

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 19, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present: Cindy Wright, Eric Johnson, Kurt Zehnder, Robert Schuldt, and Greg Myhre

Others Present: Interim Auditor/Treasurer Polly Heberlein, Fillmore County Journal Reporter Wanda Hanson, The Caledonia Argus Associate Editor Katia Gorsuch, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Social Services Director Bethany Moen, Public Health Director Jordan Knoke, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Attorney Suzanne Bublitz, and Yvonne Krogstad

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder motion unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from May 5, 2026.

Public Comment:

Yvonne Krogstad from Caledonia Township asked questions about the courtesy car for the airport including who would pay for the purchase, who paid for gas, and how many people would use the service. She asked if that money would be better spent on something else.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda. Approved items are below.

- 1) Hire Shawn Nisbit as a 67-day temporary/casual Drop Site Supervisor, at a pay rate of \$18.11 per hour effective immediately.

- 2) Hire Lexi Thorson as a 67-day temporary Social Worker (C41- Step 1) effective immediately.
- 3) Review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS

2026/05/19 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
ABILITY BUILDING COMMUNITY	2,481.05
ACEN TEK	2,804.48
BOLTON & MENK INC	2,250.00
CALEDONIA SNO GOPHERS CLUB	11,345.40
CALEDONIA/CITY OF	14,980.54
EHLERS	2,000.00
ENTERPRISE FM	11,602.23
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST CAR SALES	8,577.35
ESRI	8,366.00
FAHRNER ASPHALT SEALERS LLC	124,353.42
HOKAH CO-OP OIL ASSN	7,707.40
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	22,233.13
HOUSTON-MONEY CREEK SNOWRIDERS	5,313.00
KWIK TRIP	6,086.70
LA CRESCENT ROCK PRODUCTS INC	2,494.08
LA CRESCENT TRAIL	4,138.20
LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING LLC	3,893.15
MIENERGY COOPERATIVE	2,374.42
MILESTONE MATERIALS	2,588.97
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	4,624.07
MINNOWA CONSTRUCTION INC	24,609.38
MN STATE TREASURER	6,129.00
MNCCC	11,933.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	15,497.76
REVIZE LLC	7,580.00
RICHARD'S SANITATION LLC	26,782.69
SANCO EQUIPMENT LLC	50,815.00
SCHNEIDER CORPORATION/THE	3,256.80

TOWMASTER LLC	421,356.00
VIKING RIDGE RIDERS	4,389.00
WEX BANK	2,282.20
WEX BANK	2,431.20
	<hr/>
	827,275.62
59 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	23,358.43
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	850,634.05
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	301,615.44
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	1,152,249.49
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ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Commissioners discussed approving a Courtesy Car Agreement with the City of Caledonia. The City would be taking the calls regarding reserving the car. Users of the car would be responsible for putting gas in it. The car that would be used was an old County car, and the County would provide maintenance on it as needed. The cost was expected to be minimal. The City Police Department would take the reservation calls, and would keep track of how often it was used and the purpose for using the airport/car. Commissioner Zehnder said the car would be good for tourism. There was a time limit on how long the car could be used and it could only be used in Houston County and surrounding areas. Pogodzinski said most airports similar to Houston County in size had courtesy cars. Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Myhre, motion unanimously carried to approve the Courtesy Car Agreement.

File No. 2 –Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve a of Boulevard Tree Policy & Permit. A permit fee would be determined in the future.

File No. 3 – The Commissioners discussed a contract price adjustment for liquid chloride that was requested by a contractor due to supply surcharge costs out of their control for fuel. The Commissioners took no action on the matter.

File No. 4 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to approve the quote from Winona Controls to replace two boilers at the Woodland Building. The current boilers were at least 30 years old and were in poor condition, the 2026 budget included \$20,000 for replacement of the boilers. The total cost would be \$23,900 for both boilers.

File No. 5 – Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder, motion unanimously carried to appoint Sarah Wiste Schmidt to complete an open partial term on the Extension Committee. The term would be from the date of appointment through 12/31/2026.

File No. 6 – Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder, motion unanimously carried to accept donations for Tessmer Farm Safety Day. The Commissioners commented that it had been a good event with a high turnout. They thanked those who had donated for their generous donations.

File No. 7 – Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Wright, motion unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Jason Kraft from the Root River Trail Extension – Citizens Exploratory Committee and appoint Honor DiDonato to serve on the Committee on behalf of Houston County.

File No. 8 – Motion was made by Commissioner Schuldt, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder, motion carried unanimously to accept Auxiliary Post 6801 donation of \$225.00 to the Veteran Services Office to use for any veteran’s needs. The Commissioners commented on how generous the donation was.

File No. 9 – Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion carried unanimously to accept Auxiliary Post 6801 donation of \$200.00 to the Veteran Services Office to use for any veteran’s needs with thanks.

File No. 10 – Motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Zehnder, motion carried unanimously to approve the Houston County Snowmobile Club Resolutions authorizing County Sponsorship for the financial and technical assistance from the DNR in accordance with laws, rules and regulations governing said assistance for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season. Resolutions are below.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-12

LA CRESCENT SNOWMOBILE CLUB GRANT RESOLUTION

May 19, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota, approves the Maintenance and Grooming application of La Crescent Snowmobile Club Inc. and authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, Houston County desires to establish a public trail in furtherance of its public recreation program, and

WHEREAS, the La Crescent Snowmobile Club Inc. agrees to act as an independent contractor to help and assist Houston County to acquire, construct, and maintain said trail, and is registered as a nonprofit corporation, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota offers financial and technical assistance to Houston County for the construction of an approval trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota is authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, for financial and technical assistance in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations governing said assistance for the La Crescent Snowmobile Club Inc. for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

CALEDONIA SNO-GOPHERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB GRANT RESOLUION

May 19, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota, approves the Maintenance and Grooming application of Caledonia Sno-Gophers Snowmobile Club and authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, Houston County desires to establish a public trail in furtherance of its public recreation program, and

WHEREAS, the Caledonia Sno-Gophers Snowmobile Club agrees to act as an independent contractor to help and assist Houston County to acquire, construct, and maintain said trail, and is registered as a nonprofit corporation, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota offers financial and technical assistance to Houston County for the construction of an approval trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota is authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, for financial and technical assistance in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations governing said assistance for the Caledonia Sno-Gophers Snowmobile Club for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-14

HOUSTON-MONEY CREEK SNOWMOBILE CLUB GRANT RESOLUTION

May 19, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota, approves the Maintenance and Grooming application of Houston-Money Creek Snowriders

Snowmobile Club and authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, Houston County desires to establish a public trail in furtherance of its public recreation program, and

WHEREAS, the Houston-Money Creek Snowriders Snowmobile Club agrees to act as an independent contractor to help and assist Houston County to acquire, construct, and maintain said trail, and is registered as a nonprofit corporation, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota offers financial and technical assistance to Houston County for the construction of an approval trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota is authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, for financial and technical assistance in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations governing said assistance for the Houston-Money Creek Snowriders Snowmobile Club for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-15

VIKING RIDGE RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB GRANT RESOLUTION

May 19, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota, approves the Maintenance and Grooming application of Viking Ridge Riders, Incorporated Snowmobile Club and authorizes the Board Chairperson to sign an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, Houston County desires to establish a public trail in furtherance of its public recreation program, and

WHEREAS, the Viking Ridge Riders Incorporated Snowmobile Club agrees to act as an independent contractor to help and assist Houston County to acquire, construct, and maintain said trail, and is registered as a nonprofit corporation, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota offers financial and technical assistance to Houston County for the construction of an approval trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners, Houston County, Minnesota is authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, for financial and technical assistance in accordance with the

laws, rules and regulations governing said assistance for the Viking Ridge Riders Incorporated Snowmobile Club for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commissioners discussed Peddler Ordinance (13) to be updated in near future with Interim Auditor/Treasurer Heberlein. Potential updates would include a new proposed fee structure, a new requirement for Peddler/Transient Merchant to give bond to the county, and changing the license period from a 30-day license to a 1-year license. Heberlein said the changes would be consistent with what other Counties were already doing.

Coordinator Parker said the Department Head meeting that week had included a presentation from Mower County on their cyber attack that had happened a year prior. It was good for Houston County departments to hear from and learn from Mower County's experience. The new County website was up.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including a Department Head, Personnel, Land Use, ECB, Public Health, Extension, Root River One Watershed Meeting, Public Health, Workforce Development, and AMC meetings.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on May 26, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Brent Parker, Coordinator