

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

November 25, 2003

Chairman Gary Johnson called this regular meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Lynn Anderson, Jane Remiger, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Bethany Norgaard of the Marshall Independent, and Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune were also present.

11-25-03-01 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the agenda with the addition of: annual employee recognition event participants; need for a County credit card; interest charges on Sheriff's department credit card; and telephone reconnect charges. Carried.

11-25-03-02 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of the November 10, 2003 minutes and the approval of a DAC fairgrounds janitorial service agreement. Carried.

Mr. Anderson reported on activities at the Prairie Lakes Detention Center and a meeting of Granite Falls and County representatives concerning a loan request by Kevin Wald. Mr. Antony reported on the new Labor Management Committee's first meeting where priorities were discussed. Ms. Remiger attended an explosive devise class, a railroad meeting, Prairie Waters, a proposed trail meeting, and an Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Sherlin reported on the fair board. Mr. Johnson had comments on the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Center (UMVRDC) where changes to administration of the Area Agencies on Aging is taking place. He also reported on Prairie Waters tourism funding, Pioneerland Library, and Prairie V.

Connie Erickson, County Assessor, gave the Board an overview of the 2004 valuations in the various cities and townships. Tillable agricultural land has increased an average of 16%. Some cities have also seen residential increases though there were no changes to commercial or industrial properties.

Jolene Johnson, Zoning Official, presented a resolution and the annual feedlot officer's report for the Board's consideration.

11-25-03-03 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County has a State approved and locally adopted comprehensive local water plan as defined by M.S. 103B.301 and has implemented a local levy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, through its Board of Water and Soil Resources has made state grant funds available to counties for the accelerated implementation of comprehensive local water plans, if a county agrees to provide the required match; and

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County has applied for \$16,000 in state grant funds and agreed to provide matching funds up to the amount of the Grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners authorizes the appropriation of \$16,000 in cash or in-kind goods and services as a match to state funds. In addition, the LGU Chair and the Administrator are authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and all other related documents on behalf of the County.

Carried.

11-25-03-04 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Antony to approve the 2003 Annual County Feedlot Officer's Report as presented. Carried.

Ms. Remiger noted that the MPCA has some grants available for septic system inventories and upgrades. However, the \$60,000 available would not provide much for system upgrades.

Ms. Johnson commented on the need for Planning Commission members as there are some who will be retiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Johnson recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 1:09 p.m.

John Johnson, County Engineer, introduced Bob Hobart and Dennis Martin with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Martin gave a presentation on the DNR's aggregate mapping program. The cost to the County would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for work that typically costs around \$125,000. The work would not be done for 4 to 5 years. Mr. Johnson was recommending that the County participate in the program.

11-25-03-05 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, an Aggregate Resource study would assist the County land use decisions and help ensure continued aggregate resources for economic development as well as affordable highway maintenance.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Yellow Medicine hereby requests the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conduct an aggregate resource study as authorized by Minnesota Statutes 84.94.

Carried.

11-25-03-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve final payment to Kockelman Construction in the amount of \$40,367.40 for grading and aggregate surfacing on CSAH 33 and CR D-7 (CP 01-33 and CP 01-71). Carried.

Mr. Johnson reviewed changes proposed for the County's 5-year road improvement plan. He was delaying work on CSAH 6 and moving work on CSAH 3 up. He reviewed the revised ranking of projects with the Board.

11-25-03-07 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the modifications to the 5-year plan. Carried.

Michelle Caveney, VSO/Emergency Manager, was present to discuss the purchase of a new VSO van. A decision had been postponed to allow for further safety research.

11-25-03-08 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Anderson to purchase a 2004 Chevrolet Venture van, the low bid, for \$17,493.00 plus tax and fees. Motion carried with Mr. Sherlin voting against the motion.

Kathy Busack, Jail Administrator, reviewed current jail statistics and the Jail Facility Inspection Report. All corrective actions noted on the report have been complied with ahead of schedule. Ms. Busack was commended by the Board for a job well done.

11-25-03-09 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve advertising for two part-time Corrections Officers who will have no scheduled hours. Carried.

There was a discussion on interest charges accrued on a Sheriff's department

credit card billing. It was suggested that the County was not liable for those charges. Mr. Chattin suggested that the County was liable as there was a contract with the credit card issuer. County Attorney Tom Kramer also could not find a valid reason for not paying the charges. There was discussion on the need to schedule payment dates that would coincide with our bill paying schedule.

11-25-03-10 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to pay accrued interest charges on current and future credit card billings and to authorize the Auditor/Treasurer to pay credit card invoices/statements when received to avoid future interest charges. Carried with Mr. Johnson voting against the motion.

There was also discussion with Ms. Busack about reconnection charges that Sprint has assessed in the amount of \$4,223.45 for reconnecting two lines that were previously disconnected due to nonpayment. These charges will be disputed. It was also emphasized that invoices need to be paid promptly to avoid any further problems.

There was discussion on heating and cooling problems in the jail building, particularly in the dispatch area. Efforts will continue to resolve the problem.

Mr. Kramer updated the Board on several issues: a judge has now been assigned to the Art Larson lawsuit and schedules set for proceeding; he is awaiting comments by Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) on a proposed mutual aid agreement; who is responsible for insuring and operating two area lake aeration systems is being investigated and Mr. Kramer will report back to the Board on that issue; sex offender evaluation costs were previously paid under a Department of Corrections grant but are now a County cost at \$200 to \$600; divorce custody studies are a County cost averaging \$600 and are typically done by Family Service Center; and public defender costs are now borne by the County and contractual arrangements may be considered.

11-25-03-11 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve payment of excess hours submitted by Mr. Kramer in the amount of \$7,832.50. Carried.

Mr. Kramer also noted that a check had been received in settlement of a building dispute at the fairgrounds.

11-25-03-12 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve the disbursements as presented totaling: Revenue Fund - \$16,740.71; Road & Bridge Fund - \$52,972.91; and Ditch Fund - \$28,406.32. Carried.

11-25-03-13 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners recognizes the beauty and uniqueness of the Minnesota River Valley as an ecologically and economically significant asset; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners recognizes that Yellow Medicine County is blessed with areas rich in high quality aggregate resources including areas in the Minnesota River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners supports the aggregate mining industry as an integral part of the County's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of the availability of high quality aggregates for development and road construction, both now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners supports the local decision-making process which takes into account local needs and concerns and

balances them within the context of proper land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners has been provided with important ecological and aggregate resource assessment information by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that is available to and valuable for local decision makers; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners understands that Minnesota Rules Chapter 6105 has the effect of limiting the ability of local units of government to decide the appropriateness of certain types of aggregate mining along portions of the Minnesota River;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners requests that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources study the appropriateness of supporting a legislative change to Minnesota Rules Chapter 6105 to allow local units of government the authority to make decisions on the appropriateness of all types of mining in the Wild and Scenic River District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota legislators who may support this proposed change.

Carried.

Mr. Chattin asked if the Board wanted to have their last meeting on December 23rd or the 30th. It was agreed to leave it on the 23rd as scheduled.

11-25-03-14 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the Auditor/Treasurer job description as presented. Carried.

11-25-03-15 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve amendments to the County's Internal Activities Policy as presented. Carried.

11-25-03-16 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to adopt Policy 501 – Interdepartmental Billing as presented. Carried.

Discussion on health insurance options for 2004 was lengthy and varied. Mr. Chattin noted the differences between employee classes, in the amount paid by each class, and recommended that the County pay the increased single policy premiums at a cost to the County of \$29,069.28. The cost to cover all increases in premiums would be \$67,565.28. The Board generally felt that it would not be appropriate to hit employees with large increased costs this late in the budget process. Many thought that dedicating a recent MCIT refund of over \$70,000 to cover health insurance increases would be a good use of the funds. It was also felt that the \$100 deductible plan, often referred to as the first dollar plan, should be eliminated.

11-25-03-17 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to discontinue the first dollar plan in 2004 [this is subject to possible collective bargaining negotiations with union employees], pay the single premium for the Comprehensive Major Medical (CMM) plan, increase family coverage contributions for non-union and Law Enforcement Labor Service employees from \$100.56 to \$120.56 per month, leave AFSCME union family contributions at \$140.56 monthly, and leave Family Services family contributions at \$266.64 per month. Carried.

It was estimated that this action would cost approximately \$60,000 in 2004.

The Board asked that the final levy and 2004 budget be considered at the December 23rd meeting.

11-25-03-18 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Gary Johnson, Chairman

Attest:

John Chattin, County Administrator