required for highways, state and county road authorities may file for record in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, in the county in which right-of-way is to be acquired, such orders or resolutions, as required by law, in the form of maps or plats showing the right-of-way by course distance, bearing and arc length and other rights or interests in the land to be acquired as the road authority determines necessary"; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Highway Department proposes to construct improvements at the intersection of CSAH 17 (Lexington Avenue NE) and 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE in the city of Blaine, which

project is numbered SAP 002-617-028 (the "Project"); and which would necessitate the acquisition of additional lands, easements, and other property interests ("Right-of-Way"); and,

WHEREAS, the Right-of-Way necessary for the Project is more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, the county engineer deems it necessary to proceed with the preparation of a highway right-of-way plat to facilitate the acquisition of the Right-of-Way necessary to construct the Project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby authorizes the county engineer to have the required survey work conducted and performed, and a plat prepared to facilitate the acquisition of the Right-of-Way necessary for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county engineer is hereby authorized to charge the cost of the survey work, incidental to the platting process, to the County Road and Bridge Account.

(Exhibit A is on file in the County Administration Office.)

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

2. Commissioners Reinert and Jeppson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-100**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR  
ANOKA COUNTY HIGHWAY PROJECT SAP 002-617-028**

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Highway Department proposes to construct improvements at the intersection of CSAH 17 (Lexington Avenue NE) and 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE in the city of Blaine, which project is numbered SAP 002-617-028 (the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, the Project work consists of adding a new traffic control signal system, geometric improvements, and ADA pedestrian accommodations at the intersection of Lexington Avenue NE and 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the existing easements, certain lands and property interests, including temporary construction easements ("Right-of-Way") are required to construct the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Right-of-Way necessary for the Project is more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners was advised by Highway Department staff of the need to begin construction of the Project in the spring of 2024; and,

WHEREAS, to begin construction of the Project in the spring of 2024, Anoka County will require title and possession of the Right-of-Way prior to the filing of an award by the court appointed commissioners pursuant to Minnesota's Quick Take process, under the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 117.042:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby authorizes the county engineer to proceed to acquire the Right-of-Way deemed necessary for the Project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the acquisition of Right-of-Way, as described above that cannot be successfully acquired through negotiation, by eminent domain to enable the county to take title and possession of such lands prior to the filing of an award by the court-appointed commissioners, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 117.011, 117.042, and 163.02, subd. 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Attorney is requested to file the necessary petition and to prosecute such action to a successful conclusion or until it is abandoned, dismissed, or terminated by the county or the court.

(Exhibit A is on file in the County Administration Office.)

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

3. Commissioner Schulte offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-101**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT  
ANOKA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
TITLE VI PLAN**

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 200d); and,

WHEREAS, additionally, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified Title VI enforcement by mandating that Title VI requirements apply to *all* programs and activities of federal-aid recipients regardless of whether any particular program or activity involves federal funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Highway Department, as a subrecipient of federal financial assistance, has developed a Title VI plan specific to transportation and highway activities, to ensure full compliance with Title VI laws, related statutes, and regulations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby approves and adopts the Anoka County Highway Department Title VI Plan (the "Plan"), subject to review as to form by the Anoka County Attorney's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and county administrator are authorized to sign all documents necessary to approve and adopt the Plan, which will remain on file at the Highway Department, County Administration Department, and will be publicly posted and available upon adoption.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Chief Officer of the Transportation Division/Anoka County Engineer, or his designee(s), are hereby authorized to establish procedures to ensure Title VI compliance, appoint a Title VI Coordinator, update the Plan as needed, and to execute the U.S. DOT Assurances associated with Title VI, or other compliance documents, for as long as the Plan remains in effect.

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

4. Commissioner Schulte offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-102**

**LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
SAP 002-618-034  
(CONTRACT #C0010210)**

WHEREAS, Anoka County has applied to the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund related to Bridge No.02J57; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and,

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$2,497,777.41 by reason of the lowest responsible bid:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project, but not required. The proper county officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any

amendments thereto with the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

(Contract is on file in the Highway Department.)

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

5. Commissioner Reinert made motion approving Contract #C0010219 with Great River Energy (GRE) for utility relocation on Project SP 002-614-049, the construction of a roundabout at CSAH 14 (125th Avenue NE/Main Street) and CR 53 (Sunset Avenue) in the cities of Blaine and Lino Lakes, subject to review by the county attorney as to form and legality. (Contract is on file in the Highway Department.) Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
6. Commissioner Meisner made motion approving Contract #C00010241, a Professional Services Agreement with TKDA for design services for Project SP 002-602-015, pedestrian improvements on CSAH 2 (44th Avenue) from CSAH 1 (East River Road) to Main Street, and the replacement of the reinforced concrete deck on Bridge #02523 over the BNSF Railway in the city of Fridley, subject to review by the county attorney as to form and legality. (Contract is on file in the Highway Department.) Commissioner Gamache seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
7. Commissioner Schulte made motion awarding Contract #C0010234 in the amount of \$994,964.25, to New Look Contracting, Inc., for Projects SAP 002-601-063, intersection improvements on CSAH 1 (Coon Rapids Boulevard) at Xavis Street, and SAP 002-601-064, intersection improvements at Coon Rapids Boulevard at CSAH 18 (Crooked Lake Boulevard), in the city of Coon Rapids, subject to review by the county attorney as to form and legality. (Contract is on file in the Highway Department.) Commissioner Gamache seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
8. Commissioner Reinert made motion approving the Preliminary Plat of DELLWOOD COUNTRY ESTATES, located in Section 7, Township 33, Range 22, Linwood Township. Lee & Verna Hennen are the owners and Civil Methods, Inc. is the developer. Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Commissioner Reinert made motion approving the Final Plat of DELLWOOD COUNTRY ESTATES, located in Section 7, Township 33, Range 22, Linwood Township. Lee and Verna Hennen are the owners and Civil Methods Inc. is the developer. Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Commissioner Reinert made motion approving the Preliminary Plat of CLIFFS PETERSON RIDGE, located in Section 19, Township 33, Range 22, Linwood Township. Sherco Construction is the owner and developer. Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Commissioner Reinert made motion approving the Final Plat of CLIFFS PETERSON RIDGE, located in Section 19, Township 33, Range 22, Linwood Township. Sherco Construction is the owner and developer. Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Braastad presented the Transportation Committee Chair report.

1. Commissioner Look offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-103**

**ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT NO. 1054744  
WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FOR FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION  
FOR PROJECT SP 002-596-026  
(CONTRACT #C0010263)**

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota (“MnDOT”) and Anoka County (“County”) are partnering in the design of the expansion/reconstruction of US Highway 10/169 at CSAH 56 (Ramsey Boulevard) and CSAH 57 (Sunfish Lake Boulevard), along with associated corridor improvements including a frontage road, backage road improvements, and separated BNSF railway crossing (“Project”) at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard in the cities of Ramsey and Anoka; and,

WHEREAS, the County and MnDOT are entering into an agreement which allows MnDOT to act as the County's agent in accepting federal aid in connection with the above-referenced Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Project is eligible for the expenditure of federal aid funds programmed in the federally approved State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the fiscal years 2023 and 2024, identified in MnDOT records as State Project 002-596-026, and in Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") records as Minnesota Project NHFP-STBG 0010(340); and,

WHEREAS, the County desires to proceed with the construction of the project in advance of the year it is programmed for the federal funds, in conformance with the terms outlined in Agreement No. 1054744:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, does hereby agree that, pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation shall be appointed as agent of Anoka County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anoka County board chair and county administrator are authorized and directed for and on behalf of the County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1054744", a copy of which said agreement was before the county board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

(Contract is on file in the Highway Department.)

