

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

February 10, 2004

Vice Chair Louis Sherlin called this regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Gary Johnson, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent, and Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune were also present. Chair Jane Remiger was absent.

02-10-04-01 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

02-10-04-02 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda items including:

- 1) January 27, 2004 regular meeting minutes with the striking of “annually” under 01-27-04-11;
- 2) Two reallocation requests and one additional appropriation request (for \$200); and
- 3) Approval of a final payment to Redfield, LLC in the amount of \$11,294.99.

Carried.

Chairman Jane Remiger arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Mr. Sherlin reported on the Western Revolving Loan Fund, Western Mental Health, and Area II River Basin Projects. Mr. Johnson attended a Pioneerland Library director evaluation, Region 6W Community Corrections, and an Area Agencies on Aging meeting. He also discussed Western Area City/County Cooperative. Mr. Chattin will invite Laurie Mullen, Executive Director, to present to a Management Group meeting to see if there is interest in joining. Ms. Remiger discussed a Redwood Cottonwood River Control meeting and a favorable evaluation of the shared engineer, John Johnson. Mr. Antony attended a MnDOT Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) meeting with Engineer Johnson where \$2.825 million was secured for funding a CSAH 3 project. He also attended a Creative Solutions committee meeting. Mr. Anderson attended Region 6W Community Corrections and HRA meetings.

After a short break, Engineer John Johnson asked the Board if they wanted to proceed with Phase 2 of the Memorial Trail project. Mr. Antony moved and Mr. Anderson seconded to proceed with Phase 2. There was additional discussion on how much the County’s share of costs would be and responsibility for any ongoing maintenance. Mr. Johnson will provide additional information at the next meeting. Both the motion and second were then withdrawn.

The need to continue weed spraying was considered. The County spends approximately \$24,000 annually contracting for services. Although a legal opinion on the County’s weed control responsibilities in the right-of-way is pending, most believed that it should be continued.

02-10-04-03 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to continue with the weed spraying program and to track the effectiveness of Curtail. Carried.

02-10-04-04 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to purchase a new International 7600 tandem axle cab and chassis for \$65,864 under the State bid with all the associated attachments for a total price of \$105,319. Carried.

The International was \$704 higher in price than a Sterling. However, the Board found that service for the Cummins engine in the International was available locally, where service for the Mercedes Benz engine in the Sterling was not.

Mr. Johnson handed out new 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) maps. He noted that a public hearing would be required before adopting the CIP.

02-10-04-05 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to set 10:00 a.m. on March 9, 2004 as the time and date for a public hearing to consider the County's 5-Year Highway CIP. Carried.

02-10-04-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to close the meeting at 10:04 a.m. to confer with legal counsel, via telephone, on pending litigation. Carried.

Ms. Remiger opened the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

02-10-04-07 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to have Scott Anderson, County legal counsel, act in conformance with the discussion held in closed session and have County Attorney Tom Kramer available by phone during the meeting discussed. Carried.

Engineer John Johnson reviewed gravel tax information. He estimated that approximately \$30,000 could be generated in taxes with the County netting \$20,000 to \$25,000. A public hearing would be required. Mr. Johnson recommended implementing the tax but wanted to hand off administration of the tax to someone else. The Board took no action on the tax.

A discussion was also held on updating the snow plow policy. Mr. Johnson will visit with operators before recommending policy changes.

The Board congratulated Mr. Johnson on a job well done for his efforts in securing \$2.825 million for the CSAH 3 project.

Ms. Remiger called for a break at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

02-10-04-08 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to reduce the SWCD subsidy appropriation from \$82,509 to \$77,680 in 2004 to account for rent payments no longer being made, since the County purchased the Clarkfield building. Carried.

02-10-04-09 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to adopt a resolution providing for the issuance, sale, and delivery of a \$6,090,000 general obligation water revenue bond of 2004 of Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, to pay a part of the cost of water system improvements; establishing the terms and conditions therefore; and awarding the sale thereof. Carried.

02-10-04-10 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to close the meeting at 10:55 a.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues. Carried.

Mr. Sherlin excused himself at 11:15 a.m. to honor another appointment.

Ms. Remiger opened the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

There was discussion on where the issue of insuring aeration systems on Tyson and Wood Lakes stood. Mr. Chattin reviewed a letter from MCIT detailing the issues involved. The Board questioned if the aeration systems should be given back to the Sportsmen's Club.

Questions concerning dunk tank liability issues and establishing mutual aid agreements between County emergency services were also raised.

Mr. Chattin noted that the County now had a web site that will have additional features added over time.

County park issues were discussed. The Board asked to have Myron Hagelstrom, Park Supervisor, address them at a future meeting.

An update from Michelle Caveney, VSO/Emergency Management Director, on the status of flood buyouts was also requested.

Commissioners questioned the need to have a visitation day with legislators at the state capitol. Mr. Chattin will try to have legislators attend Board meetings, when available, for updates. If there are specific issues to lobby for, the Board would likely go to St. Paul to meet with legislators.

Mr. Antony reported that Adam Eckhardt, of Clarkfield, was named one of the top youth Volunteers in Minnesota for 2004 in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. A commendation will be presented for adoption at the next Board meeting to honor Mr. Eckhardt.

There was general discussion on planning and zoning issues and Joint County Ditch 10. A meeting on ditch 10 will not be called unless a petition for redetermination is received.

02-10-04-11 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve Commissioners' Warrants as presented totaling \$81,314.75 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Vouchers totaling \$15,418.24. Carried.

Ms. Remiger asked about the status of investment policy review. Mr. Chattin will meet with the Auditor/Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer and formulate a revised policy.

A lease agreement with Howard Gatchell, Jr. for rental of former landfill acreage was discussed. It is currently leased for one year. However, the Board wanted a 3-year lease approved.

02-10-04-12 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Johnson to extend the present agreement with Mr. Gatchell to a 3-year lease. Carried.

02-10-04-13 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m. Carried.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer