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McIntosh, Minnesota

StarLab visits McIntosh library

On Monday, July 8th, the McIntosh Library was host to the StarLab from the Headwaters Science Center in Bemidji

This portable planetarium where up to 20 star-gazers can observe the night sky at any time of the day, was set up for everyone to have a chance to sit inside and see what the night sky above McIntosh looks like and how it changes throughout the night and throughout the year.

Attendees learned about stars, constellations, and planets and how they change in appearance and position throughout time.

The staff taught visitors to the StarLab about the North Star, the Milky Way, and about the phases of the moon and eclipses.

In the inflatable planetarium, the StarLab, visitors learned to identify some of the constellations in the Northern Hemisphere, the stars they're made up and hear the lore behind them.

The 5 meter dome is 11 1/2 feet. In height, 17 feet in diameter and the view of the night



Inside StarLab looking at the night sky over McIntosh, during the daylight.

sky is 360 degrees around.

As one of the oldest natural sciences, astronomy has been used by many cultures around the world. Early civilizations used the stars to mark the passage of time, create calendars and even navigate the oceans.

StarLab was part of the McIntosh Library summer reading

program, 3, 2, 1 Blast Off for an Exciting Summer, a program to explore outer space. Kids can read to win great prizes with this library experience.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed this unique astronomical experience.

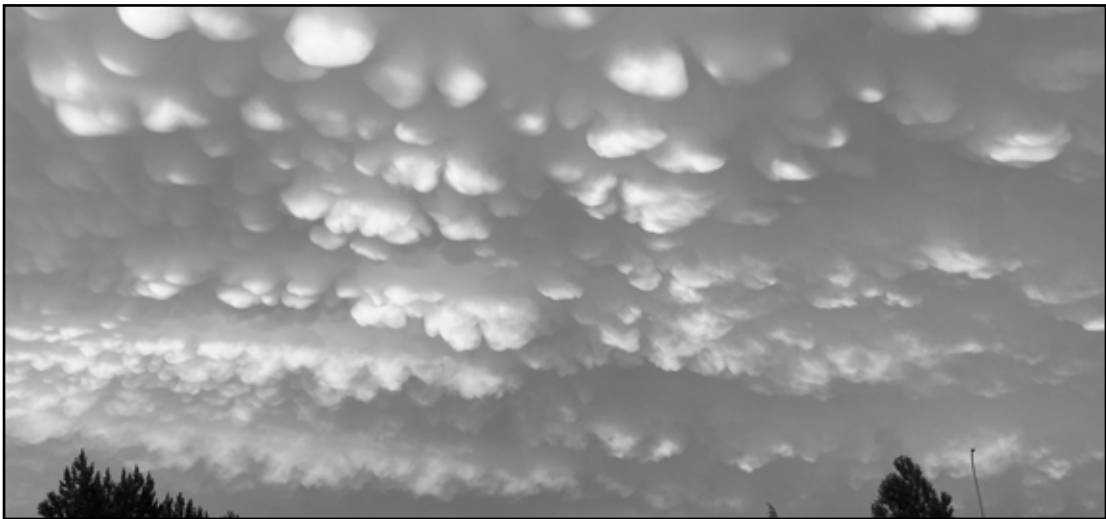


Morgan, from the Bemidji Headwaters Science Center showed kids and grown-ups the different star constellations in the northern hemisphere.

A rare sighting of ominous, yet beautiful, clouds over McIntosh following storm

Following the thunderstorm in McIntosh on Saturday, July 13, 2024, there was a rare sighting of Mammatus clouds in the sky.

Mammatus clouds are pouch-like protrusions hanging from the undersides of clouds. You'll usually find them under thunderstorm anvil clouds. But you might see them under other types of clouds as well. They're composed primarily of ices, and groups of them can extend hundreds of miles in any direction. But they're fleeting, remaining visible in your local sky for perhaps 10 or 15 minutes at a time.



In fact, most clouds are formed by rising air. But mammatus clouds are interesting in part because they're formed by sinking air.

As updrafts carry precipitation enriched air to the cloud top, upward momentum is lost and the air begins to spread out horizontally, becoming a part of the anvil cloud.

Because of its high concentration of precipitation particles (ice crystals and water droplets), the saturated air is heavier than the surrounding air and sinks back towards the earth.

The temperature of the subsiding air increases as it descends. However, since heat energy is required to melt and

evaporate the precipitation particles contained within the sinking air, the warming produced by the sinking motion is quickly used up in the evaporation of precipitation particles. If more energy is required for

evaporation than is generated by the subsidence, the sinking air will be cooler than its surroundings and will continue to sink downward.

The subsiding air eventually appears below the cloud base as rounded pouch-like structures called mammatus clouds.

Mammatus are long lived if the sinking air contains large drops and snow crystals since larger particles require greater amounts of energy for evaporation to occur. Over time, the cloud droplets do eventually evaporate and the mammatus dissolve.

In the early 20th century, German scientists determined that mammatus clouds appear more often in summer than winter, that temperature and wind influence their formation, and that they can appear in clouds other than cumulonimbus.

Summer arts opportunity at the WEM school

Win-E-Mac is excited to offer an arts opportunity this summer for students going into third through ninth grades. "Summer Arts Stages," a group out of East Grand Forks, will be in residence from Monday, July 29th through Friday, August 2nd to direct Disney's The Aristocats KIDS!

Rehearsals will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm every day that week. The performance will be at 7:00 pm on Friday, August 2nd at the Win-E-Mac Events Center.

If your child is interested in participating, please visit the Win-E-Mac school website at [www.wemschools.org](http://www.wemschools.org).

If you have any questions (or if you might be interested in crew rather than cast), please email Andrew Hanson at [ahanson@wemschools.org](mailto:ahanson@wemschools.org).

Minnesota Cost of Living update

By Amanda Rohrer

Despite inflation falling from the peaks set in 2022, the current rate still surpasses the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Certain goods and services are experiencing continued price hikes, while others are holding steady but remain elevated compared to previous years. All of these increases are factored into the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development's newly released Cost of Living study.

Mandated by Minnesota Statute 2013, Chapter 116J, section 013, the Cost of Living estimates are designed to provide a metric of the cost of basic needs – what it takes to make ends meet for an individual or family – in Minnesota. Each year the estimates are released for various family compositions and regions, using a variety of inputs from other agencies. Current inflationary pressures have had impacts on the Cost of Living inputs. While no

methodological adjustments were made this year, there are some specific trends and their impacts on the numbers that are worth noting.

**Housing**

The biggest category in household budgets as estimated by the Cost of Living is housing. For that, our input is the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Market Rents. Those are re-

**Cost of living...**

Continued on page 4 ...

Starting school with shoes with Sole Tree at WEM

Win-E-Mac will be doing the Sole Tree again this year. This program matches kids in need of tennis shoes for the school year with donations from our communities.

The goal is to make sure kids within our school all can have good quality tennis shoes to begin the school year.

More information will be coming out soon with links to sign up for shoes. Monetary donations can be sent in to the school with a note Win-E-Mac Sole Tree. Any monetary donations will be used to purchase



shoes.

All shoe donations will be due by Monday August 26th. When you bring your shoes in please make sure you mark

them with the number you signed up for. If you have any questions please contact Cassie Subbert.

This program was a great success last year and 30 kids received new shoes. Many of the kids were very excited about the nice, new shoes and we had many thankful parents who shared that not having to worry about purchasing shoes helped them out a lot.

This is our 2nd year of the Sole Tree and Win-E-Mac school hopes for many, many more years of this program.



Polk County Sheriff Jim Tadman led the 4th of July parade through McIntosh by The Clubhouse Childcare Center kids. This is an annual event an the parade took place on Wednesday, July 3rd this year.

## MDA announces details for next round of Down Payment Assistance Grants

Applications will open August 1, 2024, for this round of funding

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) has announced details for the next round of funding for its popular Down Payment Assistance Grant program, which will open for applications on August 1, 2024.

The Down Payment Assistance Grant offers up to \$15,000 for qualified farmers to purchase their first farm. Eligible applicants must earn less than \$250,000 per year in gross agricultural sales, and each award must be matched with at least \$8,000 of other funds. Applicants cannot be related by blood or marriage to the owner of the farmland that they intend to acquire.

While all eligible farmers are encouraged to apply, priority for this round of grants will be given to applicants with no more than \$100,000 in annual gross farm product sales or applicants who are producers of industrial hemp, cannabis, or specialty crops.

After the application window closes, all eligible requests will be placed in a randomized lottery to determine the order in which grants are awarded, with the identified priority applicants being given precedence. If funding remains after the MDA has awarded grants to all priority applicants, the MDA will award as many grants as funding allows to all remaining applicants in the order of their lottery placement.

Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2024, and applicants will be notified of award decisions in late September.

Awards will remain valid for purchases closing within six months after award approval or until June 30, 2025, whichever is sooner. Farm purchases must take place after approval of the application. The MDA cannot award grants retroactively for purchases that have already happened.

To view the full grant eligibility requirements and access the RFP, visit the MDA website.



The Gosen Luther League meets on Sunday evening, July 28th, at 7 o'clock. The Gloryland Gospel Team will present a concert of Country and Southern Gospel music. They accompany their vocals with rhythm, electric, bass, and pedal steel guitars. The team is comprised of Rev. Gary Johnson, Rev. David and Brenda Johnson, and Jeremy and Anna Johnson. Other family members will also be participating. Refreshments will be served following the program. Join us for an inspirational evening in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 791-0797 or 280-0821.

## Transfer and discharge delays continue to plague MN mental health, substance use disorder patients

**New study highlights underlying reasons for delays, opportunities for improvement**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released a new study today detailing reasons for the prolonged transfer and discharge delays experienced by mental health and substance use disorder patients who seek hospital care in Minnesota.

Findings from this study conducted by Wilder Research and MDH's Health Economics Program provide insights into the anguish that being held in hospital settings – a practice called boarding – can cause for patients, families, caregivers and hospital staff by pointing to specific factors such as the lack of next-setting care for mental health and addiction services. The study also sheds light on characteristics of patients most affected by transfer and discharge delays.

The 14-day study of 33 emergency departments and 13 inpatient units at Minnesota hospitals observed that though emergency departments and inpatient units are a critical access point for life-saving stabilization and treatment, gaps in the chain of behavioral health care have led to an over-reliance on these settings. The study showed that 17% of people being treated for mental health or substance use disorders experienced a discharge delay from inpatient care and that the delays averaged eight days per patient. The most common reason for discharge delays was a lack of available beds in a safe setting like inpatient psychiatric units and intensive residential treatment service facilities for adult and pediatric patients.

“We know that people being treated in the hospital or emergency department for be-

havioral health disorders have more delays in their discharge than Minnesotans who do not have these conditions. This reality is particularly acute for Black Minnesotans,” said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dr. Brooke Cunningham. “Discharge delays also contribute to the shortage of hospital beds. This study suggests that more community-based services such as intensive residential treatment services for mental health or chemical dependency treatment for addiction recovery are two strategies among many that are needed to help reduce time to discharge.”

Whether a patient had state public insurance program coverage was the leading predictor for experiencing delays. According to the study, 75% of patients who experienced a discharge delay from inpatient care were covered by Medicaid or MinnesotaCare, despite accounting for just 46% of patients admitted with behavioral health diagnoses.

The study also found a disproportionate percentage of inpatient delays impacting Minnesotans of color and specifically those who identify as African American or African-born.

“The results of the study are important but also don't come as a surprise,” noted Sue Abderholden, executive director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota. “We know all too well that youths and adults with mental illnesses languish in our ERs without treatment and comfort. They face long wait times for every level of care in our mental health system and stay in the highest level of care longer than needed due to lack of community options. We believe it is critical that solutions include improving access by increasing reimbursement

rates, addressing the workforce shortage and increasing the diversity of the workforce.”

The emotional cost to patients and families of boarding is significant, as is the economic cost to hospitals when accommodating patients who are ready to be transferred to an inpatient bed or discharged to community-based services.

“There is a strong consensus that patients waiting in a hospital setting when they can be discharged is harmful to patients, caregivers, hospital staff and the health care system,” noted Kristin Dillon from Wilder Research, a lead author on the study and similar previous studies in Minnesota and Maryland. “However, we cannot take steps to effectively address these discharge delays without understanding the underlying reasons behind the delays and which parts of the behavioral health system can have the greatest impact on reducing these delays.”

The study indicates that creating additional post-hospital infrastructure is a key element of reversing Minnesota's stubborn boarding issue. At the same time, the data show that streamlining the transfer and discharge processes could have significant benefits and should be an important policy goal.

“The issue is not just how frequently delays occur, because boarding and decompression are not new,” MDH Researcher Nate Hierlmaier added. “This study points to concrete steps such as increasing residential treatment capacity and addressing administrative barriers that could make a real difference for patients boarding in emergency departments and hospital beds. Additionally, recommendations from a recent study by the Minnesota Department of

## McIntosh City Council minutes for June

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2024**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Community Center**  
Call to order:  
Mayor Strom called the meeting to order at 5:30  
**Pledge of allegiance:**  
**Roll call:**  
Members present: Toby Strom, Jordan Gunufson, Luke Burd, Luke Syverson, Beth Hagen  
Melissa Finseth – Clerk/Treasurer  
Rebecca Boehrnson - Licensed Assisted Living Director for Poplar Meadows  
Guests: Ken and Kelly Haugen  
**Determination of quorum:**  
Met.  
**Agenda additions:**  
None.  
**Approval of minutes:**  
a. May 9, 2024 regular council meeting minutes  
Motion by Beth Hagen and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve the May 9, 2024 regular council meeting minutes. Passed unopposed.  
**Public concerns:**  
Ken and Kelly Haugen were in attendance to go over a dispute they had with the City Clerk over a utility bill. The situation was resolved.  
**MEDA and Poplar Meadows:**  
a. Rental status  
Poplar Meadows currently has 25 residents. There is a 1 – 1 bedroom apartment available and 1-1 bedroom in the extended care unit available for rent.  
b. Approve Poplar Meadows monthly bills  
Motion by Jordan Gunufson and seconded by Beth Hagen to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$76,191.82. Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Beth Hagen to approve the air conditioning repair in the amount of \$5,874.19. Passed unopposed.  
c. Revenue status  
It was reported that even with the setback of the air conditioning repair, revenues are steadily improving.  
**Old business:**  
**New business:**

a. Building permit – Breitbach  
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to approve the building permit for new shed. Passed unopposed  
b. Resolution – Beito donation  
Luke Syverson introduced the resolution to accept the two thousand dollar donation from the Beito Foundation. All members voted in the affirmative.  
c. Community center chairs  
Motion by Beth Hagen and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to replace the banquet chairs at the community center. The Beito donation will cover the cost of the chairs. The old banquet chairs will be advertised for sale for \$5.00 each.  
d. Utility bills for seasonal residents  
Council reviewed the city's utility billing policy for residents, including seasonal residents, who are hooked up to the city's water supply. If a resident, full time or seasonal, or a business has an active water line, they can expect to be billed.  
**Approval of monthly bills:**  
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$70,086.15. Passed unopposed.  
**Council & staff reports:**  
Notices & correspondence:  
**Adjournment:**  
Motion by Beth Hagen and seconded by Luke Burd to adjourn at 6:32.  
Passed unopposed.

**FOR SALE**  
Banquet stack chairs with padded seats - mauve fabric. 32 chairs \$5.00 each. Contact the City of McIntosh for more information. 218-563-3043 M19C

**Did you know?**  
In Northwest Minnesota, there is an increasing need for housing to enable growth of the region's workforce.  
According to U.S. Census ACS 5-year estimates, the Northwest region's total housing units increased 2.4% from 2012 to 2022, while the population increased 4%. That population growth is increasingly driven by people moving to the region from other regions, states, and countries.

**Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar**

|                        |                                                             |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thurs. July 25:</b> | Easton Vettleson, Angela Olson                              |
| <b>Fri. July 26:</b>   | Parker Graff, Wayne Brekke, Liam Schow, Kimberly Carlson    |
| <b>Sat. July 27:</b>   | Makenzie Roed, *Jered & Therea Agnes                        |
| <b>Sun, July 28:</b>   | Diane Boucher, Tiffany (Haaven) Wirth, Madison Pries Osland |
| <b>Mon. July 29:</b>   | Kathy Finseth, Cecil Finseth, Mae Dianne Breckel            |
| <b>Tues. July 30:</b>  | Grafton Langemo, Cody Huschle                               |

Please contact the McIntosh Times if you move or have a change in your address so we can keep the paper coming to your home on time.

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH**  
**Fosston**  
**Fr. John Suvakeen,**  
**Pastor**

Wed. July 24: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston  
Fri. July 26: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston  
Sun. July 28: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; 3:00pm Divine merch Sunday, St. Mary's, Fosston  
Wed. July 31: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston  
Fri. August 2: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston  
Sun. August 4: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; 3:00pm Divine merch Sunday, St. Mary's, Fosston

**OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
**McIntosh**  
**Pastor Rene Mehlberg**  
**Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais**

Sun. July 28: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services  
Sun. August 4: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

**MCINTOSH AFLC**  
**McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:**  
**Pastor:**  
**Jerry Moan**

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am  
Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 11:00am  
Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

**GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Independent**  
**Gary Johnson, Pastor**  
**www.gosen-church.com**  
**Face Book: Gosen Church**

Sun. July 28: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com); 7:00pm Luther League Concert with The Gloryland Gospel Team (see article elsewhere in the paper)  
Tues, July 30: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30  
Wed, July 31: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home  
*Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.*

**VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)**  
**McIntosh**  
**PastorLee Laaveg**

Sun. July 28: 9:00am Worship  
Sun. August 4: 9:00am Worship

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**McIntosh**  
**Pastor Bruce Blocker**

Sundays: 9:00am Worship; 10:00am Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Winger**

Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- NALC**  
**Erskine**  
**Rev. Pam Thorson**

Sundays: 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship  
Come early and enjoy fellowship and a good cup of coffee. It will also be available at the same time on Garden Valley Channel 30, Facebook and YouTube.

