

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA
September 23, 2003**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 23, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Jane Remiger, Louie Sherlin and Chairperson Gary Johnson. Also present were County Attorney Thomas Kramer, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, and news reporters Bethany Norgaard, and Dan McGonigle. The chairperson called the meeting to order. On motion, the agenda for the day and the minutes of September 9, 2003 were accepted and approved by the board.

Tamie Bremseth reviewed the proposed cost of the 4-H Program as discussed during the meeting held on August 12th. The choices for administering this program are to hire either a program director with the four-year training degree, or a program coordinator with an associate degree, or share a person with Chippewa County. The recommendation from the Extension Committee included a director and support person at four/fifths time at a cost of \$121,000. If the county chose a program coordinator instead, the cost would be reduced to \$101,000. She stated that very few counties are hiring a program director. Chippewa County would like to share a coordinator but this may not be a good idea because the coordinator would have divided loyalties. After discussion, Remiger moved to choose the 4-H coordinator and support person at four/fifths time, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor. Bremseth was directed to continue negotiations on the lease for reduced space in the building. The proposed savings on rent could be as high as \$7000. Don Sebring requested his payment for the flood buyout properties. Although the monies from FEMA are here, the DNR share will not be released until completion of the project. Anderson moved to proceed with the buyouts for Don Sebring and Mary Sebring, using \$15,837.74 of county funds to be reimbursed by DNR after all paperwork has been completed. Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

It was noted that Emergency Management Director Michele Caveney received recognition from the eighteen-county Association of Emergency Managers for being the outstanding director for Region Five for excellence in emergency management services.

County Engineer John Johnson discussed the possibility of increasing county revenue by imposing a gravel tax. He stated that many other counties are using this tax as a form of revenue at a rate of up to ten cents per cubic yard or seven cents per ton. Sixty per-cent of the revenue would benefit the road and bridge fund, thirty per-cent would go to the township or city road fund and ten per-cent is to be dedicated to pit restoration. He was directed to call for a public meeting with area gravel producers to get their input on this venture.

He also explained that we have an excess amount in the state aid municipal account of \$648,612 at the end of the year. If this money is not spent, we may be subject to a 2% penalty. He proposed that several projects be bid out yet this fall with construction next spring. These projects include re-grading and new curbing for CSAH 42 in Echo to coincide with their water project; overlay for CSAH 12 in the city of Porter; and overlay for CSAH 17 in the City of Hazel Run. Remiger moved to approve bid letting of the above projects, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to approve the final payment of \$73,980.84 to McLaughlin & Schulz for S.A.P. 87-640-03, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Anderson moved to advertise for rental of the landfill property, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

pm.

Nancy Fasching presented a report on the Southwest Minnesota Foundation. She stated that she is requesting an investment in the community, not a gift to her organization. The Foundation provides support in the form of grants and business loans to qualifying organizations throughout southwest Minnesota. Forty grants totaling \$349,001 have been given to Yellow Medicine entities during the past several years. A request was made for \$3320 for 2004. Robin Henderson reported on Project Respect, which is one of the projects funded by the grant. This project was started in the local school and encourages students to perform community service tasks, which include helping the elderly. A definite improvement in student attitudes has been observed since the implementation of this project. No action was taken on this request.

Bob Meyer, Area Wildlife Manager for DNR, requested board approval for the acquisition of lands to be used by the state for water and wildlife conservation and hunting purposes. Also present were Willis Beecher and Darold Ellefson representing the Lac qui Parle Watershed Board. Land to be purchased includes approximately 158 acres located in the North one-half and Southeast quarter of Section 9 of Wergeland Township. This land will be part of the Upper Antelope Valley Wildlife Management Area. Land will be purchased from Tom Noyes and the "in lieu of tax" payment to the county will be \$720. Sherlin moved for approval, Antony seconded motion. Voting yes: Antony, Anderson, Remiger, Sherlin. Voting no: Johnson. Motion was carried. It was mentioned that many complaints have been heard from residents that the DNR does not carry out any weed control measures on land that they have purchased. In several cases, the owner was promised that weeds would be sprayed several times a year but nothing has been done.

