

## Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

December 14, 2004

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

**12-14-04-01** Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve the agenda with the addition of a Clarkfield abatement request and carpeting in the fairgrounds offices. Carried.

**12-14-04-02** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda consisting of: November 23, 2004 regular meeting minutes; December 2, 2004 special meeting minutes; reallocation/additional appropriation requests as presented; financial policies as presented; and approval of a BWSR Block Grant agreement. Carried.

Mr. Anderson reported on a Southwest Regional Solid Waste letter. It was hoped that Yellow Medicine County would take no action until a new proposal is presented. Comments on the AMC Annual Conference were also offered. Mr. Antony reviewed Cooperative Efforts Committee discussions and Ms. Remiger added some comments on the AMC Conference.

Attorney Tom Kramer discussed a request by Assistant County Attorney Keith Helgeson to move from 37.5 hour to 40 hours per week. There was some discussion of exempt versus non-exempt employees and comp-time. Mr. Kramer was asked to meet with Mr. Chattin and bring the issue back at a later meeting. Mr. Kramer also gave an update on the Larson appeal.

Randy Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, handed out some information on the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Task Force meetings and timeline. He also noted that many calls have been received on the new flood maps and he shared some departmental statistics for 2004.

Ms. Remiger recessed the meeting at 12:20 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

Assistant Engineer Steve Schaub and General Foreman Larry Stoks passed out copies of the resident survey results and presented several items for the Highway Department.

**12-14-04-03** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to set a bid opening date for an addition to the Canby shop for 1:00 p.m. on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Carried.

**12-14-04-04** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve a new copier lease for the Highway office, as presented. Carried.

There was discussion on the preference for a Ford crew cab pickup versus a Dodge extended cab, as there was considerably more room in the back seat of the Ford and survey crews were often in the back seat. State bids were obtained for Ford and Dodge trucks.

**12-14-04-05** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to purchase a new Ford F250 crew cab pickup for \$21,938. Carried.

There was discussion on the value of different brands of graders when traded and how that affected total ownership costs.

**12-14-04-06** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to purchase a

new Case grader for \$84,711 to boot with the trade of a 1989 Caterpillar for \$47,500. Carried with Mr. Johnson opposed.

Ms. Remiger reviewed AMC's press release on transportation funding.

**12-14-04-07** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt Policy 701 – Commissioners' Computer/E-Mail Policy as presented. Carried.

**12-14-04-08** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve a 3% salary adjustment for 2005 for all non-union personnel, including elected department heads. Carried.

**12-14-04-09** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to keep Commissioners' salaries the same in 2005 as in 2004. The motion was defeated with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Remiger voting against the motion.

**12-14-04-10** Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to increase Commissioners' salaries by 3% in 2005 from \$16,261 to \$16,749 annually with an extra \$600 annually for the Board chair. Carried, with Mr. Antony and Mr. Sherlin opposed.

There was a short break from 1:40 p.m. until 1:46 p.m.

**12-14-04-11** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the 2005 budget as presented totaling \$10,932,526 in revenues and \$10,986,594 in expenses. Carried.

**12-14-04-12** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to adopt a 0% levy increase for 2005 for a total levy of \$6,669,328, comprised of \$3,326,448 for the Revenue Fund (including \$820,315 of County Program Aid), \$1,387,454 for the Road and Bridge Fund, \$1,602,015 for the Welfare Fund, a \$54,226 library levy, \$12,375 for SCORE, \$2,510 for the Water Plan, and \$284,300 for Law Enforcement Center bonds. Carried.

New 3-year contracts for the Courthouse and Highway units of AFSCME Council 65 covering 2005 through 2007 were presented. The contracts reflected wages adjustments of 3% for 2005, 3% for 2006, and 2% for 2007. Increases in dependent health insurance premiums would also be covered 60/40 (County/employee) in 2006 and 50/50 in 2007.

**12-14-04-13** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the new AFSCME contracts as presented. Carried.

Mr. Chattin noted that discussions with the LELS union would not take place until 2005. He suggested settling the 2005 wage adjustments yet this year, as health insurance co-pays had already been accepted.

**12-14-04-14** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve a 3% wage adjustment for LELS employees, if Mr. Chattin is able to negotiate that change for 2005, prior to settling the full 3-year contract. Carried.

**12-14-04-15** Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to schedule the 2005 Board organizational meeting for January 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m., replacing the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Carried.

Mr. Johnson discussed the AMC Conference and some Veteran's statistics he received. He also reported on Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects and Pioneerland Library. Mr. Sherlin discussed Prairie Waters and Area II.

**12-14-04-16** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$ 101,042.93 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$1,758,802.51. Carried.

An abatement request for a residence in Clarkfield was discussed. The property is currently in arrears and an individual is considering improvements to the property if

abatement is possible. Mr. Johnson will bring back additional information at a future meeting.

Mr. Sherlin noted that he had authorized some additional carpeting at the Canby fairgrounds County offices.

Several of the information items were reviewed.

**12-14-04-17** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

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Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

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Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer