

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 21, 2023**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Scott Bruns	Chair	Present
Neal Gaalswyk	Commissioner	Present
Rick Haaland	Commissioner	Present
Scott Bruns	Commissioner	Present
Bob Kangas	Commissioner	Present

**Name and Representing**

Josh Stevenson – Administrator  
Betsy Woodford – Administrator's Office  
Sandra Norikane - Chief Financial Officer  
Kyndra Johnson - Pine Cone Press-Citizen  
Chris Haugene – Pilot Independent  
Allen Olson – Cass Lake Times  
Drey Loge – Waste Partners  
Eric Loge – Waste Partners  
Todd Myers – Core Powersports  
Vicky Kinney – My Neighbor to Love Coalition  
Gary Dietrich – Hackensack Game Changers  
Don Hoppe – Union Congregational Church  
Amy Gordon – Pine River Backus Family Center  
Leslie Bouchonville – Pine River Backus Family Center  
Betty Doss – Pillager Family Center  
Angie Dickison – Arvig Telephone Compan DBA TDS Telecom  
Barb Mann – Balsam Moon Preserve  
Rhett Johnson – Self  
Doug Weiss – Balsam Moon Preserve  
Mary Yakibchuk – Northland Community School  
Mike Paulus – Cass County Economic Development Corporation  
Kevin Lee – North Ambulance  
Tom Buhl – Central Services  
Bryan Welk – Sheriff  
Eric Alger – Sheriff's Office  
Brad Rittgers - Sheriff's Office  
Darrick Anderson – County Engineer  
Mark Gossman – Land Commissioner  
Jeff Woodford – Environmental Services  
Dana Gutzmann - Environmental Services  
Scott Wold - Environmental Services  
Kelly Condifff - Environmental Services

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Bruns convened the regular meeting of the Cass County Board of Commissioners at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, with the flag pledge in the Land Department Meeting Room, Backus, MN.

2. Approval of agenda for discussion. (Any requests to be heard not on the proposed agenda are considered for inclusion at this time.)

Administrator Stevenson presented the regular agenda for Board consideration. He noted no changes to the regular agenda as presented. He then asked for a motion to approve the regular agenda as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Peterson
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

### 3. Josh Stevenson – County Administrator

Administrator Stevenson presented the consent agenda for Board consideration. He noted no changes to the consent agenda as presented. He then asked for a motion to waive the reading and approve the consent agenda as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

#### 3.a Consent Agenda

Approve – Regular meeting minutes of February 7, 2023.

Approve – Auditor Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections (Batch 2) dated January 2023 in the amount of \$905,563.18.

Receive & file – January 2023 Monthly budget reports.

Approve – Auditor Warrants dated February 2, 2023, in the amount of \$228,680.28.

Approve – Auditor Warrants dated February 9, 2023, in the amount of \$623,750.60.

Approve – HHVS-Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections (Batch 1) dated January 2023 in the amount of \$0.00.

Approve – HHVS IFS Auditor Warrants dated February 3, 2023, in the amount of \$343,389.60.

Approve – HHVS IFS-SSIS Auditor Warrants dated February 3, 2023, in the amount of \$174,467.34.

Receive & file - Notice of resignation of Kelly Condiff, ESD Technical Support Professional, effective February 21, 2023.

Receive & file – Notice of intent to advertise and fill 3 budgeted Seasonal Engineering/Surveying Technicians, Grade 12.

Receive & file – Notice of intent to advertise and fill 2 budgeted Seasonal Maintenance Workers, Grade 6.

Receive & file - Notice of resignation of Emily Johnson, Office Support Specialist, effective February 3, 2023, and notice of intent to advertise and fill with a budgeted Office Support Specialist, Grade 16.

Receive & file - Notice of intent to advertise and fill a Probation Officer Intern, Grade 7, not to exceed 400 hours.

Receive & file – Notice of appointment of Kristin Kelley, Jailer, Grade 21, Step 1, effective February 13, 2023.

Approve – Licenses – Tobacco, 3.2 Beer, Liquor, Gambling, Etc.

