

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(At each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the Agenda after they are presented. A Comment Card will need to be filled out in order to speak about any of the items. Public comments will be limited to (3) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson)

II. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A.** Dennis Luebbe gave a brief overview of what's taking place in his department. He wanted to recognize all law enforcement for last Wednesday's Semi-Accident, which resulted in lots of extra hands and help. He appreciates everyone's quick response and ability to get things back in order quickly. Dennis indicated that there will be additional tax distribution fund monies in the amount of \$395,000 of which \$150,000 will be dedicated to the highway maintenance department and the rest will be placed in the construction fund. These extra funds will be helpful in making all projects budgeted for the 2024 season to continue moving forward. Decker Avenue Corridor study (Northfield-City of Dundas) will be meeting to try to get a consultant on board to complete the project all the way to County Road 1. This project is still in the works. On the construction side, there were no major delays. Lonsdale pipework is done and roadwork is moving nicely. The same company working on the Lonsdale project is also working with the Public Safety Center and focusing on the pipework for that project. County Road 9 should be finished this week. The northwest section of the Veseli project should be ramping up soon and the Baseline Road Project should be opening a week after next. There are only a few things left to start the project. And finally, the gravel contract is still ongoing due to no moisture for the 75 miles of road. Still looking into better solutions for upkeep of the gravel roads of Rice County. More information to follow on this topic at a later date.

III. HUMAN RESOURCE: Adam Johnson and Carol Kritzer

- A.** Adam Johnson brought forth the Remote Work Policy and asked for direction from the Board of Commissioners. Steve Underdahl stated to the public that this is nothing new, just a precaution for remote work. He also stated he would like to see the policy discussing Hybrid situations. Underdahl feels having the employees staying connected will benefit well-being. Malecha has also spoken and agreed with Underdahl in regards to the Hybrid idea and had some concerns about disconnection within the office. He stated we need to work on this policy and have a form of structure. This policy will need to be tweaked as we go. Hoisington and Purfeerst felt we should bring this back to vote at a later Board meeting once they have been able to review the current policy and review possible changes. Purfeerst also thought it would be a good idea to review every 6 months and compare with other counties.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tina Stadler, Resident of Rice County, made a public comment stating: "Government work should take place in Government Buildings. This also keeps things from becoming casual and security is more easily dealt with. If we are talking about security issues, put the boundaries back around what should and would need to be secure."

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

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