CARVER COUNTY minnesota

Carver County Board of Commissioners
October 22, 2024
Special Session

The County Board Room is open to the public

The Regular Session portion of the meeting will be webcast live at:
https://youtube.com/@CarverCountyMN

9:00 a.m. 1. **CONVENE**

1.1. Pledge of allegiance

1.2. Public comments that relate to an item on the agenda may be heard when that agenda item is discussed. Please limit your public comments to five minutes or less.

Individuals unable to attend in person can provide public comments by email at admin-contact@carvercountymn.gov

1.3. Agenda review and adoption

1.4. Approve October 15, 2024 minutes 4-6

1.5. Community Announcements

9:20 a.m. **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1. Memorandum of Agreement with MNPEA Deputy Sheriffs - 2025 Health Insurance Benefits 7-8

2.2. Review Health & Human Services and Commissioner Warrants

9:25 a.m. **3. REGULAR SESSION**

3.1. Award of Construction Contract for the Highway 18 Project - Arboretum Area 9-12

9:45 a.m. 4. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

9:50 a.m. 5. **ADJOURN SPECIAL SESSION AND GO INTO WORK SESSION**

9:50 a.m. 6. **WORK SESSION**

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 22, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Special Session & Work Session
	11:30 a.m.	Employee Appreciation Lunch
	1:00 p.m.	Retiree and Years of Service Recognition
October 29, 2024		No Board Meeting
November 5, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
November 12, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Tentative Ditch Redetermination of Benefits Public Hearing
November 19, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
November 26, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Board Work Session
December 3, 2024	8:00 a.m.	Farewell for Commissioner Degler
December 3, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
December 10, 2024		No Board Meeting
December 17, 2024	7:30 a.m.	Legislative Breakfast (tentative)
	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting (tentative time change)
December 24, 2024		No Board Meeting
December 31, 2024		No Board Meeting

Carver County
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 15, 2024

A Regular Session of the Carver County Board of Commissioners was held in the County Government Center, Chaska, on October 15, 2024. Chair Gayle Degler convened the session at 09:03 AM.

Members present: Gayle Degler, Chair, John P. Fahey, Vice Chair, Tim Lynch, Matthew Udermann, Tom Workman

Under Public Comment, Monique Lacroix, 10615 Poppitz Ln Chaska, MN, spoke about working as an election judge and on how accurate and safe elections are in Carver County. Lacroix would like to raise trust in voters in the security and accuracy of the election process in MN. A copy of Ms. Lacroix's comments can be obtained by contacting Carver County Administration.

Matthew Udermann moved, Tom Workman seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Tim Lynch moved, John P. Fahey seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024, Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

John Fahey moved, Matthew Udermann seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items:

Approved a joint powers agreement with the City of Victoria for the Highway 11-14 Project

Approved the request that Carver County Board allow the Sheriff's Office to accept donation from Kwik Trip.

Approved a professional services agreement with Avicado Consulting Services for Procore implementation support, pending approval by the county attorney's and Risk Manager's offices.

Approved a tobacco license to TK 7888 LLC DBA Tobacco King.

Approved motion to contract with Michel Masonry Construction Inc for the repair of a trench drain in building D of Public Works Headquarters pending the contract review process.

Approved a two-year Professional Service Agreement with Mi C.A.S.A. for an amount not to exceed $200,000 to serve as program manager and implement the "Carver y Scott Unidos" (Carver and Scott United) project, pending approval through the internal contract review process.

Approved the contract with Seiche, LLC, through 08/31/2025 with a not-to-exceed amount of $30k to provide strategic communications planning and materials for Carver County Public Health.

Approved liquor licenses renewals for Hollywood Sports Complex, B's on the River, Sovereign Estate Wine, Parley Lake Winery, Timber Creek Golf Course, Schram Vineyards, Vandy's Grille, Sticks Tavern & Trails End Event Center and Luceline Orchard. Board approval is subject to the receipt of all required paperwork, licensing fee paid, and all delinquent taxes paid.

Approved the contractual agreement between Carver County and the 106 Group for the amount of $50,000 to conduct a historical & cultural resources interpretive plan for Coney Island of the West pending the completion of the contract review process.

Approved a Professional Services Agreement with Schneider Excavating and Grading, Inc. pending finalization of the contract review process.

Adopted resolution 91-24 to approve right of way acquisition settlements for the Highway 18 Project - Arboretum Area for the properties located at PID #'s 30.0170700 and 65.0910030.

Adopted resolution 89-24 and resolution 90-24 approving the Local Road Improvement Program Grant Agreement Grant Terms and Conditions for State General Funds and State General Obligation Bonds

Approved the 1 Day to 4 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License application for the Chaska Rotary Club for Saturday, November 09, 2024. Board approval is subject to the receipt of all required paperwork, licensing fees paid, and all delinquent taxes paid.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Lynch abstaining due to personal reasons.

Paul Moline, Deputy Division Director - Public Services, spoke about the Metropolitan Council's Imagine 2050 Policy Plan. The draft that was released includes vision, goals, and policy direction for land use, housing, transportation, water resources, and regional parks. The guide will shape how this region grows in the next 30 years and will inform the contents of local 2050 comprehensive plans for Carver County including the cities & townships. It was noted that Carver County believes the forecasted population is lower than expected.

Commissioners Degler and Workman expressed concerns with the Met Council responding to Carver County concerns and their predictions.

Tom Workman moved, Matthew Udermann seconded, to approve a motion to affirm the staff comments and for the Board Chair to sign the attached letter to the Metropolitan Council regarding Imagine 2050. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tim Lynch moved, John P. Fahey seconded, to recess as the County Board and convene as the Carver County Ditch Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Frischmon, Ditch Administrator addressed the board in regards from switching County Ditches 5 and 7 to Joint Ditches. These ditches are in the process of redetermination of benefits and it was discovered that CD 5 has under 1% in McLeod and CD 7 has under 5% in McLeod making them joint ditches with 1 McLeod and 4 Carver County Commissioners on each Joint Ditch.

John P. Fahey moved, Matthew Udermann seconded, to adopt the resolution creating a Joint Ditch Authority with Mcleod County for Carver CD 5. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Tim Lynch moved, John P. Fahey seconded, to adopt the resolution creating a Joint Ditch Authority with Mcleod County for Carver CD 7. Motion Carried Unanimously.

John P. Fahey moved, Tim Lynch seconded, to adjourn as Carver County Ditch Authority and convene as the Carver County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Hemze, County Administrator, reminded everyone that next week is a special session and also next week is employee appreciation week and the Retiree and Years of Service Recognition Event. Mr. Hemze thanked the employee relations team and everyone that helped for all the hard work they put into this event.

Tom Workman moved, Matthew Udermann seconded, to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:58 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

David Hemze

County Administrator

ATTEST:______________________________ ____________________________

County Administrator Chair

Item Number: 2.1.

Carver County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action

Agenda Item Name:	Memorandum of Agreement with MNPEA Deputy Sheriffs - 2025 Health Insurance Benefits
Department:	Employee Relations
Contact:	Kerie Anderka, Employee Relations Division Director, 952-361-1570
Presenter:	
Contract Name & Number:	
Meeting Date:	October 22, 2024
Item Type:	Consent

Strategic Initiative:
Culture: Provide culture that fosters accountability to achieve goals and sustain public trust.

Background/Justification:
The County and MNPEA Deputy Sheriffs are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. The County and the Union are currently engaged in negotiations of the 2025 successor Collective Bargaining Agreement. Open enrollment for 2025 insurance benefits begins October 21, 2024 and is occurring before the parties have concluded negotiations for the 2025 successor collective bargaining agreement.

MNPEA, representing employees in the position of Deputy Sheriff, has agreed to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for 2025 health insurance. The MOA outlines plan design changes and cafeteria contributions effective January 1, 2025. The County's existing HSA Plan deductibles will be updated to reflect single/family deductible amounts of $3,300/$6,600 from $3,200/$5,400. Additionally, the HRA High Deductible Plan option will be discontinued after 12/31/2024 and the County will offer a $5,000/$10,000 HSA High Deductible Plan option.

The MOA outlines County cafeteria contributions as reflected below and maintains the percentages currently defined in contract language for employee-only and full-family coverage tiers.

- Employee: $933.34
- Employee + Child(ren): $1,525.06
- Employee + Spouse: $2,207.33
- Family: $2,448.13

The MOA also outlines County HSA Contributions for 2025 of $1,325.00 for those with single insurance, and $3,000.00 for those with family insurance.

Action Requested:
Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with MNPEA Deputy Sheriffs Regarding 2025 Health Insurance Benefits Package.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding:	**Amount Budgeted:**
County Funding	$1,149,938

Related Fiscal/FTE Comments:
The 2025 Budget for the 2025 MNPEA Deputy Sheriff Unit Collective Bargaining MOA for employer cafeteria contribution is $1,149,938.

Attachments:
None

Item Number: 3.1.

Carver County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action

Agenda Item Name:	Award of Construction Contract for the Highway 18 Project - Arboretum Area
Department:	Public Works - Program Delivery
Contact:	Darin Mielke, Assistant Public Works Director/Deputy County Engineer, 952-466-5222
Presenter:	Darin Mielke, Assistant Public Works Director/Deputy County Engineer
Contract Name & Number:	24-533
Meeting Date:	October 22, 2024
Item Type:	Consent

Strategic Initiative:
Growth: Manage the challenges and opportunities resulting from growth and development.

Background/Justification:
The Highway 18/82nd St. Project is a project identified in the 2021 Arboretum Area Transportation Plan. It aims to connect Highway 13 to Highway 41, providing a vital link for Victoria, and improved access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, and Chanhassen. Key features include upgrading the gravel road to a two-lane paved urban highway and adding a multi-use trail enhancing community connectivity. This initiative is a joint effort involving Carver County, and the cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, and Victoria. Construction is planned to begin late 2024 and conclude at the end of the 2025 construction season. This project received $10 million of State GO Bonds and General Funding from the State Legislature for this project.

Public Works advertised for construction bids for this project and opened bids on October 10, 2024 at 2:00pm. A summary of the bids received are as follows:

Bidder Name	Total Amount	% Under Engineer's Estimate
S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc.	$ 16,136,255.26	17.2%

Hoffman Construction Company	$	16,289,664.27	16.4%
Mathiowetz Construction Company	$	16,599,088.69	14.8%
Park Construction Company	$	16,622,557.12	14.7%
Eureka Construction, Inc.	$	16,982,259.38	12.9%
Shafer Contracting Co., Inc.	$	17,168,437.63	11.9%
Minger Construction Company Inc.	$	17,716,069.37	9.1%
Valley Paving Inc	$	17,991,338.57	7.7%
C.S. McCrossan Construction, Inc.	$	18,836,337.56	3.4%
Max Steininger, Inc.	$	19,060,719.44	2.2%
Veit & Company, Inc.	$	19,251,329.50	1.2%
Michels Road and Stone, Inc	$	19,285,087.08	1.1%
Engineer's Estimate	$	19,491,408.05	

The low responsible bidder is S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc. from Jordan, Minnesota for a total bid amount of $16,136,255.26. Public Works staff is recommending award to this contractor.

Action Requested:
Motion to award a construction contract for the Highway 18 Project - Arboretum Area to S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc. for $16,136,255.26, pending finalization of the contract review process.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding:	**Amount Budgeted:**
State Bond Funding County Fund Balance	$10,000,000 $6,136,255.26

Related Fiscal/FTE Comments:
Included in current budget.

Attachments:
1. Resolution Construction Contract 24-533

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Date: October 22, 2024 Resolution No: ________________
Motion by Commissioner: ______________ Seconded by Commissioner: ________________

Awarding of the Highway 18 Project - Arboretum Area, Carver County Contract 24-533

WHEREAS, The County Engineer has secured and designated funding for this contract in the current fiscal year Road and Bridge budget; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Carver County Public Works, 11360 Highway 212, Cologne, Minnesota, twelve (12) bids were received by Carver County Public Works and opened by two (2) representatives of Carver County Public Works for the Highway 18 Project – Arboretum Area, said bids for the responsible bidders are summarized as follows:

Contractor	Total Bid	Over/Under Engineers Estimate
S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc.	$16,136,255.26	-17.2%
Hoffman Construction Company	$16,289,664.27	-16.4%
Mathiowetz Construction Company	$16,599,088.69	-14.8%
Park Construction Company	$16,622,557.12	-14.7%
Eureka Construction, Inc.	$16,982,259.38	-12.9%
Shafer Contracting Co., Inc.	$17,168,437.63	-11.9%
Minger Construction Company Inc.	$17,716,069.37	-9.1%
Valley Paving Inc	$17,991,338.57	-7.7%
C.S. McCrossan Construction, Inc.	$18,836,337.56	-3.4%
Max Steininger, Inc.	$19,060,719.44	-2.2%
Veit & Company, Inc.	$19,251,329.50	-1.2%
Michels Road and Stone, Inc	$19,285,087.08	-1.1%
Engineer's Estimate	*$19,491,408.05*	

And WHEREAS, after examination of the bids by Carver County Public Works, S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc. is the successful low responsible bidder.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and directs the Carver County Board Chairman and Carver County Administrator to enter into Carver County Contract 24-533 with S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc. of Jordan, Minnesota, in the name of the County of Carver for the construction of the Highway 18 Project – Arboretum Area in accordance with the construction plans and specifications contained in the project manual; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Carver County Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to return the proposal guaranty to the bidders, except that of the successful low responsible bidder and second and third lowest bidder, which shall be retained until the construction contract has been signed and the performance and payment bonds of the low responsible bidder have been executed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Carver County Engineer, or his designee, is hereby authorized to take actions necessary and to enter into work orders or change orders on behalf of Carver County with an amount less than three hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) and an increased aggregate project total of all project changes of one million dollars ($1,000,000.00), when time is of the essence to make contract changes due to unforeseen construction conditions in order to minimize construction delays and to efficiently carry out the planned project improvements.

YES	ABSENT	NO

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF CARVER

I, Dave Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the 22nd day of October 2024, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2024.

Dave Hemze County Administrator

Item Number: 6.1.

Carver County Board of Commissioners
Request for Board Action

Agenda Item Name:	2025 Legislative Priorities
Department:	County Administration
Contact:	Dave Hemze, County Administrator, 952-361-1526
Presenter:	Dave Hemze, County Administrator
Contract Name & Number:	
Meeting Date:	October 22, 2024
Item Type:	Work Session

Strategic Initiative:
Connections: Develop strong public partnerships and connect people to services

Background/Justification:
Proposed 2025 Carver County Legislative Priorities are attached for discussion and direction. These priorities have been reviewed by the County Legislative Committee which includes Commissioners Fahey and Udermann.

Action Requested:
Board direction.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding:	**Amount Budgeted:**

Related Fiscal/FTE Comments:
Legislative issues have various fiscal impacts, some of which are outlined in the priority documents.

Attachments:
1. 2025 Legislative Priorities - Draft 4

CARVER COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2025

"

Where the future embraces the past in keeping Carver County a great place to live, work, and play for a lifetime.

LOCAL POLICY CONTROL

The Carver County Board of Commissioners supports local decision-making authority and opposes legislation that removes the ability for local elected officials to respond to the needs of its businesses and constituents or that restricts local decision-making authority.

Locally elected decision-makers hold the best position to determine what health, safety, and welfare regulations best serve their constituents. Like state and federal legislative leaders, local elected officials are held accountable through Minnesota's robust elections process. Ordinances at the local level are enacted only after a comprehensive, legal, and open process.

The public's access to local officials is much easier, as is attending local county board and city council meetings.

Counties are often laboratories for determining public policy approaches to the challenges that face residents and businesses. Preserving local control in our state has yielded widespread benefits such as the 2007 Freedom to Breathe Act, and an amendment to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD & BRIDGE

PARKS AND TRAILS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Items listed in this order does not mean priority listing

UNFUNDED STATE & FEDERAL MANDATES

BACKGROUND

Carver County opposes state or federal mandates and costs without full and stable funding. These unfunded mandates unfairly shift financial responsibility to counties. Examples of more than $1.7 million in annual, unfunded mandates/funding shifts with the estimated cost to Carver County residents include:

- **$400,000 =** Unfunded children's mental-health case management services (non-medical assistance)
- **$115,000 =** Unfunded adult mental-health case management services (non-medical assistance)
- **$324,000 =** "Does Not Meet Criteria" notification from state operated facilities
- **$350,000 =** After-hours coverage as the state "Safety Net" for adult and child protection/mental health crisis
- **$200,000 =** Civil commitment pre-petition screening process
- **$15,600 =** Publication of financial statements, County Board meeting minutes, and budget hearing notices
- **$100,000 =** Providing federally mandated health benefits to pre-trial inmates
- **$150,000 - $200,000 =** Various public safety mandates, including emergency management planning and training; 911 dispatch training and equipment requirements; and detention-related costs (underfunded transportation costs, inmate custody boarding costs, inmate programming and mental-health commitment costs)

REQUESTED POSITION

State or federal legislation not accompanied with commensurate funding be revised or removed. Further, the state legislature should pass legislation to sunset all county-level mandates, reviewing each legislative item to determine if it should continue or be eliminated. Finally, all legislation impacting local government needs to include a "local impact note" to determine if it increases local government costs.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS PRIORITIES

BACKGROUND

Minnesota statutory changes made during recent legislative sessions impacted local government's ability to effectively manage its operations and workforce. Provisions imposed increased unfunded state mandates with direct and indirect costs, and complex requirements in the areas of employment law and labor relations, affecting ability to address and manage benefits and wages as affordable subjects of bargaining, and imposing provisions that reduce local government's ability to effectively manage workforce availability and deliver essential services.

REQUESTED POSITION

Maintain the ability of the public sector and local government to effectively manage its operations and workforce, including staffing levels, employee leave and benefits programs, and workforce management provisions through mandates, earned sick and safe time, Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave, the Public Employment Labor Relations Act, and staffing ratios.

MANDATES

Refrain from creating, and instead reduce or eliminate increased state mandates regarding employment law, employee benefits, and labor relations matters, especially additional unfunded requirements and administrative burdens.

EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME (ESST)

Support adjustments to ESST provisions for effective application of the law within reasonably defined and equitable parameters, and position public employers to ensure adequate staffing for delivery of essential services.

- Effective January 2025, as required under Minn. Stat., Sect. 181.9445 – 181.9448 and amendments per Session Laws 2024, Chapter 127, Article 11, Sects. 15-17, virtually all provisions and characteristics of ESST will expand to apply to other forms of paid time off and paid leave which can be used for personal illness or injury, made available to employees by an employer in excess of the minimum ESST hours required per Minn. Stat., Sect. 181.9446.
- Employers that provide and have collectively bargained expansive additional leave programs beyond the minimum accruals required under ESST law will, beginning in 2025, be subject to an "ESST takeover" of leave banks and leave programs that were never designed or intended for such expansive use or to be administered via rules revised by the state.
- Repeal the mandate to expand ESST provisions to apply to paid time off and paid leave hours beyond the minimum accrued ESST hours required by law.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS PRIORITIES

MINNESOTA PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE (PFML)

Provide appropriate flexibility in Minnesota PFML law to support effective delivery of public services without added undue burden.

- Recognize the additional constriction this new mandate places on a strained workforce given existing challenges in staffing certain essential and public safety service areas. Support provision of paid leave during federal FMLA-qualifying events but allow exemptions from PFML expanded leave provisions in certain areas to avoid undue disruption to delivery of essential and public safety services to the public.
- Pursue language to clarify that employers meet the expectations and mandates of the Minnesota PFML law and shall not be required to bargain concerning, the implementation of a 50/50 split of premium payments between employer and employee. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit an employer from electing to pay a greater percentage of the premium nor does this provision prohibit unions from collectively bargaining a greater employer contribution.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT LABOR RELATIONS ACT (PELRA)

Streamline and reduce administrative burden and complexity of mandates requiring local governments to provide expansive reporting to unions, as well as coordinate scheduling and manage various requirements (administrative, security, scheduling, logistics, communications) related to expansive union access mandates. Protect the private personnel data of public employees by defining parameters for union use and retention of data by unions. Repeal additional timeline mandates placed on local government employers to respond to union data requests.

STAFFING RATIOS

Support the repeal of “staffing ratios” in Minn. Stats. 179A.03, Subd. 19, and reversal of changes made in Minnesota Session Laws 2023, Chapter 53, Article 11, Section 14 regarding the scope of inherent managerial policy under Minn. Stats. 179A.07, Subd. 1. Setting specific staffing levels for individual classes of employees through contractual agreements:

- Diminishes critical flexibility, efficiency, and affordability of government services
- Promotes misalignment of staff workloads and allocation of resources over time
- Diminishes the ability or prevents organizations from pursuing innovation, using new or different technology or methods, and sensibly reorganizing functions
- Will result in establishment of ratios that will become ineffective and outdated as conditions change
- And may force counties to discontinue certain functions

HOUSING INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND

Background Text to be Updated

REQUESTED POSITION

Carver County supports the coordinated efforts of achieving a sustained and increased availability of dwelling options across the housing lifecycle. The prevailing objective for any housing initiative must prioritize local control of their own planning to increase production of residential units, the preservation of existing homes, and housing stability programs for individuals and families.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND VEHICLE MILES TRAVELLED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND

Carver County appreciates the 2024 changes to the statute which revises the transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles travelled (VMT) impact assessment to a portfolio, not individual project, level.

The 2023 Omnibus Transportation Finance and Policy Bill established a new requirement for an assessment of GHG emissions and VMT for grade separated interchange projects and capacity improvement projects on the trunk highway system. As enacted, the new law will apply to capacity expansion projects, which are defined as major highway projects, with a cost of $15 million or more in the metro area, and $5 million or more in greater Minnesota, and adds highway traffic capacity or provides for grade separation at an intersection, excluding auxiliary lanes with a length of less than 2.500 feet. For a portfolio of projects covered by the new law, if the portfolio is not in conformance with GHG and VMT reduction targets, there must be:

1. A change in the scope or design of the any projects within the portfolio and a revised assessment must be performed, or
2. Interlink sufficient impact mitigation, or
3. Halt the project development and disallow inclusion of the project in the STIP.

Carver County continues to lead important mobility and safety improvement projects on the State's Trunk Highway System including Highway 212, Highway 5, Highway 7, Highway 41, and Highway 101. Improvements to these transportation corridors are critical to accommodating growth and ensuring safe and reliable travel in the region. The county invests millions in local revenue to fund these projects so adding the burden to mitigate for Greenhouse Gas impacts or increases in VMT puts additional burden on the county for state owned infrastructure.

REQUESTED POSITION

Carver County supports limiting the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) assessments to trunk highway corridors only and requests the legislature establish additional funding to pay for mitigation efforts so they will not have to be included in the costs of individual projects.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S PARK FUTURE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Since the early 1990s, the Parks Future Reimbursement Program has enabled implementing agencies to request council approval to acquire land and develop regional parks (and trails) using agency funds and then be eligible for reimbursement in the future using council tax exempt bonds (no state funding has supported this program). The Parks Future Reimbursement Program is part of the council's Regional Parks Bonding Program and has policy guidance from the Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Parks Fund Distribution Policy.

In 2021, the council stopped reimbursing agencies for certain eligible expenses because the Metropolitan Council's Bond Counsel determined that the Parks Future Reimbursement Program did not comply with IRS regulations. Since 2021, council and agency parks staff have unsuccessfully brainstormed potential new options to restart reimbursing agencies for all eligible expenses.