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

2. Commissioner Gamache made motion approving Contract #C0009805, a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Andover, for Project SAP 002-609-022, reconstruction of CSAH 9 (Round Lake Boulevard) between 149th Lane NW and 157th Avenue NW, in the city of Andover, subject to review by the county attorney as to form and legality. (Contract is on file in the Highway Department.) Commissioner Schulte seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
3. Commissioner Gamache made motion authorizing the county engineer to advertise for bids for Project SP 002-622-041, intersection improvements at CSAH 22 (Viking Boulevard) and CSAH 7 (Rum River Boulevard), in the city of Oak Grove. Commissioner Braastad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Commissioner Gamache made motion authorizing the county engineer to advertise for bids for Project SAP 002-622-042, construction of highway improvements on CSAH 22 (Viking Boulevard) between TH 47 and CSAH 7 (Rum River Boulevard), in the cities of Nowthen and Oak Grove. Commissioner Braastad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Commissioner Reinert made motion authorizing the county engineer to advertise for bids for Project SP 002-649-003, intersection improvements at CSAH 49 (Hodgson Road) and Anoka County CSAH 32/Ramsey County CSAH 1 (County Road J/Ash Street West), in the cities of Lino Lakes and Shoreview. Commissioner Gamache seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Schulte presented the Benefits and Compensation Committee report from the September 5, 2023, meeting.

1. Commissioner Schulte made motion approving the following for 30-hour or more per week benefit eligible positions, non-union and union employees:
  - A. The self-insured health insurance rates and county contributions.
  - B. The health reimbursement account county contributions of \$1,000 for single and \$2,000 for family.

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

2. Commissioner Meisner made motion approving Contract #C0010257, the proposed dental insurance package with Health Partners for 30-hour or more per week benefit eligible positions, non-union and union employees, starting on January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, subject to review by the

county attorney as to form and legality. (Contract is on file in the Risk Management Department.)  
Commissioner Jeppson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

3. Commissioner Schulte made motion approving the following for 2024 Retiree Medicare Supplemental Insurance health and prescription coverage:

- A. Renewing Contract #C0008079 with Blue Cross Blue Shield Group Medicare Advantage as described beginning January 1, 2024, with the offered not to exceed rates.
- B. Providing the county contribution as calculated in the Anoka County Personnel Rules and Regulations.

(Contract is on file in the Risk Management Department.)

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

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Commissioner Reinert presented the Intergovernmental and Community Relations Committee report from the meeting of August 23 , 2023. All items were of an informational nature and required no board action.

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Commissioner Gamache presented the Parks Committee report from the meeting of September 5, 2023.

1. Commissioner Jeppson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-104**

**ACCEPTING GIFT FROM THE LAKE GEORGE CONSERVATION CLUB**

WHEREAS, the Lake George Conservation Club donated a gift of \$500 to the Anoka County Parks Department; and,

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat 465.03 requires the county to accept gifts by resolution expressed in terms prescribed by the donor:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, does hereby accept the gift of money from the Lake George Conservation Club.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to the Lake George Conservation for its generous and valued donation to the Parks Department.

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

2. Commissioner Look offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2023-105**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR  
CITY OF ANOKA'S RUM RIVER DAM MODIFICATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Anoka recently received \$500,000 from the State of Minnesota (State Bonds) to conduct a feasibility study on the Rum River Dam structures; including design, engineering, and environmental analysis; and,

WHEREAS, the feasibility study will explore proposed dam modifications which may include operation and safety improvements, hydroelectric power generation, river surfing, lock portage system, and fish passage (collectively the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the city benefits anticipated from the Project, Anoka County and the general public would also benefit from a modified dam in providing more precise water level management in the recreation pool (automated crest gates), better flood control, reduced riverbank erosion, and enhanced angling opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the current projected cost of the Project is estimated to be \$11.95 million for all improvements; and,

WHEREAS, local city representatives contacted county staff to allow the county an opportunity to comment on the proposed modification plans and to confirm its support for the Project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, does hereby support the City of Anoka's Rum River Dam Modification Project and all improvements and upgrades related thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the City of Anoka.

Motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

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The county board meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ATTEST:

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Sivarajah  
County Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Look, its Chair

*Motion carried means all commissioners in attendance voted affirmatively unless otherwise noted.*