**Thriving Life Church**  
**Erskine, MN**

Sunday service at 10:00 am  
Call or visit us at: 22722 350th Street; 218-687-2343

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POLK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

JULY 2, 2024  
BOARD MINUTES  
Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., July 2, 2024. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Joan Lee, Commissioner Mark Holy, and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA  
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the July 2, 2024, agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS  
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the July 2, 2024, consent items:

- 1. Approve the June 18, 2024, Board minutes.
- 2. Approve Auditor Warrants.
- 3. Approve for payment Lost Warrant No. 576452 dated January 19, 2024, issued to MAT/MN Assoc of Townships in the amount of \$30.00.
- 4. Approve payment to Andrew Dessellier in the amount of \$517.27 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 5. Approve payment to Harrison Boucher in the amount of \$456.04 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 6. Approve payment to Janet Mattison in the amount of \$333.50 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 7. Approve payment to Jennifer Perreault in the amount of \$288.95 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 8. Approve payment to Mark Landsverk in the amount of \$426.50 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 9. Approve payment to Melanie Schmitz in the amount of \$623.96 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 10. Approve payment to Patricia Flaa in the amount of \$285.95 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.
- 11. Approve payment to Tiffany Hoyhyta in the amount of \$645.21 for May 2024 Mileage and Travel Meals for the Assessor's Office.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER  
ISSUE FORUM

- 1. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. West Central Regional Water District discussion.
  - b. Received calls regarding zoning ordinances at the lakes. Will follow up with Planning and Zoning.
  - c. Questions regarding PLSS Grant for surveying quarter corners in Columbia Township and who would be doing the work.
  - d. Received request from Polk County Fair Board regarding potential need for help with funding for building project.
- 2. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. MnDOT District 2 Area Transportation Partnership meeting. (Handouts on file in the Administrator's Office)
  - b. Received call from Brent Wagner, Polk County resident, regarding denied insurance claim from MCIT. MCIT stated Mr. Wagner was fully compensated from Burlington Northern Railroad for damages caused by rocks being moved on his property.
- 3. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. Lake Agassiz Regional Library meeting.
  - b. Polk County Planning and Zoning Advisory Board meeting.
- 4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:
  - a. Reaching Rural committee submitted proposals to the AMC Education & Training committee.
  - b. Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Board meeting.
  - c. AMC Finance Committee meeting.
  - d. AMC Forfeiture Fund webinar.
  - e. Toward Zero Deaths meeting.
- 5. Commissioner Holy brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. Shared concerns about surveying throughout the County.
  - b. Shared concerns about the amount of rain and the effects on the ditches and farmland in his district. Ditches are at capacity and received calls about pumping. Spoke to Polk County Engineer, Rich Sanders, regarding drain tile pumps and no regulations on this pumping when ditches are at capacity.

PLANNING & ZONING  
Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:  
1. Approve Resolution (2024-48) Conditional Use Permit for James Senske for an Accessory Structure Greater than 800 Sq Ft

Resolution (2024-48) was offered by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None. (See Resolution (2024-48) on file in the Administrator's Office)  
2. Approve Resolution (2024-49) Conditional Use Permit for Zinaida Boianoff for an Accessory Structure Greater than 800 Sq Ft and to Hook Up a New Septic System to the Accessory Structure  
Resolution (2024-49) was offered by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted upon the following 1 ads...Polk County minutes 2024

vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None. (See Resolution (2024-49) on file in the Administrator's Office)  
3. Approve Resolution (2024-50) Conditional Use Permit for Jana Hankey to Hook Up a New Septic System to an Existing Boathouse  
Resolution (2024-50) was offered by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None. (See Resolution (2024-50) on file in the Administrator's Office)

PUBLIC HEALTH  
Sarah Reese, Public Health Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:  
1. Advertisement and Hiring – Wellness Coordinator, Northwest ATOD Regional Prevention Coordinator  
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the advertisement and hiring of a 1.0 FTE Wellness Coordinator – Northwest ATOD Regional Prevention Coordinator (13 counties) (and any subsequent vacancies) within Polk County Public Health. This position is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services – Behavioral Health Division.  
2. Advertisement and Hiring – Wellness Coordinator and Registered Nurse  
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the advertisement and hiring of a .8 FTE Wellness Coordinator and .8 Registered Nurse (or Public Health Nurse) (and any subsequent vacancies) within Polk County Public Health.

3. Footcare Fee Schedule  
Polk County Public Health's trained staff provide footcare in East Grand Forks, Crookston, and McIntosh. Currently, the fee/ suggested donation is \$20. Footcare fees have not been increased for several years. The recommended fee/suggested donation is \$30 due to Nurse salary and fringe. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Footcare Fee Schedule/Suggested Donation to be increased to \$30, effective September 1, 2024.  
4. Out of State Travel Request for Sarah Shimek  
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the out of state travel request for Sarah Shimek to attend the Montana Summer Institute, July 16-19, 2024, in Big Sky, Montana.

SOCIAL SERVICES  
Karen Warmack, Social Services Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:  
1. Social Worker Replacement Request  
A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling a Social Worker position and to fill any internal subsequent position vacancies occurring because of this action.  
2. Social Worker Team Leader Replacement Request  
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling a Social Worker Team Leader position and to fill any internal subsequent position vacancies occurring because of this action.  
3. Contract with UCare to Provide Mental Health Targeted Case Management Services  
A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the contract with UCare to reimburse Social Services to provide mental health targeted case management services for adults and children.

HIGHWAY  
Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, on behalf of Richard Sanders, Polk County Engineer, came before the Board with matters pertaining to Mr. Sanders' department:  
1. SAP 060-599-281 MnDOT Agreement #1056198 Bridge Bonds Columbia Twp Bridge Over BNSF Railway  
State aid has allocated Local Bridge Bonding Funds in the amount of \$1,207,952.25. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the MnDOT Agreement #1056198 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract.  
1a. Approve Resolution (2024-47) Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement – Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 060-599-281  
RESOLUTION (2024-47)  
Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement Grant Terms and Conditions SAP 060-599-281  
The following resolution (2024-47) was offered by Commissioner Lee:  
WHEREAS, Polk County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund related to Bridge No. 60570; and  
WHEREAS, The 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

\$1,207,952.25 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Polk County 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 Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.  
Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None.