According to council records, $8.6 million in Carver County taxpayer funds have been spent on eligible expenses (primarily acquiring land for Lake Waconia Regional Park) but Carver County has only received $4.4 million from the Parks Future Reimbursement Program, which means Carver County taxpayers have not been reimbursed for **$4.2 million** in eligible expenses.

REQUESTED POSITION

Support legislation to reimburse Carver County taxpayers for spending **$4.2 million** acquiring land and developing regional parks and trails.

SUPPORT FOR PHASE III OF THE LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

Lake Waconia Regional Park is a 160-acre Metropolitan Regional Park, minimally developed, and located on the second largest lake in the Twin Cities area. Carver County received past funding from the state for the phased development of Lake Waconia Regional Park.

In 2018, the county received $1.5 million of state bonds for phase I of the park development, which included site grading, installation of municipal utility lines, and the construction of roadways and parking lots.

In 2020, the County received an additional $2.5 million of state bonds for phase II of development. The funds were secured helped construct a new waterfront pavilion with restrooms, rental concessions, and assist in making utility connections. Carver County provided **$7 million**, 70 percent of the project costs, in local funds towards phase I and phase II developments.

REQUESTED POSITION

Provide **$3.264 million** in state funds for predesign, design, and construction of a playground, parking lot, trails, walkways, watercraft and fishing piers, and other site amenities at Lake Waconia Regional Park.

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM BONDING BILL

BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Council's Regional Park Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is based on the issuance of up to $10 million of Metropolitan Council bonds to provide a 40 percent match to a 2025 state bond request of $15 million. This results in a 2025 CIP requested total for the Metropolitan Regional Park System of **$25 million**.

REQUESTED POSITION

Support legislation which provides up to $25 million for the Regional Park CIP for 2025. $15 million of state bonds are to be matched with $10 million of Metropolitan Council bonds for a combined total of **$25 million** for the Metropolitan Regional Parks System.

PARKS & TRAILS LEGACY FUNDING

BACKGROUND

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding was established in 2012 and is funded with the 3/8th of 1 percent sales tax that is administered by the agencies of the State Park System, Metropolitan Regional Park System, and the Greater Minnesota Regional Park System.

THE FUNDING SPLIT INCLUDES:

- .25 percent off the top for coordination among partners for marketing and promotional efforts for all parks and trails of state or regional significance
- .25 percent off the top to fund resources to establish criteria to allocate Legacy Funds

THE REMAINDER TO BE SPLIT:

- 40 percent Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 40 percent Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails
- 20 percent Greater Minnesota Regional Parks

Carver County receives approximately $600,000 annually to fund park and trail capital improvements, asset management of its regional park facilities, providing recreation programs, and other forms of public parks and recreation outreach activities.

REQUESTED POSITION

The Metropolitan area generates substantially more sales tax revenue than it receives through Parks and Trail Legacy Funding. Further, the Regional Park System generates substantially more users than the Greater Minnesota Regional Park System. Ideally, the funding should be split by sales tax generated or by annual parks and trail usage figures. Funding from SFY 2026 and 2027 Parks and Trail Legacy funding shall be no less than 40 percent to the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR REGIONAL PARKS

BACKGROUND

Carver County receives a portion of its Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for the regional parks it administers. O & M funding comes from funding sources of the state general fund.

Carver County supports the request of the Metropolitan Council of $9,140,000 in state funds for O & M funding of regional parks. The amount is the same as requested in 2023.

In past years Regional Park Implementing Agencies received approximately 9 percent of their O & M expenditures from the state. For Carver County, the anticipated funding amount is approximately **$200,000**.

BENEFITS

- Reduces County property tax to maintain its regional parks
- Continues a satisfactory levels of park services
- Helps off-set cost of by users outside of Carver County

REQUESTED POSITION

Support legislation for Operations and Maintenance expenditures for regional parks.

MENTAL HEALTH: DOES NOT MEET MEDICAL CRITERIA (DNMC)

BACKGROUND

Beds at state-operated facilities continue to be at capacity and there are Carver County residents "stuck" in beds that are at a higher level of care than is needed but they are unable to move to a lesser level of care bed because there are not adequate beds in state-operated facilities available. Carver County was being billed 100 percent of the cost of care for one individual when the 2023 state legislature granted relief to counties for these costs for those civilly committed Mentally Ill and Dangerous (MI&D). The state legislature seemed to understand that counties are powerless to expand state capacity and powerless when an individual is "stuck" in that high level of care with nowhere else to safely go. Charging counties for this cost only removes dollars from the County that instead could be used to support mental health needs locally.

REQUESTED POSITION

- The legislation passed (Minnesota Statute §246.54, Subd. 1a & 1b) only granted financial relief for counties from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. Carver County requests that the legislation passed in 2023 be amended to eliminate the end date of the relief and instead make that relief permanent and ongoing, essentially ending the county's cost share.
- Carver County requests that the 2025 legislature pass relief for Carver County's DNMC debt incurred between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, for those who were "stuck" in a state-operated facility due to lack of bed capacity at another state-operated facility. For Carver County, that cost equals **$518,130.**

CHILD PROTECTION AND JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH: MAJOR BARRIERS FOR APPROPRIATE CARE

BACKGROUND

The 2023 legislature established and tasked a working group on youth interventions to evaluate the out-of-home placement options in Minnesota for youth adjudicated to be either in need of protection or services through the child protection or juvenile delinquency system (2023 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 62, Article 2, §119) and develop recommendations. The Carver County Health and Human Services Director was one of the metro representatives on the working group. The working group submitted a final report in February 2024 to the legislature, but no action was taken in response to that report during the 2024 legislative session. Most of the metro counties have come together and are working to explore a metro-area approach to address the lack of placement options for youth served by our counties. Most are either justice-involved or have child protection involvement or both and have high behavioral health needs.

REQUESTED POSITION

Support regional cost-effective evidenced-based solutions outlined in the "Working Group on Youth Interventions" report, for example:

- Align licensing and certification requirements for facilities and programs, both in human services and corrections, to strengthen the continuum of care and support healthy outcomes for youth involved in the system
- Ensure expanded capacity in state-operated facilities
- Allocate ongoing funding for culturally appropriate, intensely therapeutic, community-based placement options for youth involved in the justice/child protection system
- Provide funding for the creation of community-based services that allow youth to receive supports close to their home and family

MnCHOICES: REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF REASSESSMENTS

BACKGROUND

What is MnCHOICES? A person-centered assessment to help people with long-term or chronic-care needs make care decisions and select support and service options to remain safely in their home or community-based living facility.

We need to simplify the assessment process. For many years, the State of Minnesota has attempted to revise the assessment tool that determines service and support eligibility for persons with disabilities or related conditions or older adults (those ages 65+). As the tool moved from a paper document to an electronic assessment (version 1.0) and now to version 2.0, it has become clear that assessments are cumbersome, difficult for assessors to use, fraught with system issues, and are taking significantly longer to complete, creating a **multi-month wait list** in almost all Minnesota counties for initial assessments (12 months in Carver).

These lengthy assessments are challenging and time-consuming for residents to participate in and at times require multiple visits from the assessor. When a consumer is stable, doesn't want, and doesn't need an annual reassessment, they should be allowed the choice to reduce the frequency of receiving a reassessment and delay their reassessment for up to three years. Knowing that if a change in condition occurs, an assessment can be requested and completed at any time.

THIS CHANGE WOULD:

1. Provide relief to individuals and families who sit through lengthy unnecessary reassessments
2. Enable MnCHOICES assessors to divert their time to be more responsive to initial assessment requests thus reducing the current wait list
3. Address County workforce issues by slowing the need to add additional FTEs to complete this work.

REQUESTED POSITION

- Support state legislation directing Minnesota Department of Human Services (MN-DHS) to seek all necessary federal authority (pursue a federal demonstration waiver) through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to simplify the MnCHOICES reassessment process
- Support state legislation allowing for the frequency reduction of MnCHOICES reassessments and update of Minnesota Statute §256B.0911 accordingly
- Support state legislation to sunset the County cost share for MnCHOICES administration and revert the 50 percent state share back to the state to share equally with the federal government

CHILD PROTECTION: MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT (MAAFPA)

BACKGROUND

The 2024 African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPA) was signed into law (Minnesota Statutes §260.61 to §260.693) with an effective date of January 1, 2027. MAAFPA is an impactful and bold change for our system, and when engaged in significant changes, significant financial investments are necessary to ensure successful outcomes for all Minnesota families. The child protection system is one of the most complex social systems in our society, governed by both federal and state policy, involving a myriad of partners including law enforcement, judges, attorneys, child welfare workers, and community partners.

The application of the “Active Efforts” standard will apply to approximately 90 percent of all Carver County child protection cases. Active efforts require more of the County staff who work with families - more time and more resources. Lower caseload sizes will be needed to accommodate the staff time needed to properly apply the standard which will result in the need for more staff. More supervisory time will be needed to support an increase in staffing.

“Active Efforts” will require the County to provide financial support to MAAFPA families with dollars for transportation (e.g., gas cards), housing (rent, utilities, mortgages), and household and daily living expenses, for example. The County will need to financially invest in creating culturally specific services and securing culturally specific providers to meet the requirements of the law.

Sixteen separate and district elements are currently not built into SSIS (the state software) that are required as a part of MAAFPA. With anticipating an increase in expenses, services, data analysis, and contracting, investments in administrative support will be required to meet office support, program oversight, and billing requirements.

