

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, September 19, 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). Steve Underdahl opened the meeting.

II. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

A. Dennis Luebbe gave a brief overview of things happening within the Highway Department. Construction projects are starting to wind down. The County Road 4 project in Lonsdale is a bit behind, but was open to traffic. The last project of the season will start October 2nd. There are some staffing issues that are being worked on by human resources. Grant time is approaching. Safety Center is currently testing underground. Aboveground street work on October 2 curb work starts. Hwy 19 Roundabout will have open bidding starting October 12th and the lowest bidder will hopefully be presented at the October 26th, Rice County Board Meeting.

III. VETERAN'S SERVICES: Tracy McBroom

A. Tracy McBroom came forward and gave a short update on what's taking place in the Veterans Service Office. The number of current veterans is at 3,652 in Rice County. The amount of VA Federal dollars received by Veterans in our country was \$15,873,000 dollars. The dollar amount of VA medical care received by these veterans was \$13,219,000 dollars. The number of veterans in our county who received care at a VA medical facility was 1065. The amount of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs State Veterans benefits received by the veterans in our county is \$29,576. The total veteran's benefits received by veterans in our county are \$31,296,000. The dollars per veteran in our county is \$8,296. The current budget for the Veterans Service office is \$221,254.00

IV. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Dante Hummel-Langerfeld

A. Dante Langerfeld-Supervisor for Behavioral Health Services presented on behalf of what each person is doing in their department. She touched base on the Community Based Coordinators, which provide short-term services such as crisis intervention, treatment placement, coordination of care, transportation, referral to direct care providers, housing referrals/assistance, basic needs support & connection (food, safety, etc.) She also touched base on the Chemical Health Social Work that takes place and how that works. Treatment court is the third area of their work which focuses on working with individuals struggling with chemical dependency. From 2022-2023 7 have graduated from the program. Devonte L. one of the treatment court graduates spoke about his experience and where he is now at after going through the program.

V. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell

A. Sara Folsted brought forth the Preliminary Levy discussion which gave a breakdown of each department and where the budget was for the upcoming year 2024. This resolution will be brought forth at the next Rice County Board Meeting on September 26, 2023.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, NAYS: None. Jeff Docken and Galen Malecha had to leave the meeting early.