Meyer defended the Twin Lakes Project located in Lincoln County. This project has received a lot of criticism lately because DNR did not obtain a permit from the local watershed to proceed. The purpose of this project is to install a control structure (culvert) with another kind so that the water level can be controlled to benefit the wildlife. A request for a temporary restraining order was submitted by the watershed board, but the request was denied by the courts. The watershed board feels that the DNR should be required to obtain the same permits as is necessary for others. They should be accountable just like everyone else, not a double standard.

YM County Fair Board members JoLayne Madsen, Bernie Miller, and Menno Fokken, presented their annual report, stating that the 2003 county fair was a success. The financial statement was explained, noting the positive balance. They also received many favorable comments on the new exhibit building completed this summer.

Don Williams, Owner of West Central Sanitation from Willmar, reported that he had purchased the Olson Dray business and took over the garbage and recycling business in Granite Falls. He will be furnishing blue recycling containers for every resident, which should make recycling easier for the users. He has been reviewing the recycling contract with the county attorney to find solutions to several problems that have surfaced. One requirement is that all commercial businesses are responsible to place their recycling on the curb. However, resident Jim Almich stated that he stores his cardboard in a back room at his supermarket and the former owner picked it up from the back room. If he switches to another garbage service, is West Central still responsible for picking up his recycling. Grant Velde from Velde Sanitation, stated that he was recently approved by the Granite City Council for garbage pickup in the city. He noted that there was a problem in Echo where a resident switched vendors and lost her recycling service. Will this be an on-going problem? Williams stated that this undertaking is fairly new and they will try to work out all of the problems. The county attorney is reviewing the contract

Jolene Johnson requested approval for the following resolution in order to implement the loan program for septic system improvement for RCRCA.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners that it hereby designates Jolene Johnson, Water Plan Coordinator, as Project Representative for the implementation of the Redwood River Watershed Phosphorous TMDL Compliance Clean Water Partnership Project for Yellow Medicine County. The Project Representative shall have the authority to represent the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners in all Project matters that do not specifically require action by the Yellow Medicine County Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Yellow Medicine County Board that, as Loan Sponsor, the Yellow Medicine County Board enters into the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement along with the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, as Project Sponsor and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the implementation of the Cottonwood River Restoration Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Yellow Medicine County Board that the County Auditor, Carolyn Sherlin, be authorized to execute the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Board as Loan Sponsor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Yellow Medicine County Board that the County Auditor, Carolyn Sherlin, be authorized to execute loan disbursements requests for the above referenced project to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of the Board.

Sherlin moved to adopt the above resolution, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sheriff Rich Rollins presented two options for the purchase of a new squad car. Available are a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria for \$20,786 or a 2004 Chevrolet Impala 9C1 Police Package for \$17,325. After discussion, Antony moved for the purchase of the Chevrolet Impala, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Proposed cuts in the budget were discussed. The auditor's office prepared a scenario proposing a \$145,000 decrease in next years budget for review. These included removing the \$5000 building repair funds to the Fair Board, Machinery Museum, and Historical Society for one year and also taking away the \$5000 for Stonehill Park for a savings of \$20,000. After discussion, Antony moved to keep the repair funds in the budget for the Fair Board, Machinery Museum, and Historical Society, but that these funds may only be paid out with county board approval. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Peggy Heglund reviewed the differences between the duties of a county coordinator and county administrator, noting that the department managers met to discuss this issue and their preference was for a coordinator. She also advocated for hiring a full-time coordinator as opposed to a part-time administrator.