On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor including Sunday: The Pub – The Pub-KW, LLC – Kory Wagner – Remer Township Consumption & Display “Set-Up”: Northland Lodge – Michael O’Reilly – Winnie Portage Lakes Unorganized.

Approve - Capital Fund Activity:

2023: RW Electric (Elevator Project) \$65.00

Approve - ARPA Grant Activity

County: RW Electric (Backus HVAC) \$130.00 RW Electric (Cabling Project) \$5,585.00

2023 Phase III: Federal Dam Volunteer Fire Department \$20,000

Approve - Fire contracts for the Unorganized Townships for the period beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

City of Longville \$660.00 (same as 2022)

City of Remer \$1,401.27 (\$1,396.62 in 2022)

Federal Dam Volunteer Fire Dept \$4,100 (same as 2022)

Walker Area Joint FD \$1,933.51 (\$1,888.50 in 2022)

City of Deer River will be presented for approval later.

Adopt – Resolution 18-23 and 19-23 approving Amendment #1 to MnDOT Contract 1048659 and Amendment #1 to MnDOT Contract 1048868.

Commissioner Gaalswyk offered Resolution No. 18-23 and moved its adoption; Commissioner Kangas seconded

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Local Agency to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cass County Board Chairman and the Cass County Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Local Government to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in “Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number **1048659 – Amendment 1**” a copy of which said agreement was before the City Council/County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Resolution No. 18-23 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Peterson, Kangas, Bruns, Gaalswyk, Haaland Nays: None

Commissioner Gaalswyk offered Resolution No. 19-23 and moved its adoption; Commissioner Kangas seconded

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Local Agency to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cass County Board Chairman and the Cass County Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Local Government to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in “Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number **1048868 – Amendment 1**” a copy of which said agreement was before the City Council/County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Resolution No. 19-23 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Peterson, Kangas, Bruns, Gaalswyk, Haaland Nays: None

Approve - Payment of the 2023 Town Road Apportionment to Townships.

Approve – Transfer of Unorganized Township Road costs from October through December 2022 from the Unorganized Township account to Road & Bridge in the amount of \$85,135.70.

Approve – Out of State travel for Nicholas Daigle, Staff Appraiser to attend the GIS/Valuation Technologies 2023 Conference in Las Vegas, NV from April 2-7, 2023.

Approve – Amendment No. 4 for Grant Contract No. 173035 between Minnesota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division and Cass County Health, Human and Veterans Services and authorize Michele Piprude, HHVS Director, to sign on behalf of the County Board.

Approve – Cass County SWCD Invoice #63 to provide professional services for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) preventions for \$18,342.74.

Approve – Tulenchik et al reclassification as recommended by the Cass County Planning Commission at their February 13, 2023, regular meeting.

Adopt - Resolution 17-23 approving the 2023 State of Minnesota Federal Supplemental Boating Safety Patrol Grant Agreement to provide supplemental funding for recreational boating activities (RJE Oceanbotics SRV-8 ROV) beginning January 1, 2023 through August 1, 2023 in the amount of \$47,185.00.

Commissioner Gaalswyk offered Resolution No. 17-23 and moved its adoption; Commissioner Kangas seconded

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the 2023 Federal Boating Safety Supplement Grant Safety Agreement (SWIFT Contract #223575) (Purchase Order#3-223773) for \$47,185.00 with the State Department of Natural Resources, and authorizes signature of the Chairman, Administrator, and Sheriff to execute the Agreement.

Resolution No. 17-23 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Peterson, Kangas, Bruns, Gaalswyk, Haaland Nays: None

Accept - Donation in the amount of \$427 from Drive Right 365.

Authorize – 4th Quarter Longville Ambulance Subordinate Service District payment in the amount of \$122,750.00.

Award – The Munroe Turntable phase 2 Archeology survey contract to Nienow Cultural Consultants in the amount of \$42,400.

Receive & file - January 2023 Interest Report.

Receive & file - Child Welfare Screening Updates.

### 3.b. ARPA Grants

Administrator Stevenson provided seven American Rescue Plan Act Grant (ARPA) Phase III grant applications for Board consideration. He noted that there were \$401,874 in requests with \$264,984 of remaining funds. The Board asked applicants to provide a brief description of their project and answer questions before they took action. After presentations and a discussion by the Board, Commissioner Gaalswyk made a motion and Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion to fund each grant application as follows; My Neighbor to Love Coalition \$7,500; the City of Remer and Remer Ambulance \$50,000; Hackensack Game Changers Child Care Team \$108,000; Pine River Backus Family Center \$54,874; Arvig Telephone Company dba TDS Telecom \$30,610; Balsam Moon Preserve \$3,000; Northland Community Schools \$15,000.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Peterson

**AYES:**

Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

**3.c. Establish a Committee of the Board for ATV Ordinance**

Administrator Stevenson reported that Cass County has experienced an increase in ATV activity over the past three years. He also reported that the increase in activity has impacted the Land Department, Sheriff's Office, and Highway Department. He noted that the three departments are prepared to present a Draft ATV Ordinance for consideration. He also noted that the three departments are looking for direction from Commissioners on how to proceed. He reported that one option is to establish a Committee of the Board to bring recommendations back to the full Board or draft an ATV Ordinance for Board consideration. Commissioner Peterson and Kangas volunteered to serve on the ATV Ordinance Committee of the Board. Administrator Stevenson then asked for a motion to establish a Committee of the Board with Commissioners Peterson and Kangas to bring recommendations back to the full Board regarding an ATV Ordinance for Cass County.

**RESULT:**

**YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:**

Rick Haaland

**SECONDER:**

Neal Gaalswyk

**AYES:**

Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

**3.d. Report Back from the Opioid Settlement Committee of the Board**

Administrator Stevenson provided a summary of the Opioid Settlement Committee of the Board from Monday, January 30, 2023. He reported that the Committee reviewed the memorandum of agreement and corresponding resolution approved by the County Board on December 21, 2021, related to the opioid settlement funds. He also reported that public health departments are identified as Chief Strategists in the Minnesota Opioid State – Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). He noted that the County Board can identify itself as the Chief Strategist. He also noted that the MOA identifies abatement strategies that settlement fund recipients shall use including treatment, prevention, and other strategies. He also noted that in addition to first responders, law enforcement expenditures related to the opioid epidemic can be supported with settlement funds. He reported that the current drug laws need to be changed because the penalty for possession of fentanyl is less than the penalty for possession of heroin concerning volume. He also reported that the Committee noted that changing the law regarding the possession of fentanyl should be added to the County legislative priorities. He noted that research and evidence-based outcomes should be goals associated with the activity. He also noted that the Committee recommendation to the full Board is that the Cass County Board of Commissioners is the Chief Strategist in determining how opioid settlement funds are used. He reported that the Committee reviewed what partners should be considered by the County before decisions with opioid settlement funds are made. He also reported that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) is currently meeting regularly with State Probation, Legal Counsel, Behavioral Health and Assessment Professionals, Law Enforcement, and Courts to coordinate efforts and talk about accomplishments. He noted that Cass County is welcome to attend the monthly meetings with Tribal Leadership that takes place on the first Wednesday of the month. He also noted that County Staff from the Attorney's Office attended the meeting to discuss the Civil Commitment Code that the Band is currently working on. He reported that LLBO is working on a Community Wellness Navigator for each LLBO Tribal Council District. He also reported that representatives from Family Centers, First Responders, LLBO, Area Schools, Legal Professionals, and Addiction Medicine and Education should be Committee partners. He noted that the Committee also noted that attending the LLBO Response and Prevention Meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> would be beneficial before any recommendations are made to the Board regarding Committee partners. He also noted that the settlement agreement requires research and evidence-based solutions. He reported that the data collected now on opioid overdoses and when naloxone is administered need to be better understood. He also reported that there were no recommendations made to the full Board at this time regarding partners and that the Committee plans to continue attending LLBO Response and Prevention meetings. He then asked for a motion to approve the Cass County Board of Commissioners as the Chief Strategists when determining how opioid settlement funds are used.

