



WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 21, 2025 - 9:30 AM
East Annex Public Meeting Room
300 North State Street – East Annex · Waseca, Minnesota 56093

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, in the Commissioners' Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota. Members present were Chair Doug Christopherson, DeAnne Malterer, Brian Harguth, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause.

Other members present were Michael Johnson, County Administrator; Beth Weimert, Administrative Coordinator; Rachel Cornelius, County Attorney; Tammy Spooner, Property and Election Services Director; Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Sarah Berry; Public Health Director; Chris Dieker; IT Deputy Director

Others present were Deb Bently, Waseca County Pioneer; Don White and Kirk Kuchera, SMART Transportation

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Christopherson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Presentations

a. SMART Transportation, Don White

Don White, SMART Transportation, presented to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss SMART Transportation. White noted that in 2025 SMART Transportation has delivered approximately 11,000 rides in Waseca County through September. They currently have 7 drivers and service Waseca, including one bus route that runs from 7 AM to 5 PM and on demand buses run from 6 AM to 6 PM. They are adding a fourth bus in late 2025. Furthermore, they are servicing 35 school-aged students with transportation for the current school year. White also shared many stories from people that receive services in Waseca County.

Kirk Kuchera, SMART Transportation Manager, noted they will be partnering with Mayo in Albert Lea to help transport individuals from Albert Lea to Waseca for individuals who are seeking medical care in Waseca.

b. Blue Plus Audit Results

Sarah Berry, Public Health Director, noted managed care organizations perform audits for the case management and care coordination we provide under contract. This year's results for Blue Plus have been received, and out of sixteen elements, only one required a documented improvement plan. There were nine areas of "findings" which identified areas needing improvement. The mandatory improvement and finding areas are included in the audit results. A corrective action plan has been created and approved by Blue Plus which outlines a process for internal chart audits to catch misses earlier, increasing our overall compliance with CMS regulations.

c. South Country Health Alliance Audit Results

Berry also noted receiving the final audit results from South Country Health Alliance. Like the Blue Plus audit, there are many elements we are performing to standard. There were a couple of elements that needed addressing. The corrective action plan for these elements will be incorporated into our peer audit and chart review processes. Of note, out of 84 elements, only 12% did not meet standards, in just 2 categories. The team is well positioned to remediate those shortcomings.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the Waseca County Board of Commissioners agenda as presented by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of County Board Minutes

Motion to approve the Waseca County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of August 5, 2025, work session minutes of August 12, 2025, closed work session of August 12, 2025, and meeting minutes of August 19, 2025, by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

a. Waseca County Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes August 5, 2025

- b. Waseca County Board of Commissioners Work Session Minutes August 12, 2025
- c. Waseca County Board of Commissioners Closed Work Session Minutes August 12, 2025
- d. Waseca County Board of Commissioner Work Session Minutes August 19, 2025
- e. Waseca County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes August 19, 2025

5. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Commissioner Harguth, seconded by Commissioner Krause. Motion carried 5-0.

a. Approval of Bills

The following bills were audited and allowed:

A.H. HERMEL COMPANY	298.71
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	686.58
AMERICAN PROBATION & PAROLE ASSOCIATION	660.00
ANCOM COMMUNICATIONS INC	3,577.24
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES	3,375.00
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	313,589.86
BAKER TILLY LLP	12,444.00
BARBARA J. BUKER	280.80
BAUER BUILT INC	1,881.54
BOCKS SERVICE INC	410.00
BORNEKE CONSTRUCTION INC	1,550.00
BROCK NELSON	71.99
CAMP CANINE LLC	2,500.00
CAPITAL ONE	16.41
CARDINAL HEALTH 110, LLC	109.78
CAROLYN PORTA	584.00
CHRISTENSEN TIRE & AUTO REPAIR	274.72
CIEL STRATEGIC INNOVATIONS	3,500.00
COLE PAPERS INC	56.96
COLE'S ELECTRIC INC	1,298.75
COMMUNITY COMPLIANCE MONITORING	168.00
CURT KEYES	99.60
DDA HUMAN RESOURCES INC	10,250.00
DEML FORD INC	4,273.69
DENNIS-STEFFEL-OMTVEDT FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE	620.00
DONNELLY LAW FIRM PLLC	375.00
DORCO INC	1,098.10
DUANE RATHMANN	81.40
ELLA BULFER	2,046.58
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	638.95
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	1,123.70

FIRST NATIONAL BANK 9655	6.08
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 7265	19.99
FIRST NATIONAL BANK 5529	110.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA 0792	493.77
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA 1344	94.09
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA 3849	545.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	1,606.92
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 7462	1,684.82
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 0727	120.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 1325	45.51
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 1745	550.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 2173	255.02
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 2431	200.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 2905	354.58
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 5640	649.89
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 6667	473.60
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 6742	165.00
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 7801	582.80
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 8006	149.30
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 8264	49.62
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA 8538	372.62
FLAHERTY & HOOD PA	65.00
GROWING ROOTS CHIROPRACTIC LLC	100.00
HOME SWEET HOME HARDWARE LLC	12.48
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC	687.60
JAMIE BECKSTRAND	105.20
JULIE TESCH	102.40
KARPEL COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC	9,350.00
KIM KROEGER-BABCOCK	92.60
L & L STREET ROD & SPORTS TRUCK	35,469.19
L&D AG SERVICE, INC	269.51
LAACKE & JOYS COMPANY LLC	2,269.00
LEON SCHOENROCK	99.60
LESUEUR CO SHERIFF-CIVIL DIVISION	1,800.00
LINDA LARES	100.00
MARK BEHREND	1,190.00
MARK SOMMERS	93.02
MARVIN PEARSON	97.92
MAS MODERN MARKETING INC	1,233.45
MATHESON	89.50
MEDTOX LABORATORIES	35.46
MESSICK LAW PLLC	690.00
MICHAEL JOHNSON	1,133.61
MINNEAPOLIS FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES LLC	5,062.50
MJB HANSEN FAMILY LP	2,120.32

MN ASSOC FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	1,500.00
MNCCC LOCKBOX	5,715.97
NAPA AUTO PARTS	259.99
NAPA AUTO PARTS	2,104.51
NAPA AUTO PARTS	631.15
NUSS TRUCK GROUP INC	435.31
PAUL BECKSTRAND	105.20
PDQCOM CORPORATION	1,485.00
PEMBERTON LAW PLLP	546.00
PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL INC	263.39
POWERPLAN INC	1,342.70
POWERPLAN INC	592.71
RACHEL CORNELIUS	260.40
RAMSEY COUNTY FINANCE	2,210.00
RANDY HOFMEISTER ANIMAL CONTROL	100.00
REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MN	34,981.19
RELIANCE TELEPHONE INC	20.00
RIVER BEND BUSINESS PRODUCTS	16.67
RIVER VALLEY FORENSIC SERVICES PA	250.00
RODNEY BORN	83.50
RS EDEN	237.15
RUSSELL J FREDERICK	84.34
SANCO EQUIPMENT LLC	956.14
SANOFI PASTEUR INC	6,761.02
SF ENTERPRISES LLC	2,230.00
SOFTWARE.HARDWARE.INTEGRATION	5,265.00
SQUIRES, WALDSPURGER & MACE PA	2,798.00
STATE OF MN BUREAU OF CRIM APPREHEN CJIS	1,560.00
STATE OF MN BUREAU OF CRIM APPREHEN CJIS	480.00
STEELE CO TREASURER	2,000.00
STEPHANIE ROEMHILDT	169.38
STREICHERS	278.00
TAMMY SPOONER	84.00
THOMSON REUTERS	684.01
TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES EAST LLC	413.90
ULINE	291.33
WASECA ABSTRACT COMPANY	2,798.00
WASECA CO PROPERTY & ELECTION SERVICES	979.30
WASECA CO SOIL & WATER	4,444.98
WASECA HARDWARE LLC	295.46
WASECA HARDWARE LLC	24.95
WESLEY STEVEN DAHL	372.00
WILLIAM G DONAHUE	3,700.38
ZAHL PETROLEUM MAINTENANCE CO	3,380.24

b. Fund Transfer Request - Public Health

\$3,438.16 be moved from the National Opioid Settlement Fund 25-093-000 into the Public Health Fund 01-451-451 for first quarter expenses.

c. Fund Transfer Request - Public Health

Transfer of \$16,689.25 from the South Country Reinvestment Grant Fund 25-480-050 to the Public Health Nursing Fund 01-451-451.

d. Fund Transfer Request - Community Corrections

Moving \$4,432 from the drug court code: 25-252-000 to the general community corrections code: 01-252-000 for computers that were paid out of the incorrect code.

6. Action Items

a. Opioid Advisory Bylaws

Berry noted after convening partners over the last few months, we are excited to present the proposed bylaws for our Opioid Settlement Advisory Council. The bylaws have been presented to the council and approved to be forwarded to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners for your consideration. They outline the structure of the committee and provide for its ongoing work to inform the use of opioid settlement funds.

Motion to approve the opioid advisory bylaws by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Opioid Settlement Fund Request for Proposals

Berry discussed that over the course of 2025, the Opioid Advisory Council has been forming and meeting, all with the aim of developing priorities and a process for the spending of Waseca County opioid settlement funds. After much consideration, the council proposes using a quarterly process for the gathering, review and award of proposals. The first opening will be from November 1, 2025, to December 15, 2025.

Community survey results show that most respondents would prioritize using the opioid settlement dollars for prevention in youth, family and community programs, followed closely by treatment and recovery by expanding treatment options. These priorities will be considered as grant responses are scored. The committee recommends setting a goal for the use of \$50,000.00 in 2026 to address these priority areas.

Motion to approve the opening of the RFP process as outlined in the draft attached to the board packet by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Krause. Motion carried 5-0.

Berry noted that first submissions can be provided beginning November 1, 2025, with the first submission deadline of December 15, 2025. Additional submission deadlines will follow on March 15, June 15 and September 15, 2026.

c. MnSure Navigator Contract

Berry was excited to share that our Certified Community Health Worker (CCHW) has been very busy with many services. She carries an active caseload for our Healthy Families America program as well as supporting our unit by providing translation services. Many of her referrals result in requests for translation assistance for the completion of MNSure applications for medical insurance. Currently, we can bill for translation services only when serving an insured individual. Therefore, Public Health is requesting permission to become a contracted partner with MNSure.

After contracting, we would assign our CCHW as the MnSure Navigator. Providing navigation services is reimbursable by MNSure if the resident is eligible for coverage. As a navigator, with the consent of the individual, the CCHW would be able to assist with the completion of MNSure applications in person or virtually. Public Health would be able to capture revenue with successful applications.

This is not a service being offered by MnPrairie. There are a couple of local places this service is offered, but not with Spanish translation.

Reimbursement is \$100.00 per individual enrolled upon successful determination of eligibility. There are 20 hours of free training for the CCHW.

Motion to approve MnSure Navigator Contracted provider with an update from Public Health on the review of the full financial impact update in 6 months and full review in 1 year by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Harguth. Motion carried 5-0.

d. Infection Prevention Program for Reproductive Health

Berry noted Public Health has for many years offered the Double Dutch program, comprised of the distribution of educational materials paired with a small condom supply through the Minnesota Department of Health's Condom Distribution Program. Many residents utilize this distribution program at our building. However, Waseca County continues to experience

a concerning increase in rates for sexually transmitted diseases. When researching testing availability and access, we noted that there are limited locations for simple testing.

Public Health proposes offering testing services alongside education and referral for treatment. Our program would begin by focusing on chlamydia and gonorrhea, as other diseases have more complexity for reimbursement and treatment. Nursing staff would meet with clients, perform testing and provide education on prevention and protection methods. Approve further exploration of the cost and benefits of beginning a program for the reduction of disease transmission, including testing, continuity of care and referrals to treatment.

Motion to recommend Public Health to further explore the cost and benefits of beginning a program for the reduction of disease transmission, including testing, continuity of care and referrals to treatment by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Approval of Cybersecurity Supplemental Insurance

Chris Dieker, Deputy Director, noted that Judy Hiller, IT Director, reached out to National Insurance Services (NIS), a broker working in the private and public sector to get quotes on supplemental Cybersecurity Insurance. A number of MN Counties have used this broker to find supplemental coverage. Five carriers provided quotes (see attached). As with many counties, we have had coverage by Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) for years, but have recently learned that it isn't sufficient for a significant cybersecurity event.

Motion to recommend approving CFC insurance carrier for the \$3,000,000.00 policy at the cost of \$12,483.30 yearly by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Harguth. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Administration

a. Administration Update

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, provided updates to the board regarding recent administration announcements.

b. Human Resources Announcements

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, provided updates to the board regarding recent Human Resource announcements.

c. Community Development update

Tabled.

8. Commissioner Reports

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners in attendance at today's meeting shared commissioner reports.

9. Closed Session for Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Information Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, Subd. 3(b)

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners moved into a closed work session at 11:17 a.m. Motion to follow the strategy in the closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.05, Subd. 3(b) by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Krause. Motion carried 5-0. The Waseca County Board of Commissioner moved out of closed session at 12:02 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Having no further county board business, Commissioner Harguth moved, and Commissioner Krause seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:03 a.m.

Doug Christopherson, Chairperson
Waseca County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Beth Weimert, Clerk
Waseca County Administration