Swift County Administrator John Chattin stated that the Swift County Board approved the proposed agreement with Swift County for sharing a county coordinator/administrator at their last meeting. Yellow Medicine County now has the option to sign the agreement. Discussion on the pro's and con's of the coordinator/administrator status took place. After further discussion, Remiger moved to participate in the agreement with Swift County to share a County Administrator on a half-time basis at an estimated annual cost of \$60,000 to our county, Anderson seconded motion. Voting yes: Anderson, Johnson, Remiger. Voting no: Antony, Sherlin. Motion was approved. John Chattin will begin his duties in our county on October 1st, 2003.

Remiger moved to ratify the minutes and actions of the Welfare Meeting held earlier in the day, Anderson seconded, motion carried.
September 23, 2003

Tom reviewed the meeting with public defender committee. The State will no longer pay for public defenders and the counties will be forced to pick up these costs in the future.

The county attorney stated that the first assistant county attorney is interviewing in another county for a new job. He feels that if the county does not proceed in 2004 with the step system adopted for 2003, he will lose this valuable employee. Replacement of this position will be extremely difficult. A request was made to assure a two-step increase for this position in 2004 in order to keep this employee. After discussion, Remiger moved to approve and guarantee a two-step increase for the first assistant county attorney for 2004, Sherlin seconded motion. Voting yes: Anderson, Antony, Remiger, Sherlin. Voting no: Johnson. Motion was carried.

Commissioners Reports were given on the following topics: GIS, Water Task Force, Prairie Five, Pioneerland Library System, Community Corrections, RCRCA, and Prairie Lakes.

The following claims were presented for payment:

REVENUE FUND

A & J Auto Supply Inc	428.38
David Antony	215.00
Aramark Correctional Services	3,091.36
Kathy Busack	129.60
Canby Builders Supply Inc	475.00
Compreidum Profess Dev Svcs	159.00
Consumers Coop Oil Co	130.47
CPS Technology Solutions Inc	338.50
Davis Typewriter Co Inc	113.96
Farmers Coop Association	406.32
G & K Services Inc	119.62
Hatletvedt Enterprises	6,362.00
Jeff Johnson Excavating	3,575.00
Just's Key & Lock Shop	106.78
Thomas Kramer	1,410.02
Kurt Larsen	399.28
M.B. McGee MD	400.00
Minnesota West College	569.00
MN Sheriffs Assn	130.00
Mobile Computer Support Inc	2,056.62
Ramsey County	1,200.00
Regions Hospital	140.00
Arthur Rillo MD	158.64
Richard Rollins	129.60
Sawmill Builders Supply Inc	1,873.71
Amanda Sieling	181.84
Tri-County Coop Oil Company	904.70
Uniforms Unlimited	199.08
University of Minnesota	250.70
Welker's Office 1	158.57
West Central Communication Inc	1,741.40
Wing-Bain Funeral Home Inc	990.00
Wood Lake Lumber Inc	718.30
YMC Ag Extension Service	500.00
Payments less than \$100	1,288.85
TOTAL	\$31,051.30

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Canby Drug & Gift	135.00
Commissioner of Transportation	1,496.76
Conrad's Truck & Tractor Repair	515.37
Fastenal Company	157.59
G & K Services Inc	122.95
Koch Materials Co Inc	2,947.20
Larson Companies	169.46
Martin Marietta Aggregates	471.71
McLaughlin & Schulz Inc	77,004.89
Midwest Truck & Parts Inc	951.98
Swift County Highway	5,180.00
Toshiba America Info-Sys Inc	236.13

Weber Gravel Pit Inc	29,472.97
Payments less than \$100	<u>378.32</u>
TOTAL	\$119,240.33

DITCH FUND

Bornhoft Concrete Inc	101.61
G & L Repair	103.52
Payment less than \$100	<u>15.09</u>
TOTAL	\$220.22

FINAL TOTAL **\$150,511.85**

Antony moved to approve payment for the above claims, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. As all business for the day was completed, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairperson, Yellow Medicine
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Carolyn Sherlin, County Auditor
and Clerk to the County Board