

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Charlie Peters, Chairperson. Members present were: Purfeerst, Malecha, Underdahl, and Hoisington.
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to approve the agenda as presented.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- C. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on January 13th, 2026.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

II. OUTSIDE AGENCY: Emmie Scheffler, JPO Administrator

- A. Emmie Scheffler, JPB Administrator, gave an updated presentation on the Cannon River Watershed.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Julie Runkel

- A. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Interim Use Permit with the conditions and findings recommended by the Planning Commission for Cole Bearden of New Leaf Energy, on behalf of landowners Poplar Grove Farms LLC and Richard Nielsen. The property is located in Section 23 of Morristown Township.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: Galen Malecha
- B. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha, to deny the Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 517.09 of the Rice County Zoning Ordinance with the findings discussed by the Planning Commission.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: Jim Purfeerst
- C. **Motion by Gerry Hoisington, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to enact a public hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Rice County Zoning Ordinance Chapters 502, 507, 508, and 514 to add "Contractor Spec Complex and Yard" as a new conditional use in the HC, Highway Commercial Zoning District, add a definition and standards for the proposed new use, and to add Insulated Metal Panels (IMP) as an allowed primary exterior wall material in the HC zoning district.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- D. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to enact a public hearing for the Zoning Map Amendment to change the Zoning of property from A, Agricultural to HC, Highway Commercial. The property is located in Section 36 of Webster Township.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD: Deb Purfeerst

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to go into the Community Health Board.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, approved the appointment of Debra Purfeerst, Rice County CHS Administrator, as Agent of the Board.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to go out of the Community Health Board.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

V. PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING: Deb Purfeerst

- A. **Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha, to approve a two-year renewal agreement with HealthFinders Collaborative for reproductive health services.**

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

VI. PROPERTY TAX & ELECTIONS: Denise Anderson

- A. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to go into the Public Hearing to hear comments on the possible resolution expanding the Circle Lake Improvement District Board from 7 to 9 members.**

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

Dean Sunderland, a Faribault Resident, explained to the Board that the workload has increased, creating space for new members to acclimate to the role.

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to go out of the Public Hearing.

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

- B. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, Adopt Resolution # 26-066 to increase the size of the Circle Lake Improvement District Board from 7 members to 9 members.**

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

- C. Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha, to approve Temporary 3.2% Malt Liquor License, Church of St. Patrick, Shieldsville, 7525 Dodd Rd. Faribault, MN 55021, on March 6th, 2026.**

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

- D. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to approve the Temporary 3.2% Malt Liquor License, Church of St. Patrick, Shieldsville, 7525 Dodd Rd. Faribault, MN 55021, on March 13th, 2026**

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

- E. Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Galen Malecha, to approve the Temporary 3.2% Malt Liquor License, Church of St. Patrick, Shieldsville, 7525 Dodd Rd. Faribault, MN 55021, on March 20th, 2026.**

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

- F. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the Temporary 3.2% Malt Liquor License, Church of St. Patrick, Shieldsville, 7525 Dodd Rd. Faribault, MN 55021, on March 27th, 2026.**

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

- G. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to approve the Temporary On Sale Liquor License for Church of the Annunciation, Hazelwood, for June 27 & 28, 2026, at 4669 Hazelwood Ave, Northfield.**

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

- H. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Tax-Exempt Gambling Permit for Church of the Annunciation Hazelwood, for June 28, 2026, at 4996 Hazelwood Ave, Northfield.**

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

- I. Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Tax-Exempt Gambling Permit for Holy Cross Catholic School for February 9, 2026, at 6100 37th St W, Webster.**

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 payment to MNCCC for 2026 services.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the consolidation of Civic Plus contracts.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

VIII. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Jesse Thomas

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to sign/execute the agreement between the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), Minnesota Correctional Facility Faribault, and Rice County.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

IX. FAMILY SUPPORTS & OPERATIONS: Mike Johnston

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, it is requested that the Board approve the 2026-2027 contract with Workforce Development, Inc.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to request that the Board approve the 2026 contract with Three Rivers, Inc.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

X. CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES: Tina Johnston

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to approve the Child Support Program Interagency Cooperative Agreement between DHS (Department of Human Services) and Rice County.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

XI. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Angela Brewer

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to support and adopt Resolution 26-007 for the Rice County Mental Health Treatment Court proposal and implementation plan.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to approve the extension of the contract between Rice County Community Corrections and Amherst H. Wilder Foundation for research and reporting services related to the 2022 COSSAP grant. The grant received a no-cost extension through September 30, 2026. This contract extension extends the work agreement with Amherst H. Wilder through the remaining grant period and provides an agreement for additional research and data collection regarding the utilization and outcomes of the COSSAP-funded initiatives.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None

XII. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to approve the Final Payment on Contract # 2573 to Icon LLC in the amount of \$51,422.06 for work completed on project SAP 066-646.011.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- B. **Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the final payment on Contract # 2575 to Icon, LLC in the amount of \$8,053.43 for work completed on Project 066-678-02.**
RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None
- C. Comments from the Public Hearing regarding the County Road 20 project will be forwarded to the Commissioners and returned to the Committee of the Whole Work Session on February 3, 2026, for further discussion.

XIII.

ADMINISTRATION: Sara Folsted

A. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Steve Underdahl, 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 01-09-2026

2. Payment of Bills

Bills Totaled: \$1,951,592.72 180 Degrees, Inc 3,397.38, ABR Sand & Gravel LLC 67,410.38, Alternative Resolutions Inc 7,465.80, Amazon Capital Services Inc 2,714.03, Amherst H Wilder Foundation 6,750.00, Applied Concepts Inc 6,386.00, Archambault Bros Disposal Inc 2,818.37, Arrow Electric LLC 6,739.67, Association Of Minnesota Counties 3,948.00, Beyond Brink 4,000.00, Boldt Funeral Home 4,273.42, Bridgewater Twp 144,211.28, Bruss Psy.D PLLC/Stephanie 2,950.00, Central Pension Fund 15,743.00, Children Youth & Families Dept 2,997.86, Cigna Health & Life Insurance Co 8,306.25, Community Co-Op General Office 8,626.60, Computer Integration Technologies Inc 12,335.00, Consolidated Management Company 17,908.35, Dakota County Financial Services 13,234.01, Dem-Con Materials Recovery 15,767.66, Dem-Con Trucking 22,277.75, Dept Of Human Services SWIFT 26,893.29, Ecker/Stephen R 2,850.00, Faribault City 4,004.50, Faribault City 65,473.43, Faribault City 12,109.17, Faribault Interiors Inc 8,750.00, Forest Twp 2,890.89, Great Lakes Salt Company 33,397.94, Great River Energy 25,000.00, Guardian Fleet Safety 6,425.04, I & S Group Inc 6,630.30, Kilgore/Douglas 4,050.00, MCIT 967,272.00, Met-Con Construction Co Inc 33,500.00, Metro Sales Inc 14,367.99, Midwest Machinery Co 21,000.00, Minnesota Industrial Tooling Inc 3,784.00, Minnesota Monitoring Inc 2,643.00, Minnesota Teamsters Union #320 10,031.00, Minnesota Transportation Alliance 3,072.00, MN Public Employees Assoc 4,464.00, Mullenberg Plumbing & Heating 2,656.70, Northern Safety Technology 2,041.40, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative 7,379.79, Northfield Hospital 2,882.14, Northfield Public Schools 4,613.70, Patton Hoversten & Berg 2,670.00, Quadient Finance USA Inc 4,127.22, Ratwik Roszak & Maloney Pa 3,336.72, RDO Equipment Co 3,021.82, Redwood Toxicology Laboratory Inc 2,259.24, Rice County Agricultural Society 4,765.00, SHI International Corp 2,670.00, Southeastern MN Emergency Medical Serv 5,000.00, Staples Oil Company Inc 16,107.50, SVL Inc 7,512.03, T Mobile 8,738.05, The Trust AGR of Marcus James Axiotis 5,524.70, Thomson Reuters - West 6,007.47, Verizon Wireless 7,377.34, Widseth Smith Nolting Inc 6,217.50, Xcel Energy 22,207.62, Access On Time Companies Inc 34,860.00, Carlson/Niki Jo 2,199.45, Community Living Options 2,358.48, Forensic Nursing Home 3,995.90, Junk Truck MN 2,662.20, Messick Law PLLC 4,635.00, Moose Lake RTC 5,386.25, MSOP-MN SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM 13,965.50, Olson/Debra 3,090.00, St Peter Rtc 7,762.40, Twin Cities Home Care LLC 25,000.00, Village Ranch Inc 2,927.10

B. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Galen Malecha, requesting to adopt the resolution 26-005 establishing the minimum salary for Elected Officials in the beginning term of 2027.

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 out-of-state travel for County Administrator Sara Folsted to attend the 2026 NACO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., February 20–25, and the SelectUSA Investment Summit, May 3-6, in National Harbor, Maryland.

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 10th day of February 2026.

RICE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charlie Peters, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Sara Folsted, County Administrator