

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2011**

Chairman Dick Wambeke called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Gary Johnson, Greg Renneke, Dick Wambeke and Ron Antony present. Also present were County Administrator Ryan Krosch, County Attorney Keith Helgeson, Granite Falls Advocate Tribune reporter Scott Tedrick and Marshall Independent reporter Steve Browne.

Approve Agenda 9-13-11-01 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve the agenda with the following changes: add a septic loan appropriation to the consent agenda; add the August financial and jail reports to the informational items; add a budget request from the Adult Mental Health LAC to the informational items; add a discussion on the MN Falls Dam to the commissioners' reports; remove the drainage law informational session from the regular agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 9-13-11-02 Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the consent agenda items as follows: minutes of the August 23, 2011, County Board meeting; State of MN communications facility agreement #99472; Porter Café & Grocery tobacco license; Revenue Fund budget appropriation for \$10,900 in revenues and expenditures. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Citizen Comments None

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Antony reported on 6W Corrections, the Yellow Medicine County Township Association annual meeting, Chemical Health Coalition, Ditch #10 informational meeting and a meeting to discuss a road project on County Road D2. Commissioner Wambeke reported on the Ditch #10 informational meeting, Area II, County HRA, Adult Mental Health LAC, County Based Purchasing, Prairie Lakes Youth Program and a meeting to discuss ownership options for the MN Falls Dam. Commissioner Renneke reported on the Ditch #10 informational meeting, PACT For Families and the meeting to discuss ownership options of the MN Falls Dam. Commissioner Johnson reported on 6W Corrections, the Yellow Medicine County Township Association annual meeting, the Ditch #10 informational meeting, RDC, Prairie Lakes Youth Program and a meeting to discuss a road project on County Road D2. Commissioner Sherlin reported on the fairgrounds office building, Western Mental Health, Area II, RDC Revolving Loan Fund and Countryside Public Health.

Minnesota Falls Dam Discussion Granite Falls Energy CEO Tracey Olson was present to update the Board on the proposed removal of the Minnesota Falls Dam in 2012 and the impact that would have on the ethanol plant's water intake system. Mr. Olson also stated that he hoped discussions would continue on the possible transfer of ownership of the dam and alternatives for keeping some sort of structure in place to maintain the water pool above the dam.

Department Reports/Program Updates

County Parks County Parks Director Myron Hagelstrom updated the Board on attendance at the County parks this summer and responses to a survey given to park guests.

Regular Agenda

Request to Purchase Tax Forfeited Property County Administrator Krosch, County Attorney Helgeson and County Auditor/Treasurer Lois Bonde discussed a request from Todd Lacek to repurchase his tax forfeited property located at 907 St. Olaf Avenue in the City of Canby. The Board was informed that due to notice requirements, Mr. Lacek could not request to repurchase his property until the October 11 County Board meeting. The property had been operating as a bar and restaurant. The Board was told that statutes allow the County Auditor/Treasurer to lease a tax forfeited property until such time that it is sold or repurchased by the

former owner. The consensus of the Board was that the County should lease the property to Mr. Lacey if he requested to reopen his business and if the lease being put in place would hold the County harmless against liability.

2012 Proposed Budget and Tax Levy Administrator Krosch reviewed the proposed 2012 budget and levy with the Board. The 2012 proposed budget includes a 2.99% net tax levy increase. Administrator Krosch explained that more than half of the proposed levy increase is due to state and federal funding cuts. The Board had a lengthy discussion on how much of a tax levy increase should be approved and if more reserve funds should be used to balance the budget. Commissioners Antony and Wambeke spoke in favor of little or no increase to the tax levy for 2012. Commissioners Johnson, Renneke and Sherlin spoke in favor of the 2.99% tax levy increase in order to reduce the likelihood of using significant County reserves in 2012 and to have funding available in case of additional state and federal funding cuts.

9-13-11-03 Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to increase the 2011 net tax levy by 2.99% for a total preliminary 2012 gross levy of \$8,427,804 (\$8,163,041 proposed net tax levy after county program aid). Motion carried with Commissioners Johnson, Renneke and Sherlin voting in favor and Commissioners Antony and Wambeke voting against.

2012 Budget and Levy Meeting and Public Comment 9-13-11-04 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and second by Commissioner Johnson to announce Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the County Board Room of the Yellow Medicine County Courthouse as the regularly scheduled meeting of the County Board at which the 2012 budget and levy will be discussed and the meeting at which the public will be allowed to speak on the budget and levy. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2012 County HRA Tax Levy 9-13-11-05 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve Resolution #22-2011 consenting to a special benefit tax levy of \$45,000 for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Yellow Medicine County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.033, subd. 6, for taxes payable in 2012. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Other Business None

Informational The Board reviewed the August 2011 jail and investment reports. The Board also reviewed a budget request from the Adult Mental Health LAC.

Approval of Disbursements/Review of Auditor's Warrants 9-13-11-06 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$54,925.24 Revenue Fund, \$66,600.71 Road and Bridge Fund, \$66,600.70 Human Services Fund, \$33,511.39 Ditch Fund; and acknowledge review of the Auditor's warrants. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Adjourn 9-13-11-07 Motion by Commissioner Renneke and seconded by Commissioner Antony to adjourn at 10:52 a.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness:

Attest:



Dick Wambeke, Chair



Lois Bonde, Auditor/Treasurer