**RESULT:**

**YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]**

<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Peterson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

### 3.e. Report Back from the Solid Waste Committee of the Board

Administrator Stevenson provided a summary of the Solid Waste Committee of the Board from Tuesday, February 7, 2023. He reported that the Committee heard from the contractor regarding the amendment request to the hauling agreement with Grinning Bear. He also reported that the cost of containers has increased and there is not enough funding in the current agreement to replace the existing containers, and the existing agreement does not have a fuel escalator exposing the contractor to increases in fuel costs. He noted that new containers purchased need to be modified to be used for this agreement to a total cost per container modified of approximately \$8,000. He also noted that the 25% increase recommended by the Committee will provide enough additional revenue to continue services until the contract can be re-bid with new container rent or own options for the County. He reported that the 25% increase will allow the contractor and County staff to bridge the gap for another 90 days if the increase is retroactive to January 1, 2023. He also reported that the Committee recommendation to the full Board is to approve the 25% increase retroactively to January 1, 2023, as an interim solution until a new request for proposals is solicited from interested contractors with new options for replacing the containers used and a fuel escalator. He reported that the Committee heard from the contractors regarding clarification of amendment requests received for Transfer Station and Recycle Bin agreements with Waste Partners. He also reported that the cost of bins needed for the recycle bin agreement has doubled in price since 2019. He noted that the volume of materials has increased by 20% since the start of the agreements in 2019. He also noted that the contractor has experienced a 14% labor rate increase since last year. He reported that the request to increase both contracts by 7.4% is projected to cost the County approximately \$80,000 more in billings over the next year. He also reported that County staff need to review hourly labor billing information from the current agreement invoices to determine how the requested increase will impact the current 2023 budget. He noted that rebuilding the Pine River Transfer station buildings may offer an opportunity to run the facility more efficiently. He also noted that the committee recommendation to the full Board is to approve the total increase requested on both the Transfer Station and Recycle Bin agreements retroactive to January 1, 2023, for a projected increase of \$80,000 in 2023. It was noted that this recommendation is not fulfilling the full funding request but that the Board wants business to continue. It was also noted that changes may be coming with potential updates to the Pine River Transfer Station. He then asked for a motion to approve the 25% increase retroactive to January 1, 2023, as an interim solution until a new request for proposals is solicited from interested contractors with new options for replacing the containers and a fuel escalator for the Hauling Agreement to move materials from transfer stations at May Township., Walker/Hackensack, and Slagle's to the Pine River Transfer Station; and to approve the total increase of 7.4% requested from Waste Partners on both the Transfer Station and Recycle Bin agreements retroactive to January 1, 2023, for a projected increase of \$80,000 in 2023.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

### 4. Mike Paulus – Cass County Economic Development Corporation

#### 4.a. 2022 EDC Update

Cass County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Mike Paulus provided an update to the Board on recent activity. He reported that the 2021 -2022 Cass County EDC operational year closed on September 30, 2022. He also reported that the pandemic-related repercussions are less and more normal as local economic standards have returned. He noted that there are other factors now providing a challenge for County businesses to overcome including inflation and supply chain interruptions. He also noted that the revenue for County businesses remains strong but that there was a precipitous delayed impact on reported revenue caused by inflation. He reported that the Cass County EDC attracted a \$430,000 allocation from the DEED-funded Main Street Revitalization Grant. He also reported that this allocation was targeted to main street Pine

River which housed a six-year vacant 25,000-square-foot structure previously occupied by ALCO and now occupied Tractor Supply Co. He noted that the mission of the Cass County EDC is to create jobs and increase the Cass County tax base. He also noted projects they were involved in during the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year covered a wide cross-section of the Cass County economy. He reported that their consulting services culminated in 798 hours direct to business owners and Cass County Cities and these consulting hours resulted in \$13,200,000 in capital raised to fund company growth. He noted that this amount is a Cass County EDC fiscal year record for capital raised. He also noted that approximately 52-53 jobs were created in Cass County in 2022. He thanked the Board for their support of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation. The Board thanked Mr. Paulus for the report.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECEIVED AND FILED</b>
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5. Kevin Lee – Longville Area Subordinate Service District

5.a. LASSD 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report

North Memorial Ambulance Manager Kevin Lee of the Brainerd Region presented the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2022 report for the Longville Ambulance Subordinate Service District (LASSD). He informed the Board that the LASSD had Advanced Life Support (ALS) crews on every shift except for one 12-hour shift during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and that this exceeds our Part Time ALS Requirement. He reported that LASSD billed 298 patients vs the budgeted amount of 299. He noted that they billed 305 patients during the same time in 2021. He reported that their revenues were \$4,651 favorable to budget. He also reported that their revenue deductions were 57.8% vs a budget of 57.7%. Their expenses were \$17,598 favorable to budget. He noted that their margin was -2.1% and their goal is 10%. He also noted that they received a subsidy increase for 2023 to meet their 10% margin goal. He reported that their salary expenses have gone up significantly since their last subsidy increase in 2017. He also reported that they attended the Quarterly Emergency Services meetings and that he continues to represent Cass County on the Central Region EMS Advisory Committee. He noted that in 2023 they are partially reimbursing the cost for EMR initial and EMR refresher classes, and EMT initial/EMT refresher classes. He also noted that they will be holding two free EMT classes in Onamia and St. Cloud, both are anticipated to be full. He reported that they do not have a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter patient satisfaction score due to problems with their vendor, but he did share a positive letter they received from a Longville patient call in October. He reported that their destination hospitals during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter were Bemiji – 08; Brainerd – 19; Cass Lake – 03; Crosby – 30; Deer River – 03; Grand Rapids – 02; Park Rapids – 02 and Air Care – 01. He also reported that Brainerd had the highest totals for the year with 90 and that Essentia was their most popular destination. The Board thanked Mr. Lee for the report.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECEIVED AND FILED</b>
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6. Tom Buhl – Central Services

6.a. Approve Deep Portage Drywall Replacement Project

Central Services Director Tom Buhl reported that the drywall replacement and repair of the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center damaged by ice dams throughout the facility will require drywall removal, installation, and painting. He also reported that a request for proposals (RFP) was published in the local newspaper and posted on the Cass County website with no response. He noted that they solicited contractors and were able to obtain one bid during the process from Steinbrecher Painting Company. The Board clarified that the County will receive insurance proceeds to help offset the cost of the drywall replacement and repairs. He then asked for a motion to approve the Deep Portage Drywall Replacement project to Steinbrecher Painting Company for \$43,365.00.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rick Haaland

**AYES:**

Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

7. Bryan Welk – Sheriff

7.a. Sheriff's Office 2022 Annual Report

Sheriff Bryan Welk provided the 2022 Annual Report for the Cass County Sheriff's Office to the Board. He reported that 2022 was a very busy year handling 19,568 Initial Complaint Reports (ICRs), down 1,100 from 2021, but average compared to pre-pandemic totals. He noted that 95% of 911 calls came in by cellphone and that an increase in calls was seen from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM, peaking from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. He also noted that permit-to-carry applications continue to show an increase in 2022, processing 366 permits-to-purchase applications and 1077 permit-to-carry applications. He reported a serious increase in overdose-related medical calls and deaths being observed region-wide, mostly due to the use of fentanyl. He also reported that they responded to 113 medical-related overdose calls, with 4 resulting in death. He noted that Narcan (Naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose) was noted to be used/administered on 117 calls in 2022. He also noted that Narcan has been in all squads since 2016 and is also kept in the evidence room. He reported that licensed staff retention continues to be very good, with some turnover in non-licensed positions. He also reported that recruiting and hiring qualified applicants proves to be a local, regional, and statewide issue. He noted that Deputy personnel assigned to Campus Security and safety screens for entry to courtrooms continues to be effective. He reported on deputy response times to emergencies, noting that the Countywide average response time is 7.82 minutes and the Countywide average on-scene time is 34.47 minutes. He also reported that with the utilization of the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) the closest squad, including deputies, supervisors, and investigators is sent to the call for service. He noted that their office contracts with the City of Cass Lake for Law Enforcement services and that there are three full-time deputies assigned to the City of Cass Lake contract. He also noted that they work very closely with the City Administration and are proud of their successful partnership. He reported that they also contract with the cities of Backus, Longville, and Pillager Schools. He also reported on the welfare and fraud investigation/prevention program that includes Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena counties. He noted that in 2022 the program investigated and completed 107 cases and referred 101 cases, with one case submitted for review of criminal charges. He also noted that the total savings that the fraud program prevented were \$50,352.00 and that the total overpayment for 2022 was \$65,086.00. He reported that the agency will recoup these funds from ongoing benefits or send them to collections, the programs that the fraud prevention program investigates include TANF, SNAP, Federal & State Medical and Childcare programs. He reported on the number of death investigations noting that there was a total of 131 deaths reported and investigated in 2022, an additional 98 terminally ill registration deaths were reported and 195 cremation requests were approved. He noted the significant amount of deaths by suicide in 2022 for a total of 12. He reported on OHV/ATV education and enforcement noting 4 fatal OHV crashes in 2022. He reported that the new squad vehicles are about 6 months behind on builds from GM and Ford. He thanked the Board for their continued support. The Board thanked Sheriff Welk and the County Attorney for their support against the recent gun legislation. The Board also thanked him for the great report and acknowledged all deputies and other Sheriff's Office staff for their efforts and keeping people safe.

**RESULT:**

**RECEIVED AND FILED**

8. Darrick Anderson – Highway Department

8.a. Award Contract 67010

County Engineer Darrick Anderson presented contract 67010 for Board consideration. He reported that contract 67010 is the tree-clearing operation for the CSAH 70 project in East Gull Lake. He also reported that this portion of the work was pulled out of the larger project to get it completed by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. He noted that this contract will be funded with 80% Federal dollars and 20% State Aid dollars. He also noted that the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline is due to rare, threatened, and endangered species on the project. He reported that they received one bid from Helmin Construction, Inc. for \$158,949.00. He then asked for a motion to award Contract 67010 to Helmin Construction, Inc. for \$158,949.00.



<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Peterson
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

9. Mark Gossman – Land Department

9.a. Leech Lake 200 Snowmobile Race

Land Commissioner Mark Gossman reported that the Cass County Land, Highway, and Sheriff's Department received a request to use Leech Lake in conjunction with the Leech Lake 200 Snowmobile Race on February 25 - 26, 2023. He also reported that this race was originally intended to cross the County highway road right of ways and grant in aid trails but that the final decision has been made by the sponsor to conduct the Leech Lake 200 Race entirely on Leech Lake. He noted that the County has received an acceptable EMS plan as well as an event application, speed, and noise waiver, and liability insurance. He also noted that confirmation and approval from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have been received. The Board informed staff that the application as amended is considered a water event and going forward should only require approval by the County Sheriff. Land Commissioner Gossman then asked for a motion to approve the Leech Lake 200 Snowmobile Race along the Leech Lake water course with the Cass County Sheriff's Department staffed for Emergency purposes, after providing a hold harmless agreement.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

9.b. Approve Wold Land Acquisition

Land Commissioner Mark Gossman reported that the Cass County Land Department was contacted by the Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) regarding a grant from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the acquisition of the 67.2-acre Wold property on Lake Leavitt. He reported that the NWLT will donate the property to Cass County to be managed as County forest land and that they are expected to close on the property in April of 2023. He noted that the Wold property is a key conservation parcel and the acquisition is consistent with the Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan. He also noted that the land is intended to be managed as County forest land and certified to the Forest Stewardship Council Forest certification standard. He reported that the property will be open to public hunting, trapping, and fishing while also providing clean water, wildlife habitat, and other recreational opportunities. He also reported that to secure the acquisition staff is requesting approval to use up to \$41, 500.00 (10% of the total purchase price of \$415,000.00) from the Forest Development Fund as a cash match to the NWLT purchase. He noted that these funds are not Cass County levy dollars but are generated from timber and land sales. He also noted that the land department anticipates an additional \$1000-\$1200 in costs to update the property abstract as required for this acquisition. He then asked for a motion to adopt resolution 20-23 approving the ten percent cash match up to \$41,500.00 for the Northern Waters Land Trust Grant application to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the acquisition of the Wold forested and shoreline property after all the buildings have been demolished and hauled away, subject to deed restrictions from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Commissioner Gaalswyk offered Resolution No. 20-23 and moved its adoption; Commissioner Peterson seconded WHEREAS, The Cass County Land Department has been contacted by the Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) regarding a grant from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the acquisition of the 67.2-acre Wold property on Lake Leavitt.

WHEREAS, The Wold property is a key conservation parcel and the acquisition is consistent with the Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan.

WHEREAS, This acquisition

- Protects over 1660' of shoreline on Lake Leavitt,
- Consolidates the existing forested land base and borders 2000+ acres of other public land.
- Shares  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of adjoining boundary
- Supported by Crooked Lake Township

WHEREAS, the land will to be managed as county forest land, certified to the Forest Stewardship Council forest certification standard and open to public hunting, fishing, and trapping while also providing clean water, wildlife habitat and other recreational opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Cass County Board of Commissioners approve a ten percent cash match up to \$41,500 for the Northern Waters Land Trust grant application to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the acquisition of the Wold forested and shoreline property after all the buildings have been demolished and hauled away.

Resolution No. 20-23 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Peterson, Kangas, Bruns, Gaalswyk, Haaland Nays: None

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Peterson
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

#### 10. Jeff Woodford – Environmental Services

##### 10.a. Establish Public Hearing for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Land Use Ordinance

Environmental Services Director Jeff Woodford reported that at November 1, 2022, County Board meeting the County Board referred the Draft Land Use Ordinance revisions to the Cass County Planning Commission, authorized public notification, and directed the Planning Commission to schedule the first reading public hearing. He also reported that the Land Use Ordinance was publicly noticed for 30 days beginning October 21, 2022, with the first hearing scheduled for November 22, 2022. He noted that notifications were sent to all townships and affected agencies and the draft ordinance was posted on the County website. He also noted that during the first reading on November 22, 2022, it was determined that additional time was needed to evaluate proposed edits and the hearing was continued. He reported that the continuance of the first reading was scheduled for February 13, 2023. He also reported that the Cass County Planning Commission voted unanimously to pass the proposed Land Use Ordinance to the County Board, with the recommended changes as documented by redline edits for the second reading. He then asked for a motion to establish the public hearing during the regular March 7, 2023, County Board meeting that begins at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner's Board Room, Walker, MN for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and final adoption of the Land Use Ordinance for Cass County, Minnesota.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Peterson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bob Kangas
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland

##### 10.b. ESD Annual 2022 AIS Report and 2023 Budget

Environmental Services Director Jeff Woodford and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Lake Technician Dana Gutzmann presented the 2022 AIS Report and 2023 budget. They reported that the inspector program at Cass County lakes performed 24,920 inspections with 13,704 inspection hours (14,028 with the Outing decontamination station). They reported that AIS monitoring was conducted at 56 lakes and rivers, 67 public accesses and fishing piers, and 29 resorts and private harbors. They noted that inspectors stopped 106 boats with drain plugs in, 66 boats with water/plant/mud attached, and 8 boats with zebra mussels attached from entering lakes. They also noted that they performed water inspections for 25 major fishing tournaments hosted in Cass County. They reported hosting and attending several different AIS education and engagement activities throughout the year. They reported that the proposed 2023 AIS Management & Prevention Program budget is \$537,000.00. They noted that these funds are spent on Inspections & Decontaminations, AIS Lake Tech Salary, Lake Association Partnerships, Education and Outreach, Law Enforcement Inspection, Inspector Support, Cass County Sheriff's Dept. Dive Team, Decontamination Partnerships, Report Ambassador Project, and Early Detection and Management. The Board expressed their appreciation for the report and the work that they do. They then asked for a motion to approve the 2023 AIS Annual budget and updated AIS Prevention and Management Plan.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>YES/AYE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Haaland
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Neal Gaalswyk
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeff Peterson, Bob Kangas, Scott Bruns, Neal Gaalswyk, Rick Haaland


11. Confirmed the Upcoming Meeting Schedule

11.a. Commissioner's Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, beginning at 9:00 AM, Commissioner's Board Room, Walker, MN.

11.b Commissioner's Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, beginning at 9:00 AM, Land Department Meeting Room, Backus, MN.

12. Chairman Bruns adjourned the meeting at 11:26 AM.

SIGNED:   
Scott Bruns, Chair  
Cass County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Joshua Stevenson  
Cass County Administrator