

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 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. SOCIAL SERVICES: Megan Thomas and Chris Kern

- A. Hanna Lips Foundation is a private charitable foundation in Faribault that was founded in 1978. This Foundation is open to grant applications yearly to fund health care services, hospitals, medical research programs or other organizations for health-related purposes.

III. SOCIAL SERVICES: Rick Gieseke and Mike Johnston

- A. An update from the Financial Assistance unit in the Operations & Family Supports Division regarding assistance programs, case totals, and preparation for COVID unwinding. On January 20, 2023, the Federal Government announced the COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, 2023, signaling the wind down of numerous waivers and modifications to programs and services.

IV. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A. Some highway updates that were provided discussed topics regarding pot hole patching and possible removal of plows. Maintenance is currently working with mixing of the salt and sand. 2,000 tons of salt has been ordered for next season. Working on the 2024 budget needs. Construction of county road 76 is continuing work on the culvert project as the weather allows. An open house for the public will be on March 21st at Buckham to discuss the I35/County Road 9 project. Future meeting with the MnDot meeting planner to discuss the County Road 20 project. The County Safety Plan will roll out regarding Federal and State Grant options at a later date. The 6-legged round about grants have been approved by the district. They are now being sent to St. Paul for review. Everything is in process, hoping to put out the RFP's in April and the possible start date would be in June.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Jeff Docken, Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, NAYS: None