2. Detour Agreement #1056513  
Polk County/MnDOT is going to construct a roundabout at the intersection of CSAH 21 and TH 75 north of Euclid, MN. Roads that will be used for the detour include: CSAH 19, CSAH 20, and CSAH 23. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Detour Agreement #1056513 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the agreement, along with the placement of a traffic counter on the detour.  
2a. Approve Resolution (2024-51) MnDOT Detour Agreement #1056513  
RESOLUTION (2024-51)

MnDOT Detour Agreement #1056513  
The following resolution (2024-51) was offered by Commissioner Holy:  
WHEREAS, Polk County is entering into MnDOT Agreement #1056513 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for the following purposes: To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 19, County State Aid Highway No. 20, and County State Aid Highway No. 23 as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 75 from 1924' N. of Center Section 3, T152N R47W to 3242' N. of Center Section 3, T152N R47W under State Project No. 6011-30 (T.H. 75=6); and  
WHEREAS, Polk County will install a traffic counter on the detour to monitor ADT.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Board Chair and the Polk County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any

| Vendor Name                    | Amount       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| E- Z Liner                     | 73,530.52    |
| Godoy Medical Forensics Inc.   | 2,650.00     |
| Johnson Controls               | 3,820.00     |
| Knife River Materials          | 834,753.12   |
| Liberty Business Systems Inc   | 6,355.18     |
| Mn Dept Of Human Services      | 2,332.00     |
| MnCCC Lockbox                  | 246,960.00   |
| Northdale Oil Inc              | 19,804.15    |
| PS Garage Doors                | 2,705.00     |
| SeaChange Printing & Marketing | 6,594.75     |
| 8 Payments less than 2000      | 2,286.08     |
| Final Total:                   | 1,201,790.80 |

| Vendor Name                             | Amount    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Equity Builders & Construction Services | 19,040.00 |
| Final Total:                            | 19,040.00 |

| Vendor Name                         | Amount     |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Agassiz Asphalt LLC                 | 238,363.07 |
| AT&T Mobility                       | 2,790.88   |
| Fertile Oil Company                 | 22,689.37  |
| Gladen Construction Inc             | 198,982.63 |
| Innovative Office Solutions LLC     | 5,401.95   |
| Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP | 6,470.00   |
| Lejper Oil Company Inc              | 8,658.99   |
| Northdale Oil Inc                   | 10,235.27  |
| One Stop Student Services           | 12,754.80  |
| RnC Consulting P.A.                 | 2,177.50   |
| Sterling Carpet One                 | 2,156.26   |
| US Bank Voyager Fleet Sys           | 4,935.25   |
| 22 Payments less than 2000          | 10,361.05  |
| Final Total:                        | 525,977.02 |

| Vendor Name               | Amount |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 Payments less than 2000 | 15.00  |
| Final Total:              | 15.00  |

| Vendor Name                    | Amount       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Andover Township Treasurer     | 76,781.73    |
| Angus Township Treasurer       | 28,542.13    |
| Badger Township                | 28,315.06    |
| Belgium Township Treasurer     | 35,537.52    |
| Beltrami City Clerk- Treasurer | 36,068.45    |
| Brandsvold Township Treasurer  | 40,405.21    |
| Brandt Township Treasurer      | 28,541.86    |
| Bremer Bank Na                 | 3,913,042.81 |
| Bremer Bank Na                 | 263,236.43   |
| Bremer Bank Na                 | 158,708.72   |
| Brislet Township Treasurer     | 45,982.95    |
| Bygland Township               | 40,120.79    |
| Chester Township Treasurer     | 23,850.08    |
| Climax City Treasurer          | 62,478.92    |
| Columbia Township Treasurer    | 47,127.50    |
| County Emergency Medical Serv. | 146,357.57   |
| Crookston Area Ambulance Inc   | 93,268.09    |
| Crookston City                 | 2,136,515.24 |
| Crookston Township Treasurer   | 53,560.27    |
| Eden Township Treasurer        | 49,647.90    |
| Erskine City Clerk- Treasurer  | 115,517.19   |
| Esther Township Treasurer      | 44,927.25    |
| Euclid Township Treasurer      | 50,386.88    |
| Fairfax Township Treasurer     | 58,052.26    |

amendments to the Agreement.  
Commissioner Reese seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None.

3. MnDOT Agreement #1055859 CSAH 21 TH 75 Roundabout  
Based on the engineer's estimate, the cost participation by the State is \$1,912,134.28. In order to receive payment from MnDOT, Polk County needs to approve the agreement. Construction will begin on July 8, 2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve MnDOT Agreement #1055859 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract.  
3a. Approve Resolution (2024-52) MnDOT Agreement #1055859  
RESOLUTION (2024-52)

MnDOT Agreement #1055859  
The following resolution (2024-52) was offered by Commissioner Reese:  
WHEREAS, Polk County is entering into MnDOT Agreement #1055859 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for the following purposes: To provide for payment by the State to the County for the State's share of the costs of the roundabout construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway 75 at County State Aid Highway 21 under State Project No. 6011-30.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Board Chair and the Polk County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.  
Commissioner Lee seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Willhite. NAYS: None.

ADMINISTRATION  
Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:  
1. Review of Landfill Expansion Bonding Calendar  
Discussion was held with the Board regarding several considerations that will come with bonding for the landfill expansion.

