



**AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

September 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Government Center Board Room

Regular Session Minutes

**1.A CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wedel called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
J. Mark Wedel	District #1	Present
Laurie Westerlund	District #2	Present
Travis Leiviska	District #3	Present
Bret Sample	District #4	Present
Michael Kearney	District #5	Present
David Minke	County Administrator	Present
April Kellerman	Administrative Assistant	Present

**1.B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence for Charlie Kirk.

**1.C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to: Approve the agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Bret Sample
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Michael Kearney

**1.D Citizens Public Comment - None**

**2 CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (5 TO 0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Commissioner Travis Leiviska
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

**A) Correspondence File-**

September 9, 2025 - September 22, 2025

**B) Approve County Board Minutes-**

September 9, 2025

**C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers**

<b>Total</b>	\$2,270,292.69
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**D) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

Auditor Warrants - HHS 09.05.25

General	\$30.10	HHS	\$31,834.75			<b>Total</b>	\$31,864.85
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**E) Approve Commissioner's Vouchers**

Commissioner Warrants 09.12.25

General	\$220,132.46	R&B	\$81,841.83	HHS	\$1,585.71	State	\$9,041.50
Trust	\$9,178.59	Forest	\$37,660.64	Taxes	\$1,143.68	LLCC	\$2,204.67
Parks	\$15,646.12	COVID	\$10,152.00			<b>Total</b>	\$388,587.20

**F) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

Sales/Use & Diesel Tax 09.12.25

General	\$112.88	R&B	\$2,129.77	Trust	\$47.36	LLCC	\$48.84
Parks	\$504.79					<b>Total</b>	\$2,843.64

**G) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

Auditor Warrants - R&B 09.12.25

R&B	\$711,256.78					<b>Total</b>	\$711,256.78
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**H) Approve Auditor Vouchers-**

Auditor Warrants - HHS 09.12.25

General	\$496.52	HHS	\$92,168.90			<b>Total</b>	\$92,665.42
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**I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-**

ELAN 08.25.25

General	\$5,319.63	LLCC	\$755.45	R&B	\$992.19	HHS	\$252.51
						<b>Total</b>	\$7,319.78

**J) Adopt Resolution-**

LG220 App for Exempt Gambling - Jacobson Fire & Rescue Org

**K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-**

ELAN 09.15.25

General	\$1,757.62	State	\$113,651.15	LLCC	\$160.33	Parks	\$160.00
						<b>Total</b>	\$115,729.10

**L) Adopt Resolution-**

Final Contract Payment #20247

**M) Information Only**

Investment Report

**Regular Agenda**

3A John Welle – County Engineer

**Motion to:**

Approve Equipment Purchase - Excavator

**RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**

**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

3B John Welle – County Engineer

**Motion to:**

Approve 2026 Highway Maintenance/Construction Contract Schedule

**RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**

**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

4A Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

**Motion to:**

Adopt Resolution - CPL Grant with MDHA for Tree Planting

**RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**

**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney

**Resolution #** 20250923-108

5A Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

**Motion to:**

Set Public Hearing Date - New Off Sale Liquor License-OM Malmo LLC dba Malmo Market

**RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**

**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney

**Public Hearing Date:** 10:00 a.m. on October 28, 2025 at Aitkin County Government Center Board Room

5B Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

**Discussion Item**

2024 Audit Review/Presentation

**RESULT: DISCUSSION ITEM**

**MOVER:**

**SECONDER:**

Unmodified opinion

5C Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor

**Motion to:**

Adopt Resolution - 2026 Preliminary Levy

**RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)**

**MOVER:** Commissioner Bret Sample

**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

**Resolution #** 20250923-109

6A Arlene Selander – Executive Director of Petals of Peace

**Informational Only**

Petals of Peace Presentation

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY  
**MOVER:**  
**SECONDER:**

7A David Minke – County Administrator

Administrator Updates

Reminder of option to have tour/walk through of the HHS Remodel with Facilities Coordinator

8A Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Committeess

Aitkin County Community Corrections, MN Rural Counties, AMC - Public Safety Committee, Lakes and Pines, National Rural Action Caucus, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Snake Rivier 1W1P Policy, AMC Fall Policy Conference, MIA Come Back and Funeral, Planning Commission, Planning Commission Workshop, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Regional Development Committee, Complete Against Elected Officials event, Personnel Committee, County Garage Sale, Meeting with North Memorial Ambulance, Iron Range visit

9A Bobbie Danielson – Human Resources Director

Closed Session for Labor Negotiations (MN Stat. 13D.03)

**Motion to Close Meeting Under MN Statute 13D.03 Subd.1(b) Labor Negotiations**

Motion made at 11:50 a.m.

**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Bret Sample  
**Attendance of those present during Closed Session**

J. Mark Wedel	District #1
Laurie Westerlund	District #2
Travis Leiviska	District #3
Bret Sample	District #4
Michael Kearney	District #5
David Minke	County Administrator
Bobbie Danielson	Human Resources Director

**Motion to Reopen Meeting**

Motion made at 12:41 p.m.

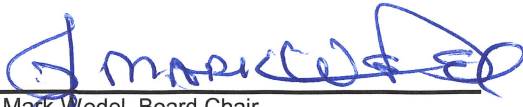
**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

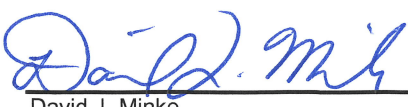
Motion made by Commissioner Laurie Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Bret Sample to appoint Commissioners Michael Kearney and Travis Leiviska as the primary negotiation Commissioners with Commissioner Bret Sample as the alternative.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion made at 12:44 p.m.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney  
**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025

  
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J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioner

  
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David J. Minke  
County Administrator