

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

August 24, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent, and Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune were also present.

08-24-04-01 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the agenda with the addition of Community Social Services Board meeting schedule. Carried.

08-24-04-02 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the consent agenda consisting of the August 10, 2004 regular meeting minutes. Carried.

Ms. Remiger reviewed some correspondence received and then recessed the meeting at 11:28 a.m. for a ditch meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Engineer John Johnson and General Foreman Larry Stoks were present to open bids for an expansion of the Clarkfield highway facility.

08-24-04-03 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to award bids for the highway facility as follows: concrete, building supplies, and labor to Bill Anseuw Construction for \$114,050; plumbing to Bruflat Plumbing and Heating for \$22,953; and electrical to Bill's Electric for \$6,500. Carried.

Engineer Johnson updated the Board on projects and shared a copy of the County's first newsletter, The County Flyer.

Kathy Busack, Jail Administrator, updated the Board on several issues. Possible reconfiguration of jail cells no longer appears to be feasible.

Liz Auch, Countryside Public Health Administrator, reviewed her agency's activities and noted that their 2005 budget request would be the same as their 2004 request.

Mr. Chattin explained the background of an employee grievance dealing with health insurance benefits. Married employees, who both work for the County, are asking that the County pay, in full, the cost of family health insurance coverage. Several Commissioners offered their opinions. County Attorney Tom Kramer briefed the Board on his research which supported the employee request. Mr. Chattin offered his recommendation, also supporting the employee request, as mediation was likely without an assured outcome.

08-24-04-04 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to leave the County's current policy as is and to deny the grievance. Carried, with Mr. Antony and Ms. Remiger voting against the motion.

Ms. Remiger called for a short recess at 2:04 p.m. and reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

Randy Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, was present for the continued consideration of the Robert Geistfeld conditional use permit (CUP). There were also over 20 citizens present. Ms. Remiger reviewed the application process, to date. Letters received from Attorneys Scott Anderson and James Peters were acknowledged. Mr. Kramer reviewed the points made by Scott Anderson, supporting the County's ability to grant the CUP. Karen Fischer read a statement on behalf of those opposing the CUP and referencing the James Peters letter. Kevin Stroup, Attorney for Mr. Geistfeld, commented on the County ordinance and the letters received. He asked that the CUP be granted. Jeff Lopez, Mr. Geistfeld's feedlot consultant, referenced a

letter from the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District noting that no cost-share would be available should Mr. Geistfeld decide to construct a manure pit.

08-24-04-05 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to add a condition to the permit requiring incorporation of the manure, per current zoning ordinance. Carried.

08-24-04-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to add a condition that would require Mr. Geistfeld to pump out his earthen manure basin annually. Carried.

08-24-04-07 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve CUP YM-417-04 allowing Robert Geistfeld of Wood Lake, Minnesota, to construct a 26' by 66' nursery to house 800 head of nursery pigs and four 36' by 80' hoop barns to house 600 finishing hogs with manure storage in an existing 30' by 75' by 8' earthen basin and subject to the following conditions:

- 1) 8 inches of chopped straw or equivalent material will be used to cover the basin;
- 2) Two rows of fast growing trees will be planted surrounding the basin and the tree plan, as presented, will be implemented east of the hoop barns;
- 3) Existing dirt lots will be abandoned and seeded to grass;
- 4) New technology to control odor shall be used if deemed a nuisance by the Jerome Meter;
- 5) Manure shall be incorporated, per the current Yellow Medicine zoning requirements; and
- 6) The earthen basin shall be pumped out annually.

Carried.

Mr. Kramer updated the Board on several pending issues.

Head Custodian Curt Johnson and Matt Kelly from Chappell Central reviewed a proposal to add dehumidification to areas of the jail.

08-24-04-08 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to accept the Chappell proposal for \$7,876 with funds coming from County surplus. Carried with Mr. Antony voting against the motion.

08-24-04-09 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to adopt the Finance Committee Operating Guidelines as presented. Carried.

There was some discussion on who should be appointed to the new Finance Committee and if the meeting time would work.

08-24-04-10 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to appoint Mr. Anderson and Ms. Remiger to the Finance Committee, approve per diems for the meetings, and amend the adopted operating guidelines to reflect an 11:00 a.m. meeting time. Carried.

08-24-04-11 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to adopt Policy 202 – Recruitment and Selection of Employees as presented. Carried.

There was considerable discussion of pay adjustments for non-union personnel for 2004. Elements of union settlements, Merit System, and changes in health insurance co-pays were debated.

08-24-04-12 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to increase Family Services non-union employee pay 1% and increase all other non-union employees (excluding Mr. Chattin, John Johnson, Carolyn Sherlin, Joan Johnson, and Commissioners) 2%, both effective July 1, 2004, and increase the family CMM policy co-pay to \$160 effective September 1, 2004 for all non-union employees. Carried, with

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sherlin voting in opposition.

08-24-04-13 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$130,002.77 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$21,551.20. Carried.

A short break was taken from 3:26 p.m. to 3:33 p.m.

08-24-04-14 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve ditch levies to create sufficient funds in ditch accounts for maintenance and repair activities. Carried.

Ms. Remiger continued the Commissioner reports with updates on the Planning Commission, Historical Society, Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, and a Minnesota River Board request for funding.

08-24-04-15 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve a bingo license for the St. Leo American Legion Post #524. Carried.

Mr. Johnson reported on Prairie V, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, and Pioneerland Library. Mr. Sherlin attended a Western Mental Health meeting. Mr. Anderson attended Prairie Country RC&D, Countryside Public Health, and Lamberton Waste-to-Energy meetings. Mr. Antony reported on an Airport Board meeting, Labor Management Committee, and Watershed Advisory Board activities.

Mr. Johnson asked if CSS Board meeting times should be changed. They have run over into County Board meetings on several occasions. It was suggested that scheduling times for CSS Board agenda items may allow for earlier adjournment. That suggestion will be passed on the Family Services.

08-24-04-16 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer