

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, December 1, 2005

6:00 p.m.

County Board Room - 3rd Floor - Courthouse

M I N U T E S

The Clay County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, December 1, 2005, with all commissioners present: Brunsvold, Campbell, Evert, McCarthy, and Waller.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by McCarthy, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the agenda was approved with the addition of adoption of a resolution declaring a state of ice emergency for the area.

RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF ICE EMERGENCY

Emergency Services Director Darrel Grande requested the Board adopt a resolution declaring a State of Ice Emergency due to the recent rain/ice/snow storm.

On motion by Evert, seconded by Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2005-52

WHEREAS, The ice and snow of November 27 and 28, 2005 severely impacted the population of Clay County and its Cities; and

WHEREAS, The electrical outages existed for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, The downed power lines and electrical outages have caused a significant amount of private property damage; and

WHEREAS, The Clay County Department of Emergency Management requests the Clay County Board of Commissioners to declare Clay County in a STATE OF ICE EMERGENCY for the rain event of November 27 and 28, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners declares Clay County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the rain event of November 27 and 28, 2005.

DISCUSSION RE: 2006 BUDGET

The Board reviewed items which have impacted the 2006 budget since the adoption of the Preliminary Levy in September: adjustment to salaries (total of \$75,771), additional work to be conducted by Eide Bailly (approximately \$5,000), mileage reimbursement rate increase, and County campus snow removal. It was noted that elected officials' salaries will be reviewed for possible adjustment in December.

The Board was informed that funds in two areas in the Recorder's Office where fees are generated (Compliance - \$120,000; Equipment - \$160,000) should have been listed as 'obligated' funds and the levy increased by those amounts (statutorily, these funds cannot be used for the general operating budget). Thus, the levy is short by that amount. County Recorder Bonnie Rehder commented that she thought she had explained how the income in these two funds can be used only for very specific things. She added that the funds generated by the land

record fees would be used to purchase items that eventually the County would have had to purchase. She clarified that the funds in the technology fund are to be used to get a backlog of records available on line.

The Board was informed that the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust dividend for 2005 is \$179,333. The consensus from previous meetings was that the dividend should be applied back to the workers' compensation and property/casualty coverage, to assure appropriate accounting in those areas. Commissioner McCarthy suggested that in light of the above mentioned shortfalls, the dividend be used to reduce the levy, while still crediting the insurance budget line item. Commissioner Brunsvold commented that the 2006 dividend could also be used to reduce the levy. Commissioner McCarthy felt using the 2006 dividend will make budgeting even tougher, and preferred to make up the difference by using reserves.

County Administrator Vijay Sethi noted that if the levy is adopted as presented, the 2006 dividend would not be committed. He added that by the end of the year there may be revenues over expenditures that could be absorbed as well to cover the shortfall.

Commissioner Brunsvold inquired if the dividend should be shown in the 2006 budget as income at this point. Mr. Sethi felt that could be done, or start out the budgeting process with the actual amount we expect to pay and make a point of getting the dividend amount before the Preliminary Levy is set in September, 2006. Commissioner Campbell was hopeful that by the 2007 budget, the expense and revenue could be built in (using previous year's dividend amount).

Social Services Director Rhonda Porter shared concerns regarding shortfalls in the Out of Home Placement and Mental Health Hold areas. She stated that the savings she had anticipated for Mental Health Holds will likely not be seen. However, Ms. Porter felt she could move \$50,000 from Chemical Dependency to the Mental Health area. For 2005, \$2.3 million was budgeted for Social Services, and if current expenses are projected out, the total will be near \$2.5 million.

Mr. Sethi informed the Board that the December 13 County Board meeting will include a review of the elected officials' salaries, setting the 2006 Cost of Living Adjustment, final approval of the budget, and setting the tax levy.

Commissioner Brunsvold expressed his appreciation to Social Services Director Rhonda Porter for her assistance with the transition of the Family Services Collaborative.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Ben Brunsvold, Chair
Clay County Board of Commissioners

Vijay Sethi, County Administrator