AUDITOR WARRANTS  
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board that the following Auditor Warrants were approved:

| The McIntosh Times                      | Wednesday, July 24, 2024 | 3 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Fanny Township Treasurer                | 47,218.39                |   |
| Farley Township Treasurer               | 40,716.00                |   |
| Fertile City                            | 151,585.52               |   |
| First Care Medical Services             | 132,402.47               |   |
| Fisher City                             | 139,396.70               |   |
| Fisher Township Treasurer               | 42,408.60                |   |
| Fosston City                            | 402,436.24               |   |
| Garden Township Treasurer               | 65,088.75                |   |
| Garfield Township Treasurer             | 79,151.38                |   |
| Gentilly Township Treasurer             | 21,071.28                |   |
| Godfrey Township Treasurer              | 83,225.64                |   |
| Grand Forks Township Treasurer          | 27,144.58                |   |
| Grove Park Tilden Township              | 59,631.82                |   |
| Gully City                              | 15,090.40                |   |
| Gully Township Treasurer                | 72,614.76                |   |
| Hammond Township Treasurer              | 36,059.67                |   |
| Helgeland Township Treasurer            | 25,475.07                |   |
| Higdem Township                         | 66,049.05                |   |
| Hill River Township Treasurer           | 31,172.18                |   |
| Hubbard Township Treasurer              | 39,934.91                |   |
| Huntsville Township Treasurer           | 128,730.95               |   |
| Johnson Township                        | 33,145.56                |   |
| Kertsonville Township Treas             | 10,895.99                |   |
| Keystone Township Treasurer             | 37,539.96                |   |
| King Township Treasurer                 | 27,786.68                |   |
| Knute Township Treasurer                | 38,005.35                |   |
| Lengby City                             | 8,350.65                 |   |
| Lessor Township Treasurer               | 30,966.90                |   |
| Liberty Township Treasurer              | 47,642.25                |   |
| Lowell Township Treasurer               | 61,072.75                |   |
| Maple Lake Imprvrmnt District           | 35,195.82                |   |
| Marshall Polk Rural Water Sys           | 26,430.34                |   |
| McIntosh City                           | 138,917.36               |   |
| Mentor City                             | 31,050.63                |   |
| Middle- Snake- Tamarac Rivers Wtrshd Di | 431,192.38               |   |
| Nesbit Township Treasurer               | 76,735.07                |   |
| Nielsville City                         | 25,859.87                |   |
| Northland Township Treasurer            | 43,614.05                |   |
| NW Regional Development Comm            | 65,580.03                |   |
| NWMN HRA                                | 167,792.29               |   |
| Onstad Township Treasurer               | 22,942.82                |   |
| Parnell Township Treasurer              | 34,229.81                |   |
| Queen Township Treasurer                | 40,428.41                |   |
| Red Lake Watershed District             | 1,082,452.07             |   |
| Reis Township Treasurer                 | 22,913.99                |   |
| Rhinehart Township Treasurer            | 44,285.53                |   |
| Roome Township Treasurer                | 34,216.78                |   |
| Rosebud Township Treasurer              | 43,790.32                |   |
| Russia Township Treasurer               | 46,263.22                |   |
| Sand Hill River W S District            | 393,548.92               |   |
| Sandsville Township Treasurer           | 65,438.53                |   |
| Scandia Township Treasurer              | 19,060.36                |   |
| School District 2176 Treas              | 108,882.49               |   |
| School District 2311 Treas              | 10,544.68                |   |
| School District 2609 Treas              | 183,912.72               |   |
| School District 2906 Treas              | 8,192.32                 |   |
| School District 592 Treas               | 32,338.89                |   |
| School District 593 Treas               | 356,832.45               |   |
| School District 600 Treas               | 81,913.74                |   |
| School District 601 Treas               | 223,279.36               |   |
| Sletten Township Treasurer              | 44,329.18                |   |
| Sullivan Township Treasurer             | 59,866.45                |   |
| Tabor Township Treasurer                | 45,600.21                |   |
| Trail City Treasurer                    | 14,225.76                |   |
| Tynsid Township Treasurer               | 14,277.86                |   |
| Union Lake Sarah Improvement Dist       | 60,467.32                |   |
| Vineland Township Treasurer             | 35,286.97                |   |
| Wild Rice Watershed Dist Treas          | 19,408.58                |   |
| Winger City Clerk Treasurer             | 53,255.67                |   |
| Winger Township Treasurer               | 43,822.88                |   |
| Woodside Township Treasurer             | 198,819.67               |   |
| 3 Payments less than 2000               | 2,188.45                 |   |
| Final Total:                            | 14,068,367.51            |   |

| Vendor Name                  | Amount     |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Altru Health System          | 2,653.00   |
| AMP Robotics Corporation     | 7,457.34   |
| CIVICPLUS LLC                | 8,938.10   |
| Davidson Construction        | 60,000.00  |
| ENTERPRISE FM TRUST          | 46,379.14  |
| Fosston Municipal Utilities  | 49,737.87  |
| Fosston Municipal Utilities  | 2,570.74   |
| Great Plains Natural Gas Co  | 5,054.38   |
| Knife River Materials        | 19,396.91  |
| Norman County Public Health  | 55,257.06  |
| Ottertail Power Co           | 32,808.63  |
| Pennington & Red lake County | 2,137.23   |
| Polk County                  | 108,098.50 |
| Polk County Public Health    | 187,434.57 |
| Verizon Wireless             | 4,184.93   |
| 29 Payments less than 2000   | 20,820.26  |
| Final Total:                 | 612,928.66 |

| Vendor Name  | Amount     |
|--------------|------------|
| Polk County  | 600,000.00 |
| Final Total: | 600,000.00 |

| Vendor Name                    | Amount     |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE    | 6,058.42   |
| Crookston Water Department     | 3,986.61   |
| Gladen Construction Inc        | 39,387.71  |
| John Erickson                  | 245,960.00 |
| Mn Dept Of Natural Resources   | 126,700.00 |
| Ottertail Power Co             | 3,383.04   |
| Polk County Highway Department | 8,829.01   |
| Wild Rice Elec Co- Op Inc      | 2,382.20   |
| 14 Payments less than 2000     | 8,459.16   |
| Final Total:                   | 445,146.15 |

| Vendor Name  | Amount    |
|--------------|-----------|
| Polk County  | 74,550.77 |
| Final Total: | 74,550.77 |

| Vendor Name              | Amount     |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Internal Revenue Service | 197,147.95 |
| Minnesota Revenue        | 34,100.03  |
| Final Total:             | 231,247.98 |

