

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 with all commissioners present: Campbell, Evert, Ingersoll, Waller and Weyland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved with the removal for discussion of: Adopt Resolution in opposition of establishment of a district-wide Watershed Management District proposed by Wild Rice Watershed District.

REAPPOINT MS. CLARICE SCHMIDT TO MINNESOTA RED RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD

By consent agenda, the Board reappointed Ms. Clarice Schmidt to a three year term on the Red River Valley Development Association Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS, SOCIAL SERVICES

By consent agenda, the Board approved Social Services purchase of service contracts for 2009: Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota and ShareHouse.

REQUEST FOR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF TO ATTEND 2009 STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE TRAINING SUMMIT

By consent agenda, the Board approved out of state travel for Public Health staff to attend the 2009 Strategic National Stockpile Training Summit, March 10-12, 2009, in Atlanta, GA, with all expenses paid by the Center for Disease Control and the National Association of County and City Health officials.

REQUEST FOR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF TO ATTEND MONTANA SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL NORMS PRACTITIONERS

By consent agenda, the Board approved out of state travel for Public Health staff to attend the Montana Summer Institute for Social Norms Practitioners, July 8-11, 2009, in Bozeman, MT, with all expenses paid by Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs grant funding.

CONSIDER FILLING .5 FTE 4-H COORDINATOR POSITION

Regional Extension Director Nancy Frosaker Johnson and Extension Educator Becky Harrington were present to request that the Board approve the hiring of a .5 FTE 4-H Coordinator (\$32,450 for salary, staff development, travel). This position was originally included in the 2009 budget, but due to recent shortfalls at the State which will impact the County, any new hires require Board approval.

Commissioner Evert informed the Board that by filling this .5 FTE position, funds can be leveraged from private donations for the Science and Engineering Technology program.

County Administrator Vijay Sethi commented that with the hiring 'pause' in place, it may be prudent to wait to fill the position until May or June when the County knows the impact of the legislature's actions.

Commissioner Waller stated that he has always supported 4-H, however, as this is not a mandated position he felt it would be prudent to hold off on hiring the .5 FTE 4-H Coordinator position.

Ms. Johnson indicated she would seek an extension to the Non-Academic Short Term Employment contract to keep that person on for a few more months (20 hours/week).

Commissioner Evert felt continuity in the program is important, and the County should not jeopardize other income (private donation) for the program.

Ms. Johnson stated that they would forego the \$6180 budgeted for the 4-H Summer position if the .5FTE is hired.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Evert, the Board agreed to hire the .5 FTE 4-H Coordinator position, that consideration be given to extending the Non-Academic Short Term Employment contract, and that \$6180 be removed from the Extension budget for the 4-H Summer position. Commissioners Waller and Weyland voted against the motion.

Commissioner Waller commented that \$415,000 has to be cut from discretionary funding this year, and after 1/1/10 there will be more cuts.

#### REPLACEMENT OF TWO COUNTY FLEET VEHICLES; PURCHASE NEW FLEET VEHICLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

Special Projects Coordinator Georgia Beaudry requested authorization to replace two County fleet vehicles due to their high mileage (141,431 miles and 116,564 miles). She recommended the purchase of two 2009 Chevy Impala's at \$16,565 each from the State Purchasing Contract using funds available in the Internal Service Fund. The replaced vehicles will be sold at the Spring auction and the funds returned to the Internal Service Fund.

Ms. Beaudry informed the Board that effective July 1, 2009 the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections will discontinue their lease contracts for two vehicles utilized by the Department of Corrections/Juvenile Probation Office. This change will necessitate employees using their personal vehicles and charging mileage back to the County budget. To reduce expenses to the County budget, Ms. Beaudry recommended the purchase of one 2009 Chevy Impala (\$16,565) from the State Purchasing contract, and utilizing one replacement vehicle from the Sheriff's Department (2005 Chevy Impala with 72,000 miles). An interfund transfer will be made to the Sheriff's Department for \$6595 for the 2005 vehicle.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the need to review the protocol for replacing vehicles to see if their life can be extended.

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Evert, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two new vehicles for the Fleet, one new vehicle for the Probation Office, and transfer of one vehicle from the Sheriff's Department to the Probation office, as described above.

APPROVAL OF CLAY COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT CONTRACTS

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the contract between Clay County Rural Transit and Heartland Industries for transportation services provided to Heartland consumers, effective 1/1/09 through 12/31/09 in the amount of \$48,451.20 to be matched 50% with Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant funds, contingent upon MnDOT funding.

On motion by Evert, seconded by Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the contract between Clay County Rural Transit and Productive Alternatives for third party contractor services (drivers), effective 1/1/09 through 12/31/10, at the hourly rate of \$25.25/hour and \$4610 per year for liability insurance, contingent upon MnDOT funding.

Due to the fact that MnDOT has reduced the County's grant amount, the County will seek an amendment to increase the grant to the requested amount.

DISCUSSION RE: LEASING/RENTING COUNTY OWNED LANDS

This topic came before the County Board due to the fact that several parcels of County owned property were recently leased to private parties. Commissioner Evert subsequently learned that two of the parcels (in Hagen and Keene Townships) contain fine remnants of dry prairie and are included in the 2002 Felton Stewardship Plan for their high value as prairie.

County Planning & Environmental Programs Director Tim Magnusson informed the Board that he has had discussions with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representatives regarding the possible purchase of a portion of this land by DNR.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the possibility of rescinding or amending the land leases, adding a termination clause to the lease, conducting an inventory of County owned lands to determine if any parcels could be sold and put back on the tax rolls, the possibility that herbicides and pesticides may be used on the property by the lessee, whether the leases should remain at three years or be reduced to one year, etc.

Mr. Magnusson stated that there is a large gravel pit adjacent to the land and Aggregate Industries must come up with a plan for reclamation of that land.

Consensus of the Board was that Mr. Magnusson and Chief Assistant County Attorney Michelle Winkis meet with the lessee to address the Board's concerns in the form of an addendum to the lease.

The Board also felt a new process should be developed regarding the leasing and identification of County owned properties, involving input from the Highway Department and Planning & Zoning.

APPROVAL TO REPLACE UNIT #114, MAINTENANCE FOREMAN PICKUP TRUCK

On motion by Ingersoll, seconded by Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of a 2009 Chevy extended cab pickup to replace Unit #114, for a net cost of \$16,479 after trade-in. Unit #114 has 150,000 miles on it, \$3000 in anticipated repairs, and is inefficient for fuel usage.

APPROVAL FOR OUT OF STATE TRAVEL TO 2009 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ENGINEERS CONFERENCE

On motion by Evert, seconded by Weyland, and unanimously carried, the Board approved out of state travel for County Engineer David Overbo to attend the National Association of County Engineers Conference in Peoria, Illinois, April 19-21, 2009.

STAFFING REQUEST FOR VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

County Administrator Vijay Sethi reminded the Board that the .5 FTE Administrative Assistant position that was approved in the 2009 budget for the Veterans Service Office was included in those positions put on hold due to budget issues. He advised that Veterans Service Officer Tom Figliuzzi has found grant funds to fund the position in 2009, and possibly into 2010. If the position is filled, there will be a need to relocate the offices to a larger space (1200 sq.ft.) in the Family Service Center. This proposed move will offer convenience to clientele, resolve a shortage of filing space, provide for a meeting room and waiting area, etc. The annual rent for the space will be approximately \$15,000. Remodeling of the space will be a one-time cost of approximately \$15,000.

Commissioner Weyland stated that the current space is not conducive for veterans. He felt now would be the opportune time to move the department because the space is available in the Family Service Center.

Mr. Sethi stated that it may be possible to move the Environmental Offices to the Courthouse, but was hesitant to commit to that because that department's space needs are significant as well.

Mr. Figliuzzi stated that the appointment wait times for veterans to be seen is at an unacceptable level of three to four weeks. He stated that incorporating a volunteer base of 12 individuals would be helpful in reducing the wait time, however additional office space would be needed to implement the volunteer program.

Discussion took place regarding the need to remodel the space in the Family Service Center immediately. Mr. Figliuzzi felt the space has to be workable for the staff and he is willing to seek donations for the remodeling from local Veterans service organizations. Mr. Sethi stated that usually the remodeling costs for Family Service Center space are taken from the fund balance or building improvement fund.

Consensus of the Board was that they would like to see more information, to include costs, ramifications, etc.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the bills and vouchers were approved for payment.

ADOPT RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT-WIDE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSED BY WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

Mr. Steve Dalen, Administrator of the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), was present to address the resolution proposed to be adopted by the County Board in opposition of the establishment of a District-Wide Watershed Management District by the WRWD. He requested that the discussion regarding the resolution be continued to a later date when representatives from the WRWD could be present.

The County Board learned that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has only seen a draft of the ordinance concerning the expansion of the WRWD's ability to impose additional tax for water projects, and that public hearings will be held on the issue.

Commissioner Waller commented that he had concerns with the proposed resolution that Chief Assistant County Attorney Michelle Winkis drafted for the County Board's approval and would like further review.

Several members of the Citizens for Farmland Preservation were present and shared their concerns with the establishment of the Water Management District as another level of taxation, budget shortfalls which are impacting ag producers, taxation without representation, and requested assurance that they will have the opportunity to speak against the formation of a Water Management District in a public hearing setting.

The Board felt it would be helpful to have a representative from the Board of Water and Soil Resources appear at a future County Board meeting to provide information on this topic.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS; COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Vijay Sethi reported that he and Commissioner Waller had a successful trip to Washington, DC to visit with the legislators regarding funding for the CSAH 52 project.

Commissioner Evert attended meetings of the Planning Commission, Red River Regional Dispatch Center, Drug Court, MN Association of Resource Conservation and Development, Extension, AMC Futures Committee, and Public Health Advisory.

Commissioner Campbell attended the Joint Powers Committee meeting, the West Central Area Transportation Partnership meeting, and a meeting regarding Wind Farms.

Commissioner Ingersoll attended the Moorhead Planning Commission meeting and the Public Health Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Waller attended meetings of the Greater FM Economic Development Corporation and Personnel Issues Committee.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Jerry C. Waller, Chair  
Clay County Board of Commissioners

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Vijay K. Sethi, County Administrator