

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(At the beginning of each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the Agenda. Public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson)

II. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell

- A.** Fran Windschitl, Auditor Treasurer Contractor, discussed the Cash and Pooled Investments of Rice County for the period ended June 30, 2022.
- B.** Fran Widshittl, Auditor Treasurer Contractor also went over the Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2022. Both the Cash & Pooled Investments as well as the Quarterly Financial Report are right on track and where they need to be at this time.
- C.** John Dvorak, Executive Fair Manager, spoke about how the 2022 Rice County Fair was a great hit this year after a trying last couple of years. The Rice County Fair receives \$20,000.00 from Rice County each year to be used for maintaining the buildings and grounds. That sum of money is used for labor and building supplies for projects that they see as a need to maintain and improve items. Some of the projects that are being looked into this year will be the following: Some of the building doors and hardware need replacements, bathroom toilets are a constant challenge to maintain. Restrooms in the Beer Garden are outdated and require constant work. The Conservation building needs a new roof. There are still issues with bringing the grandstand stairs and handrails up to code. All the rooms of the cattle buildings need attention. The infield of the grandstand has issues with drainage that they are trying to address, and this past year they were able to acquire clay dirt from the city, which enabled them to raise the track two- and one-half feet. This year the Fair Board is requesting that they receive the \$20,000.00 they received last year along with the sum of money to pay for the insurance.
- D.** SEMCAC is the Senior Nutrition Program that offers Monday through Friday, noon meal service for persons that are 60 years of age or older. Nobody was available to speak on behalf of SEMCAC. They will be returning to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- E.** Natalie Draper, Director of the Northfield Public Library spoke about what the Library has currently been up to and what they plan for their future. This year the Northfield Public Library has requested an increase in funds for the 2023 budget. This will help with the increase in inflation on library budgets, potentially limiting their ability to serve the community due to the rising cost of materials. This year's increase is being asked for an 8% increase. Many services are provided for the locals to come and gather. Many people commented on how nice it is to have the library available for them when they need it. One individual from the area stated that she doesn't have the internet. She likes that she can just go down to the library and use the internet there. Home delivery is now possible with the Bookmobile and BookBike that they provide equitable access to the collection and services. Northfield Public Library aims to strengthen the community through effective partnerships and outreach in the years to come.
- F.** Tim Penny, CEO & President of Southern MN Initiative Foundation, was not available to present at the meeting. SMIF is the focus on economic and early childhood development and community vitality.
- G.** Kathy Jasnoch, Shelter Director, spoke to the Commissioner thanking them for their donations. Prairies Edge Humane Society is focused on finding long-lasting homes for homeless pets. Kathy stated that in 2021/2022 80% of animals who have come to them have not been to a vet or vaccinated. 65% of the animals need sterilization. Kathy stated that the surrendering of animals was coming at a cost, because people that were home during COVID had the time to take care of their pets. Now people are surrendering them due to financial issues. As of 6/30/2022, they took in 160 animals. This intake consisted of 121 cats and 39 dogs. Adoptions totaled 108 cats and 34 dogs, with a total of 142 adoptions during that timeframe. As for 2023, Kathy hopes to see animal numbers continue to move forward from pre-pandemic levels.
- H.** Delane James, Director of Buckham Memorial Library talked about the different things that have been happening at the Library. Primary Services consist of circulation and online resources, interlibrary loan

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Jeff Docken, Dave Miller, Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst,
NAYS: None