

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

8:30 a.m.

County Board Room – 3rd Floor – Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, with commissioners Campbell, Ingersoll, and Waller present. Commissioners Evert and Weyland were absent due to their attendance at the National Association of Counties conference in Washington, DC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

APPROVAL OF BID AWARD FOR REPLACEMENT OF LANDFILL COMPACTOR

By consent agenda, the Board approved the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's recommendation to purchase the BOMAG Model BC472RB compactor for the landfill from the low bidder, Titan Machinery, in the amount of \$272,780.

APPROVAL OF JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR DISTRICT WIDE STRIPING PROJECT

County Engineer David Overbo requested the Board's approval of a Joint Powers Agreement for a District-wide striping project. He explained that roughly \$600,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program funds is available and all 12 counties in District 4 have applied jointly for the funds to be used for edgeline striping, milled rumble strips, and new curve signs and posts. The Joint Powers Agreement is necessary to identify mutual duties and responsibilities. Chief Assistant County Attorney Michelle Winkis has reviewed the proposed Agreement and has suggested the inclusion of verbiage pertaining to liability so that each county is only liable for the work done in their own county.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution, approving the Joint Powers Agreement, contingent upon the inclusion of the verbiage pertaining to liability:

RESOLUTION 2009-6

IT IS RESOLVED, that Clay County enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the twelve Mn/DOT District 4 counties of Becker, Big Stone, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Mahnomen, Pope, Otter Tail, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Wilkin for the following purpose:

Define the rights and obligations of each county for the delivery of project S.P. 088-070-006, a district-wide federal highway safety project that will provide safety improvements in the form of pavement markings, rumble strips, and signing on selected eligible highway routes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper County officers be and hereby are authorized to execute such agreement and any amendments, and thereby assume for and on behalf of the County all of the obligations contained therein.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE SNOW & ICE CONTROL POLICY

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Highway Department's Snow & Ice Control Policy (See Attachment "A") as amended to include the contact phone number (Red River Regional Dispatch Center) for holiday, weekend and evening emergency calls.

The amended policy will be included on the County's website.

APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

County Engineer David Overbo requested the Board's approval of the 2009-2010 rate for the Township Maintenance contract, in the amount of \$588/mile. Mr. Overbo explained that this figure is based on the actual costs (labor, fuel, machinery costs, etc.) for the year 2008.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2009-2010 Township Maintenance contract rate of \$588/mile.

Mr. Overbo requested that the Board rescind a resolution adopted on January 4, 1983 pertaining to a \$25 credit allowed Townships in connection with maintenance and construction of Township roads. The credit was put into place over 25 years ago when the Township Maintenance Contract was not based on actual costs.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board rescinded the resolution pertaining to the \$25 credit to Townships, which was adopted January 4, 1983.

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT REQUEST

County Engineer David Overbo reviewed with the Board several pieces of equipment for which he is recommending deferment of purchase to 2010: 938H Wheel Loader, Sno-Go MP 30 Snow Blower, and Semi Tractor. The deferment of purchase is due to low repair costs and/or hours used of these pieces of equipment.

Mr. Overbo reviewed several items for which he is requesting purchase at this time: Semi-Trailer Low Boy: Purchase price of \$67,650, less trade-in of \$8000, for a total cost of \$59,650. \$44,833.85 is available in the Internal Service fund for this equipment. The difference between the cost and funds available would come from equipment for which funds have accumulated but will not be replaced. The existing vehicle is undersized and a safety concern.

Two Walk & Roll Packers and Six Lift Assemblies: Total cost of \$69,610, with \$68,183.19 available in the Internal Service fund from items that are obsolete and will not be replaced (bituminous tow type paver, 1984 plow truck). This equipment will help the budget in three ways: less blading required, less gravel lost due to dust, free up time for blade drivers to potentially mow ditches.

Excavator: Currently the County averages \$18,000 to rent an excavator. Mr. Overbo felt it would be more cost effective for the County to own an excavator, and pay for it over 5 years (\$73,950) using funds previously used for rental payments. The expected life of the

machine is an additional 15 years, thus saving the County approximately \$180,000 over that period.

Commissioner Waller was appreciative of Mr. Overbo's efforts to assist with the budget shortfall with a \$350,000 delay in purchasing items in his equipment budget.

On motion by Campbell, seconded by Ingersoll, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchases as described above and recommended by the Highway Tracking Committee.

County Administrator Vijay Sethi informed the Board that the Internal Service fund will be fine tuned so as to keep up with inflation for the equipment. He also clarified that funds from the Highway Maintenance fund (10-310-6566) will be transferred to the Internal Service fund for the purchase of the Excavator.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS AND VOUCHERS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS; COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Vijay Sethi shared samples of questions to pose to the candidates for the Wild Rice Watershed District manager positions as they are interviewed by the Board on March 17, 2009. The managers may be appointed that day or March 24. With respect to input from the Becker County Board of Commissioners regarding the appointment, the Board felt they, or others in the audience, may address the Board on the 17th. Commissioner Campbell felt it would not be appropriate to take any testimony or recommendation from the Becker County Board of Commissioners prior to the interviews with the candidates. Mr. Sethi reminded the Board that it is strictly the Clay Board's decision as to the appointment of the managers. Commissioner Ingersoll stated his preference that the appointments are made on March 24th.

Mr. Sethi informed the Board that a small amount of monies have been included for the CSAH 52 project in the Omnibus Bill being proposed by U.S. Congress. This would likely lead to more monies in subsequent years in the Highway Authorization Bill.

Mr. Sethi informed the Board that he continues to attempt to set a meeting with MN Department of Transportation Commissioner Tom Sorel to discuss the reduction in transit funding and the need for funding assistance for the CSAH 52 project.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Jerry C. Waller, Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners

Vijay K. Sethi, County Administrator

CLAY COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The Highway Department only has personnel for one shift daily.
2. Due to gravel-loss prevention – Plow Trucks will not plow on gravel surfaced roads until they are adequately frozen.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

3. Snow removal priority will be as follows: high volume paved highways, low volume paved highways, high volume gravel roadways and subdivisions, low volume gravel roadways. Once paved highways are completely plowed all gravel highways in each district will be plowed whether they are County, County State Aid or Township Highways.
4. The Highway Department will decide when the plowing will begin, depending on weather conditions and the safety of the traveling public.
5. During conditions of 1-3 inches of snow, with manageable wind, plowing will normally begin at 6:00 A.M. with the intent to have all roads open by nightfall.
6. During conditions of 4 or more inches of snow, with manageable wind, plowing will normally begin at 4:00 or 5:00 A.M. with the intent to have all roads open by nightfall.
7. During conditions where the wind is drifting snow on the paved roads as fast as it is being cleared off, plows will stay on the paved roads until positive results are seen and then move to the gravel roads.
8. Once all paved and gravel highways have been cleared of snow, winging operations will begin with the motor graders while the plow trucks begin salt and sand operations on intersections, hills and curves.
9. For weather conditions please listen or contact local radio stations.
10. Between the hours of 8 am to 4:30 pm (M-F: regular workdays) County and Township roadway conditions can be obtained by calling 218-299-5099. Additional 24 hour roadway information can also be obtained by calling the Minnesota Department of Transportation 511 Travel Information Hotline at 1-800-542-0220.
11. For weather related road and bridge emergencies after hours, weekends or on holidays residents will be instructed via the voicemail machine at the Highway Department to call 701-451-7660 which will be relayed by the Red River Regional Dispatch Center.

12. Clay County will pay for mailbox damage if struck by the machine, but not if damaged by flying snow.
13. Minnesota Law prohibits residents from dumping, plowing, pushing, blowing or depositing snow on any public roadway. These actions create dangerous roadside hazards and they will be enforced.

Date

Chairman – Clay County Board of
Commissioners

Date

Clay County Engineer