REQUESTED POSITION

- Allocate adequate funding to counties during the 2025 legislative session (since it is a budget year) to meet the basic requirements of the law when it goes into effect statewide on January 1, 2027. Carver County has evaluated the current cases that would fall under MAAFPA, if it were effective today, and estimates an additional cost to the county of **$2.8 million** to implement and meet MAAFPA statutory requirements.
- Allocate funding to the State of Minnesota to update software (SSIS) to allow for efficient capture of the data required under the law.

LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING AID (LAHA): COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

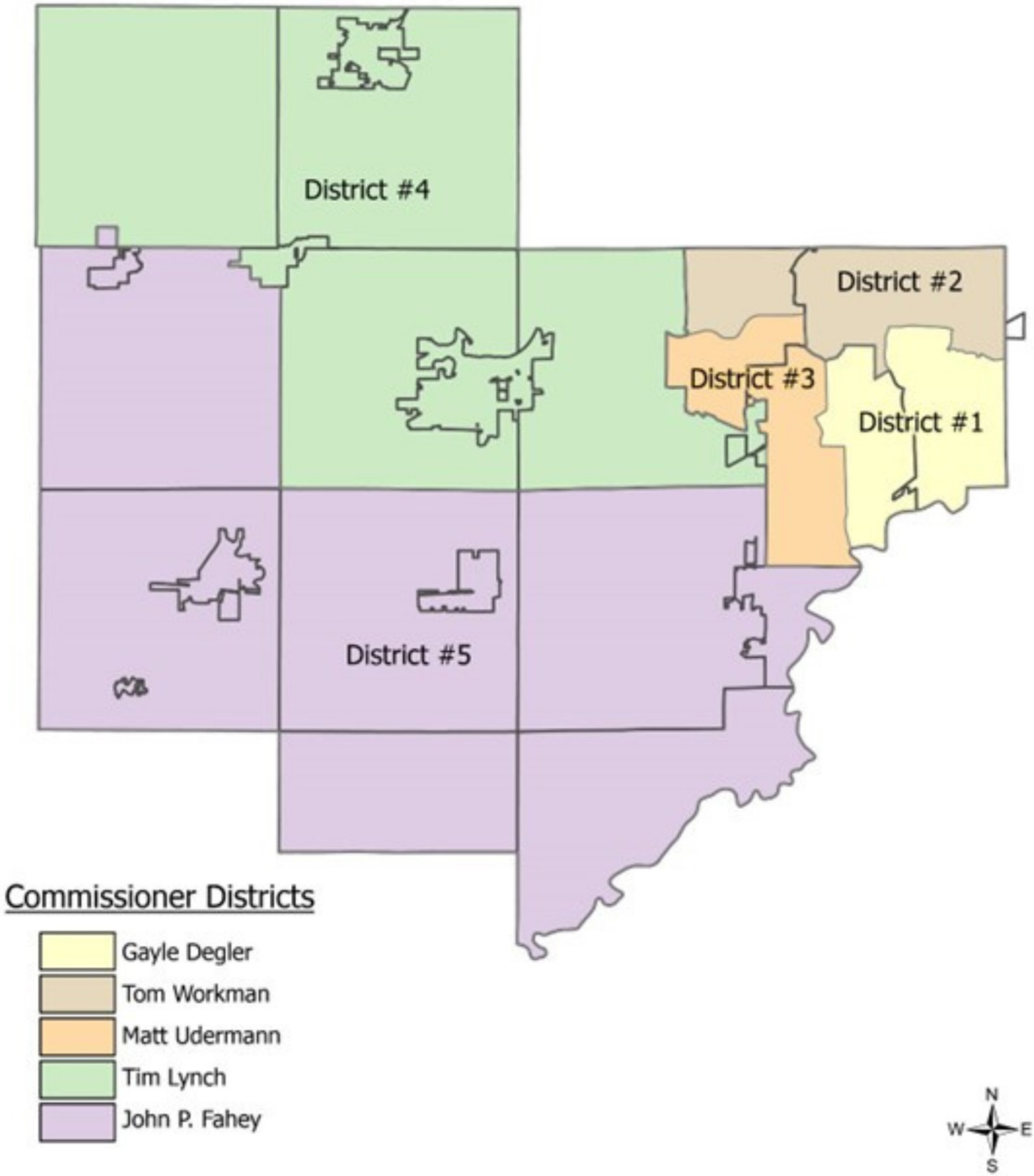
BACKGROUND

Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) was created by the 2023 legislature. The annual appropriation for LAHA comes from a sales and use tax imposed within metropolitan counties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 4. Amendments to LAHA were made by the 2024 legislature. Those amendments added additional allowable projects, among other things. As counties plan to implement projects related to the intended use for the aid, no allowance was made in the law to cover county costs of administering qualified projects.

REQUESTED POSITION

Amend applicable Minnesota Statutes to allow for up to 10 percent of LAHA funds to cover County costs related to administering LAHA projects, reporting, and other tasks related to distribution of funds.

CARVER COUNTY MAP OF DISTRICTS



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