

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, November 21, 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. PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING: Deb Purfeerst

A. Sara Coulter provided a presentation which included Josh Ramaker and Agnes Bijila. The presentation discussed topics regarding WIC, SHIP, Car Seat Safety, Health Equity, Health Equity Grants, Community Health Improvement Process, Quality Improvement, Agency Communications, Community Outreach and Housing.

III. PARKS & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT: Matthew Verdick

A. It has been discussed that the Rice County Conservation Building get a second opinion on whether to replace the roof. It has been asked to get more information on structure integrity. A cost analysis will be required. More information on this item at a later Committee Meeting. Soil and water will hopefully move into the new purchased building by mid-January.

IV. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

A. Dennis Luebbe discussed the 6-legged roundabout and how they obtained an additional \$920,000.00 from outside sources for the project. Dennis talked about his employees and recognized them for their excellent work. The last touches of the 70-mile gravel road should be completed. Dennis talked about looking into the future and working on ways to save some funds for the upcoming years. Some overhead lighting has been looked into. The project is state-funded and there are about 29 locations that could use this lighting. A second proposal for Decker Avenue will be brought forward. Two of the proposals will be looked into further and brought back to the Board for further discussion. A draft report was completed with the City of Faribault regarding the new housing development by the Junior High School. Looking into possible pedestrian crossing, growth and development, and possible traffic control in the future. A meeting will be held in early December with the City of Northfield and MNDot to discuss Trunk Hwy 246. Mills Town Trail (State Trail) needs to be fixed along County Road 78. Short term maintenance overlay while working with the City to determine property line issues, right-of-way work and easements. More to come on this project as well.

V. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell

A. Paula O'Connell and Sara Folsted gave an update on the 2024 Levy. As of right now, there are no major changes. It has been asked by the Board that they give the Hope Center the exact amount they requested and that the Historical Society be given \$2000 more.

VI. 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