

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

July 13, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune, and Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent were also present.

07-13-04-01 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the agenda with the addition of an update on investments. Carried.

07-13-04-02 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve the consent agenda items including: June 22, 2004 regular meeting minutes; revised Mid-State Computer Co-op By-Laws; Countryside Public Health contract for jail services; and a Planning and Zoning additional appropriation request. Carried.

Mr. Anderson updated the Board on the proposed Lamberton Waste-to-Energy facility and a Granite Falls/Pioneerland Library meeting. Mr. Johnson added some comments on the library meeting. Mr. Antony reported on the Cooperative Efforts Committee.

Gene Wenstrom, the Clarkfield EDA Director, presented a request for a \$218,020 County tax abatement for a \$3.4 million fertilizer facility expansion of Prairie Grain Partners, LLC. Clarkfield would be issuing bonds, to be repaid through a 9-year Tax Increment Financing District, and the County was being asked to join the city in a tax abatement from 2015 through 2025. Mr. Wenstrom indicated that no new jobs were anticipated because of the expansion but the economic impact to the area, and the possibility of additional future expansions, warranted the economic assistance.

07-13-04-03 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to grant the abatement as requested. Carried, with Mr. Antony voting against the motion.

Roger Albertson, the State Auditor assigned to the Yellow Medicine County audit, reviewed several 2003 audit exhibits and findings. Although the County had a deficit budget of \$131,454, actual revenues exceeded expenditures by \$492,783 in the General Fund. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$12,573 in the Road and Bridge Fund and by \$70,060 in the Family Service Fund. Several findings that required County action were also reviewed. Mr. Albertson gave the County an unqualified audit opinion and praised Lois Bonde, Fiscal Officer, for her outstanding job in preparing the Management's Discussion and Analysis.

07-13-04-04 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve an audit letter required by the State Auditor. Carried.

It was noted that the cost of the 2003 audit was \$32,000.

Engineer John Johnson requested Board action on a resolution establishing an agency agreement between the County and MnDOT for the Memorial Trail Project.

07-13-04-05 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the receipt of federal aid in connection with the Memorial Trail Project (Phases II & II) requires that Mn/DOT act as the County's agent;

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of the County of Yellow Medicine to accept, as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and the Administrator are hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the County, to execute and enter into

an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in “Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 86822”, a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Carried.

John Johnson also reviewed the quarterly Engineering Report and commented on participation of three landowners in the Living Snow Fence Program. Ms. Remiger added comments on activities of the AMC Transportation Task Force that is looking at the CSAH formula and additional funding sources for County highways.

Ms. Remiger called for a break at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Michelle Bouta, EDP Consultant, explained the restructuring of the ElderCare Development Program and requested the appointment of a board member for their downsized board.

07-13-04-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to appoint Rae Ann Aus as the County’s EDP Board representative with Peggy Heglund as the alternate. Carried, with Mr. Johnson voting against the motion.

Dave Leuthe, DNR Regional Hydrologist, and Cory Hanson, the DNR’s local contact for water issues, addressed the Board on aggregate mining in state Wild and Scenic Areas. He also reviewed a Legislative Commission for Minnesota Resources project he had submitted for funding. It was not approved but he may resubmit in the future. The Board was concerned that the County had been listed as a sponsor of the grant without its approval. Mr. Leuthe apologized and noted that Board approval would be required prior to any County obligation.

Randy Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, commented on some of his activities. Ms. Remiger noted that Mr. Jacobson will likely be involved with a presentation at the December AMC conference.

Head Custodian Curt Johnson introduced two representatives from Chappel Central, the company responsible for maintenance and repair of the courthouse heating and cooling systems. Several operational and service concerns were shared with considerable discussion. Chappel was asked to provide costs to dehumidify incoming air, particularly in the jail.

Note was made of upcoming meetings.

A request from Chippewa County to have a meeting to discuss a joint EDA/RDA for Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Yellow Medicine Counties was considered. Two Commissioners will attend on one of the dates proposed.

The Board asked Mr. Chattin to check on a cleaning bill for the Clarkfield building.

Ms. Remiger reported on a meeting with the Upper Sioux and progress towards a joint agreement on law enforcement. She also shared some correspondence.

07-13-04-07 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the bills as presented totaling \$182,942.56 and acknowledge review of Auditor’s Warrants totaling \$1,664,908.65. Carried.

07-13-04-08 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the County receives various payments of taxes, fees, and other charges that may be in excess of the actual charge itself; and

Whereas, returning any excess charges may prove to be more costly to the County due to clerical, postage, and paper costs than the actual overpayment, especially when the overpayment is less than \$5.00 (five dollars); and

Whereas, refunding excess charges may involve all County departments;
Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that the County of Yellow Medicine shall adopt a policy of not refunding any excess payments that are less than \$5.00 (five dollars).

Carried.

A budget discussion and an investment update were postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson gave an update on Prairie V.

Ms. Remiger recessed the meeting at 12:50 p.m. and reconvened at Timm (Wood Lake) County Park. All Commissioners, except for Mr. Antony, were present. Myron Hagelstrom, Parks Supervisor, provided lunch at the park and gave the Board a tour of existing facilities. There was discussion on the future of the park and what improvements may be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at Timm Park at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer