

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA
February 11, 2003**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Jane Remiger, Louis Sherlin and Chairperson Gary Johnson. Also present were County Attorney Thomas Kramer, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, and news reporter Bethany Norgaard. The chairperson called the meeting to order. On motion, the agenda for the day and the minutes of January 28, 2003 were accepted and approved.

Commissioner reports were given on the following topics: Community Corrections, Safety Committee, Regional Railroad, Presentation by Governor Pawlenty on proposed tax-free zones, Area II, Lazarus Creek Project, Prairie Five Rides and Meal sites.

Anderson reported on the final inspection of the jail facility. Architect Ron Halgerson and Project Manager Brad Kurth were present along with Jail Administrator, Kathy Busack. Various problems with loose faucets, door closings, TV glare, heating and cooling, and the outdoor light were pointed out and we were assured that they would continue to work on these items until they are resolved. Anderson moved to approve final payment of \$44,380.75 to Fagen Engineering and \$11,689.89 to Group II for the Law Enforcement Building Project. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Discussion was held on the current budget state budget crisis and the effect it will have on counties. Information from AMC was reviewed and the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners recognizes that due in large part to the national economy, there is a significant reduction in state revenues creating a budget shortfall for the current biennium but also for at least the next two-year budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Board recognizes that every level of government, the employees of those levels of government, the citizens of the state of Minnesota and even visitors to the state must be active participants in efforts to balance the state budget;

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Board also recognizes that certain programs and services provide benefits to the entire state, help solve problems that are not local in nature, that are not unique to an individual county or that, as a matter of sound public policy, demand consistent and uniform state-wide support; and

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Board further recognizes that there is great benefit to the State of Minnesota and its citizens in providing mandated services equitably throughout the state and within each county in the state; and

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Board is prepared to make difficult decisions to assist in this effort to balance the state budget but that the county offers many services to citizens as a participant in providing legislative priorities and state mandates and that these mandates dictate many of the county's spending decisions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Yellow Medicine County Board urges the Minnesota State Legislature and the State Administration to:

1. Maintain the current level of financial participation for the provision of services or programs that counties are mandated to provide on behalf of state;
2. Neither legislate nor adopt policies that mandate or otherwise require county governments to raise property taxes or institute other taxes in order to create, maintain, or expand mandated programs or services for which adequate state funding is not provided.
3. Eliminate legislative or administrative directives to county governments to provide certain services and programs in those instances where State financial participation is currently or becomes inadequate, diminished or eliminated.
4. Expand the state financial participation in those county-delivered, state-mandated services and programs that have state-wide significance and value (such as community corrections and related public service programs, uncompensated medical care, community-based mental health

programs, or out-of-home placement services) but are under-funded by the State or funded at a level that does not recognize their state-wide importance; and

5. Neither legislate nor adopt any policies that allow discretionary elimination of state-mandated services on a county-by-county basis.

Anderson moved to adopt the above resolution, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. Copies will be sent to AMC and to local legislators.

Robert Fluto, FAR Enterprises, discussed a forthcoming housing project whereby he is proposing building a multi-family structure to be located in Granite Falls City. The project involves the purchase of Parcel 17-032-4220 which is owned by Norman Shebala. This parcel is scheduled for the tax-forfeiture process this spring because of delinquent taxes dating back to 1997. A letter was received from the owner requesting an abatement of the delinquent taxes, claiming hardship due to tornado damage on the property. After discussion, Sherlin moved to abate all delinquent taxes on Parcel 17-032-4220 (34-032-4050) as of the date of sale. Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Assistant Engineer Steve Schaub and Foreman Larry Stoks discussed Highway Department Activities. A request to set a letting date for CSAH 33 and D7 was made. Sherlin moved to schedule the bid opening for March 25, 2003, at 10:00 am. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to approve the Utility relocation agreement with Minnesota Valley REC for the CSAH 33 Project mentioned above, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Discussion was held on the property exchange proposal between Clarkfield City and the county highway department. An agreement was made whereby the city would transfer to the county a parcel of land adjacent to the highway shop; and the county would transfer two parcels of tax-forfeited property to the City of Clarkfield. It was agreed that the two parties would exchange checks for \$500 for the trade. After discussion, Remiger moved to approve payment of \$500 to the City of Clarkfield for the property transaction, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor. Lyle Moseng was hired to survey the property last summer in order to determine property lines. The County Attorney will complete the paperwork involving the transaction, including writing up the deed.

Discussion was held on moving a small shed located on the highway property in Clarkfield. The shed will be in the way when expansion of the current shop begins. After discussion, Remiger moved to move the shed but the shop expansion project will be tabled until June. Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Ditch Inspector John Kolhei requested approval for the purchase of GIS software for an arc view program at a cost of \$700. This would be a savings of \$500 over the previously quoted price of \$1200. Antony moved for approval, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor. The ditch inspector was instructed to check with RDC to be certain that this will be the right software for the program and to check for the proper registration information.

Sherlin moved to approve the application to conduct excluded bingo for the St. Leo American Legion Post #524 on April 6, 2003. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Anderson moved to transfer \$55,856.75 out of the Revenue Fund into the Construction Fund in order to make the final payments to the architect and to the general contractor on the Law Enforcement & Family Services Building as referred in above paragraph. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Randy Nelson from the Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development Council presented his annual review of various projects his office is working on. These include: Watershed Projects,

Learning Centers, Hybrid Poplar Demonstration, Glacial Ridge Trail, Canby Depot Center, Organic Management Practices, and the Del Clark Lake Project.

The county attorney requested that he be appointed as delegate to the MCCC County Attorney Computer Software Users Group so he would be eligible for voting privileges. This gives him the authority to purchase and use available software programs that pertain to his work. Anderson moved to appoint Tom Kramer as delegate to the above group. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following claims were submitted for approval:

REVENUE FUND

American Bio Medica Corporation	560.88
American Solutions for Business	413.32
Aus Floors & More Inc	725.78
Best, Inc	4,360.57
Roselyn Biermaier	115.08
The Brimeyer Group Inc	6,166.50
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	3,627.22
Daves Family Foods	812.38
Dietz Brothers Inc	890.00
Elan Financial Services	1,328.95
Hillyard	190.83
Jim Horgan M.A., L.P.	1,068.75
Keefe Supply Co	257.92
MAEE	175.00
Midwest Bank Note Company	145.42
Minnesota's Bookstore	198.78
Michelle Molden	223.55
MVTV Wireless	249.35
Prairie Lakes Detention Center	4,395.00
Amy Rager	194.49
Streichers	954.76
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	212.08
Underground Security Company	420.00
University of Minnesota	1,797.62
Walmart Community BRC	168.31
West Central Communication, Inc	108.63
John Wiley & Sons	352.05
Payments Less than \$100	1,461.92
TOTAL	\$31,575.14

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

A & J Auto Supply Inc	868.61
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	338.92
Cottonwood Coop Oil	190.17
Dennys Welding & Mfg Inc	259.76
Dougs Service & Marine, Inc	132.18
Earls Welding, Inc	130.47
Farmers Coop Association	609.15
Kockelman Construction Inc	650.00
Ladner Hardware Inc	116.72
Larson Companies	119.49
M-R Sign Inc	169.88
Martin Marietta Aggregates	986.24
MDNR-Division of Waters	230.00
MN P I E	105.00
Par Piping & Fabrication, Inc	246.72
Paulsen Machine Shop	192.03
Porter Coop Oil Co	419.52
Redwood County Highway Dept	1,495.73
Runnings Supply, Inc	102.77
Seversons True Value	366.59
Sturdevant's Auto Supply	831.52
Tjosvold Equipment, Inc	863.19
Toshiba America Info-Sys Inc	236.13