| Vendor Name                 | Amount    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Minnesota Revenue           | 4,801.00  |
| Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division | 69,537.52 |
| 3 Payments less than 2000   | 2,336.69  |
| Final Total:                | 76,675.21 |

|                                                                                                   |               |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/20/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| Mn Dept Of Revenue                                                                                | 2,078.00      |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 2,078.00      |      |
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/21/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems                                                               | 92,974.49     |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 92,974.49     |      |
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/21/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems                                                               | 1,204.07      |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 1,204.07      |      |
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/21/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division                                                                       | 476,833.70    |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 476,833.70    |      |
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/21/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| Internal Revenue Service                                                                          | 199,916.42    |      |
| Minnesota Revenue                                                                                 | 34,692.19     |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 234,608.61    |      |
| MANUAL WARRANTS 06/26/2024                                                                        |               |      |
| <u>Vendor Name</u>                                                                                | <u>Amount</u> |      |
| Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division                                                                       | 98,128.39     |      |
| Final Total:                                                                                      | 98,128.39     |      |
| With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 9:30 o'clock a.m., July 16, 2024.   |               |      |
| Gary Willhite, Chair<br>ATTEST:<br>Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator<br>Clerk of the Board |               | M19C |

Cost of living... Continued from page 1 .....

leased annually by county, so they're used without any need to adjust geographically. In the aggregate, housing costs went up by 5.7%, but the Twin Cities metro area tended to have more moderate increases of about 4.5%.

When calculating state averages, county values are weighted by population, so the more populous metro area has a disproportionate impact. Outside the metro, increases in housing costs were much higher – mostly around 7% to 9% with 12 counties surpassing 10% increases over the year. The metro area continues to have much higher housing costs, but in percentage terms costs are increasing more slowly. Increases have been consistent through the years and larger in the last few.

Taxes

In 2021 there were major tax cuts that reduced the tax burden for most Americans, particularly in the income brackets estimated by the Cost of Living calculation. These affected the numbers published last year because we incorporate taxes for the year in which they're paid.

Although some adjustments were made to account for the one-time nature of those credits, there was still a substantial across-the-board reduction in cost of living as a result of taxes. For this year's calculation, those credits are no longer in place and the rate of taxes is on par with two years ago.

There were also cost of living increases in the last few years due to increased costs in other categories.

Housing and transportation have trended up. Food in particular has seen unusually high increases three of the last four years. The base income from which taxes are calculated has increased, and as a result the taxes for which the hypothetical families in the calculation are responsible have also gone up.

This means that across the board the amount calculated for taxes is higher this year than last by quite a lot, but also that compared to even a few years ago it's moderately higher. However, it's important to point out that for the most part, that change (from years immediately prior to the data released in 2023) is due to the higher income required from other categories, rather than a higher rate of taxation.

**Child care**

Child care costs come from Child Care Aware of Minnesota, which conducts a survey of providers every three years. They have just completed a new survey and have fresh responses. Their collection method has changed and as part of that we began aggregating responses to the Economic Development Region last year to better represent areas with small numbers of providers and longer average commutes. The combination of the new data and the larger areas of aggregation has resulted in some fluctuation in child care costs in our calculation. care costs in our calculation.

**Transportation**

Variable transportation costs are established by Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by family size and number of workers from the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), adjusted geographically by commute times by county from the American Community Survey. The NHTS is conducted every five years and this is the first post-pandemic update we've been able to incorporate.

The new survey results show substantial shifts in the base VMT numbers for required trips (i.e. health care, school, work, etc.). Regardless of household size, single worker households drove dramatically less in 2022 than 2017, while dual-income households drove slightly more.

The fixed costs went up by nearly 25%, while variable costs declined slightly, which softened this trend a little bit, but the effect was to increase the cost of transportation for

two worker households and decrease it for single worker households.

It's worth noting that despite the increases in transportation costs this has precipitated, we're still estimating a lower cost for transportation than in the earliest years of the calculation. The recent increases are more challenging as other categories are a lot higher than they were then, but the estimated cost level is not unprecedented.

**Conclusion**

The latest Cost of Living study reveals persistent inflationary pressures affecting various aspects of daily expenses. Despite a decrease from peak inflation in 2022, goods and services are still being impacted in different ways. Housing costs, which constitute a significant portion of household budgets, experienced a 5.7% increase overall, with higher spikes outside the Twin Cities metro area. Tax adjustments following major cuts in 2021 influenced this year's calculations, resulting in higher overall tax burdens compared to previous years, notably affecting hypothetical families' income brackets.

Additionally, child care costs, based on fresh data from Child Care Aware of Minnesota, showed fluctuations due to methodological changes and geographic aggregations. While the Twin Cities metro remains the highest-cost area for child care, the gap is narrowing.

Transportation costs, determined by VMT and adjusted for commute times, experienced shifts post-pandemic, with fixed costs rising by nearly 25%.

Despite these increases, the overall transportation cost estimate remains lower than in earlier years, though recent spikes pose challenges amidst elevated costs in other categories, highlighting the ongoing complexities of assessing the cost of living in Minnesota.

Do you have a story to share?

If you have a story, a story idea or any photos you want to share, please send to: mcintoshtimes@gmail.com



Ben Ramse reading the Declaration of Independence during the program held at the Dierkes farm in rural McIntosh on the 4th of July.

# Area students invited to RiverView’s free Scrubs Camp

What better way to check out a potential career than seeing it firsthand? That's what RiverView Health's annual Scrubs Camp is all about, healthcare professionals showing high school students the ins and outs of different career opportunities.

Registration is now open for the Aug. 6-8 camp. Area high school juniors and seniors are invited to sign up for the free three-day camp held on RiverView's Crookston campus.

Scrubs Camp offers:

- Information on specific careers.
- A look at different types of health careers.
- Information on how to prepare for a healthcare career.
- Help to decide what field to go into.
- Opportunity to meet others with similar interests.
- Chance to make contacts for the future.
- An "edge" when applying for jobs, schools, or volunteer activities.
- Hands-on experience.
- Exposure to the hospital



RiverView Occupational Therapist Maddie Engelstad (right) shows one of the 2023 Scrubs Camp participants some of the equipment used in the sensory room.

environment.

- Fun.

New this year, attendees will get to check out the new

Mako robotic-arm that Dr. Brennen Smith will soon begin using for assistance in his joint replacement program for

| SOCIAL SERVICES MINUTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Name of County</u><br>Polk County, Minnesota                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <u>Others Present</u><br>Chuck Whiting, County Administrator<br>Jennifer Compeau, Tri-Valley                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Date of Meeting</u><br>June 18, 2024, Convened at 1:00 P.M. – Adjourned at 2:20 P.M.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>Minutes</u><br>A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell, seconded by Commissioner Willhite, and adopted unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Minutes from the May 21, 2024, Polk County Social Service Board Meeting. |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Board Members Present</u><br>Gary Willhite – Chair<br>Mark Holy – Vice Chair<br>Joan Lee – Commissioner<br>Warren Strandell – Commissioner<br>Paula Waters – Secretary<br>Cathy Gutterud – Board Member                                                                                                               | <u>Agenda</u><br>A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Board Member Gutterud, and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the meeting Agenda for June 18, 2024, Polk County Social Service Board Meeting.  |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Staff Present</u><br>Karen Warmack, Director<br>Betty Solie, Support Services Supervisor<br>Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager<br>Molly Paulsrud, Social Services Supervisor<br>LeAnn Holte, Financial Assistance Supervisor II<br>Jon Street, Financial Assistance Supervisor I<br>Erin Dimich, Social Worker | <u>Review of the Cases and Claims</u><br>A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Willhite, and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Cases and Claims as follows:                         |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Admin</u><br>Medicare Part B<br>Medicare Park B<br>Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$174.70<br>\$6,638.60<br>\$63,747.77                                                                                                                                       |
| <u>Employee &amp; Board</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$2,264.57                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <u>Non-Public</u><br>Payroll Pay Date 5-24-24<br>Special Run 5-24-24<br>Special Run 5-28-24<br>POS 5-31-24<br>Special Run 6-3-24<br>Payroll Pay Date 6-7-24<br>1 <sup>st</sup> of the Month<br>POS ACH 6-21-24<br>POS 6-21-24<br>MA Insurance<br>Medical Transportation<br>Payroll Pay Date 6-21-24                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$372,514.43<br>\$28,140.16<br>\$30.00<br>\$125,811.29<br>\$30.00<br>\$376,433.60<br>\$11,557.02<br>\$4,452.11<br>\$289,443.31<br>\$9,895.09<br>\$11,862.32<br>\$381,595.90 |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 05/24/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>DHS-Swift<br>1 Payment Less Than \$2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <u>Amount</u><br>\$28,076.66<br>\$30.00                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$28,140.16                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 05/28/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>2 Payments less than \$2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Amount</u><br>\$30.00                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$30.00                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 06/03/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>1 Payment less than \$2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Amount</u><br>\$30.00                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$30.00                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 06/07/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>Kustom Kollision LLC<br>6 Payments less than \$2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>Amount</u><br>\$6,555.79<br>\$5,001.23                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$ 11,557.02                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 06/21/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>27 Payments less than \$2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <u>Amount</u><br>\$2,264.57                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$ 2,264.57                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u>Warrants for Publication</u><br>Warrants Approved on 06/18/2024 for Payment 06/21/2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Vendor Name</u><br>DHS-Swift<br>Human Inspiration Works, LLC<br>Kustom Kollision<br>Polk County, MN<br>Stenshoel-Houske<br>Verizon Wireless<br>WEX Bank<br>26 Payments less than \$2,000                                                                                                                              | <u>Amount</u><br>\$31,466.36<br>\$6,500.00<br>\$4,955.33<br>\$2,946.31<br>\$2,650.00<br>\$4,324.35<br>\$2,831.39<br>\$8,074.03                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Final Total:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$ 63,747.77                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>Personnel</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Resignation of Board Member Gutterud, effective June 18, 2024. A years of service plaque was given to Board Member Gutterud, recognizing and thanking her for her years of service on the Social Services Board.                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Probationary Appointment of Sarah Fillmore, Office Support Specialist, June 17, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Probationary Appointment of Heaven Thomforde, Eligibility Worker, June 24, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Resignation of Terrance Mackner, Eligibility Worker, effective June 20, 2024. Request for replacement was approved at County Board on June 4, 2024.                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Resignation of Amber Palm, Family Based Services Provider, effective June 11, 2024. Request for replacement was referred to County Board on June 18, 2024.                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Resignation of Chesnie Wojciechowski, Social Worker, effective June 4, 2024. Request for replacement was referred to County Board on June 18, 2024.                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Status Change of Sierra Smidt, Office Support Specialist, effective July 8, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the Status Change of Andrea Johnson, Accounting Technician, effective July 8, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the End of Probationary period of Emily Hestekind, Eligibility Worker, effective June 5, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the End of Probationary period of Maria Olson, Office Support Specialist, effective June 8, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the End of Probationary period of Lauren Sather, Social Worker CPS, effective June 12, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director reviewed with the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Board of the Personnel Organizational Chart dated June 18, 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Budget</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director reviewed with the Board the following Budget Reports: Social Services Budget Report – May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Social Services Month End Fund Balance Summary – 2002 through May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director and Jon Street, Financial Assistance Supervisor I, spoke to the Board regarding MA Recoveries/Estate Recoveries Report and the Burial Expense report.                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Out of Home Placement Cost Expenditures Report – May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>County Board Information</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Director informed the Board regarding the DHS contract amendment for Crisis Services funding into the 2024 calendar year. This contract amendment was referred to the County Board on June 18, 2024.                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <u>Program Information</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Out of Home Placement Report – May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager, and Jennifer Compeau, Tri-Valley spoke to the Board regarding FRC updates.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Adult Mental Health Commitments Report – May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Molly Paulsrud, Social Services Supervisor, and Erin Dimich, Social Worker, spoke to the Board regarding Adult Mental Health Services.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Income Maintenance Report – May 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Karen Warmack, Director<br>Polk County Social Service Center<br>Mark Holy<br>Chairman, County Social Service Board<br>Attest: Paula Waters<br>Secretary County Social Service Board                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| M19C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |