

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gerry Hoisington, Chairperson. Members present were: Purfeerst, Malecha, Underdahl, and Peters.
- B. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve the agenda as presented.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- C. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on December 2nd, 2025.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

II. OUTSIDE AGENCY: Steve Pahs, District Manager SWCD

- A. Presentation for Rice Soil & Water Conservation updates

III. PROPERTY TAX & ELECTIONS: Denise Anderson

- A. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, Reappoint Rice County Extension Member Clarice DeGrood for a 3-year term from January 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2028.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Charlie Peters, Reappoint Rice County Extension Member Sandi Fuchs for a 3-year term from January 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2028.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Julie Runkel

- A. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Galen Malecha, to deny the Interim Use Permit with the findings for Cole Bearden of New Leaf Energy, on behalf of landowners Poplar Grove Farms LLC and Richard Nielsen. The property is in Section 23 of Morristown Township. Charlie Peters and Galen Malecha retracted their motions to deny.**
RESULT: to be brought back to the Planning Commission and reopen the Public Hearing on January 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the request of the applicant.
Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to bring back to the Planning Commission and reopen the public hearing on January 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the request of the applicant.
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Bruce Brumm. The property is located in Section 9 of Wheatland Township.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- C. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Conditional Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Mike Bath. The property is located in Section 25 of Walcott Township.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- D. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve the Interim Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Julia Romani. The property is located in Section 15 of Wells Township.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- E. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the Interim Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Jesse Dimond of New**

Energy Equity, on behalf of landowners David and Jacquelyn Hubers. The property is located in Section 18 of Northfield Township.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- F. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve the Interim Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Jesse Dimond of New Energy Equity, on behalf of landowners David and Jacquelyn Hubers. The property is located in Section 17 of Northfield Township.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- G. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the Interim Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for David Watts of US Solar, on behalf of landowners Joseph and Constance DeGrood Revocable Trusts. The property is located in Section 11 of Warsaw Township.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- H. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Charlie Peters, to re-appoint Garrett Johnson & Matt Purfeerst to both the Rice County Planning Commission & Board of Adjustment for the 2026-2028 term.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None. Jim Purfeerst abstained from this motion.

- I. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve entering into a special project services agreement with Foth to conduct a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Expansion Feasibility study.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

V. **DRAINAGE AUTHORITY: Jarett Spitzack**

- A. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha to go into the Drainage Authority.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, approves the 2026 Rates from Rinke Noonan on drainage ditch items.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- B. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Charlie Peters, to adopt the updated Drainage System Repair and Maintenance Policy, and to adopt the Work Within Public Drainage System Right-of-Way Policy**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

VI. **FACILITIES: Chris Kluge**

- A. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve declaring the Fleet Vehicle, 2014 Chevrolet Impala with VIN No. 2G1WA5E34E1115051, as County Surplus.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- B. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve declaring the Fleet Vehicle, 2014 Chevrolet Impala with VIN No. 2G1WA5E35E1115964, as County Surplus**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

- C. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve declaring the Fleet Vehicle, 2012 Chevrolet Impala with VIN No. 2G1WF5E30C1266001, as County Surplus.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

VII. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Allan Klug**

- A. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha, to approve the proposal for a four-year agreement with FRSecure for security auditing, testing, and consulting.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

VIII. COMMUNITY SERVICES: Mike Johnston

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, Amending contract end date to 12/31/2025 Workforce Development, Inc. Contract.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Social Services Department, Minnesota Family Investment Program Biennial Service Agreement for 2026-2027.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

IX. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Jesse Thomas

- A. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve and sign the 2026-27 Violent Crime Enforcement Teams Grant Contract Agreement.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Galen Malecha, to adopt Resolution #25-055/2026-27 Snowmobile Safety Enforcement (SSE) Safety Grant.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- C. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Charlie Peters, to adopt Resolution #25-054/2026-27 Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Grant.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

X. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A. Reminder of the Open House regarding County Road 20, which will be held this evening from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Rice County Training Rooms of the Government Services Building. All comments will be collected through January 31, 2026. The second week of January will be the open house for the 10-year Highway plan. All bid openings are scheduled to begin the 2026 season.

XI. FINANCE: Peggy Schaak

- A. **Motion by Charlie Peters, seconded by Galen Malecha, Adoption of Resolution #25-057 Levying Tax on Taxable Property & Adopting 2026 Budget.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

XII. HUMAN RESOURCE: Kari Viskocil

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the continuation of the Wellness Works Program in 2026 for benefit-eligible full-time and part-time employees.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

XIII. ADMINISTRATION: Sara Folsted

- A. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the consent agenda as presented.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
1. Extra Time/Over Time Report 11/26/2025
 2. Payment of Bills
Bills Totalled: \$936,610.54 Amazon Capital Services Inc 2,937.34, Anderson Rock & Lime Inc 7,505.50, Assured Security 2,039.49, Auto Value Faribault 6,661.59, BHE Community Solar LLC

18,449.84, Boldt Funeral Home 2,497.72, Borneke Construction Inc 116,435.52, Bruzek Funeral Home Inc 2,162.05, Community Co-Op General Office 8,888.16, Computer Integration Technologies Inc 45,652.61, Consolidated Management Company 14,377.67, Dick's Sanitation 26,143.56, Erickson Engineering Company 2,002.40, Faribault Foundation 10,000.00, Foth Infrastructure & Environment LLC 17,154.92, Guardian Fleet Safety 30,914.26, Guardian RFID 2,981.25, Houston County Sheriff 4,200.00, Irwin Law Office 3,942.00, J&N Tactical 23,425.00, Jr's Advanced Recyclers Inc 8,606.25, Kielmeyer Construction Inc 2,220.04, Kiesler Police Supply 30,094.30, Lansweeper, Inc. 4,309.20, Liberty Tire Recycling Llc 2,560.73, Midwest Collision Inc 2,568.90, Minnesota Counties Computer Coop 2,584.00, Minnesota Dept Of Transportation 9,650.24, Minnesota State Treasurer 12,567.00, Mvtl Laboratories Inc 8,000.20, Nexus Gerard Family Healing LLC 9,367.89, Office of MN IT Services 3,753.23, Olmsted Aggregate 12,342.02, Paape Companies Inc 8,279.27, Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory 3,198.08, PSC Alliance Inc 7,580.00, Regents Of The U of M 44,937.50, Reynolds/Harvey 11,444.50, Rogosheske, Rogosheske, & Atkins, PLLC 7,830.00, Scott Purvis & LaRoche's 18,000.00, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community 14,626.95, SHI International Corp 4,699.49, Star Sports and Apparel 3,515.50, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2,729.25, SymbolArts LLC 3,135.00, The Caulkers Company, Inc 4,200.00, Thomson Reuters - West 7,083.87, Three Rivers Community Action 20,033.24, TireHub LLC 2,430.80, WEX Health Inc 3,248.30, Access On Time Companies Inc 15,980.00, Alternative Resolutions Inc 21,583.05, Blue Earth County Human Services 13,534.75, Christensen/David or Anita 3,978.79, Community Living Options 2,282.40, Dept Of Human Services SWIFT 6,264.81, Gardner/Kendra & Jeremy 2,640.60, Goettl/Catherine 2,916.52, GONZALEZ/CYNTHIA & TRINIDAD 2,760.00, Heartland Girls Ranch 8,623.92, Koger/Carol L 2,922.60, Le Sueur County Human Services 6,237.10, Lssmn 6,574.80, Nexus Gerard Family Healing LLC 15,411.69, Schoenbauer/Holly or David 2,147.04, Sheehan/Theresa M 3,971.10, Village Ranch Inc 14,461.50, Workforce Development Inc 42,626.12

3. Personnel Appointments

Rukio Abdulkadir FT, Eligibility Worker, Social Services at \$26.74/hr., eff. 12/8/2025

Osbeida Aguilar FT, Correctional Officer, Sheriff's Office/Jail at \$30.60/hr., eff. 12/15/2025

Brandis Miller On-Call Part-Time, Public Health at \$45.63/hr., eff. 12/7/2025

Delainey Allen FT, Sheriff's Office/Jail at \$24.39/hr., eff. 12/21/2025

Tatiana Achcar FT, Office Specialist, Public Health at \$24.39/hr., eff. 12/1/2025

B. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Charlie Peters, to approve and adopt Resolution #25-043, the re-appointment of Tracy McBroom as Rice County Veterans' Service Officer for a four-year term commencing on January 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

Approved by the Rice County Board of Commissioners this 23rd day of December 2025.

RICE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gerry Hoisington, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Sara Folsted, County Administrator