

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011**

Chairman Dick Wambeke called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 3:00 p.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 6-14-11-01 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agenda with the following changes: add gravel road blading, county tour, septic system compliance issue, planning commission member ethics and board of adjustment update to the regular agenda; add discussion on the impact of a state government shutdown, State Performance Measurement Program and UCC filings to other business. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 6-14-11-02 Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve the consent agenda items as follows: minutes of the May 24, 2011, County Board meeting; Living at Home/Block Nurse Program Home and Community-Based Services contract; temporary 3.2 beer license for the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce for June 23-25, 2011. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Regular Agenda

Planning & Zoning Update Planning & Zoning Director Randy Jacobson updated the Board on activity in the Planning & Zoning Office. Planning & Zoning Director Jacobson and County Attorney Helgeson discussed an issue with a property owner who has a septic system out of compliance. Planning & Zoning Director Jacobson updated the Board on the last Board of Adjustment meeting. It was requested that Board of Adjustment meeting minutes be sent to the County Board in the future.

The actions and ethics of Planning Commission Member Doug Sik were discussed. Motion by Commissioner Johnson to remove Doug Sik from the Planning Commission. The motion failed for a lack of a second to the motion. The Board asked that bylaw language providing for the removal of Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment members be developed and brought to the next meeting.

Judicial Ditch #10 Bridge Options 6-14-11-03 Drainage and Land Use Inspector Chris Balfany presented some options for land owner John Huntjens' bridge that crosses J.D. #10. Options looked at include replacing the bridge or offering a bridge buyout and negotiating the purchase of land from a neighboring property owner for Mr. Huntjens to use to access his land. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to authorize pursuing the bridge buyout option and negotiating the purchase of land for a new access. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Safe Routes to School Grant 6-14-11-04 Canby School Superintendent Loren Hacker presented a request for Yellow Medicine County to be the sponsor of a Minnesota 2011 Safe Routes to School grant application that would provide grant funds for walking trails, sidewalks and crosswalks in Canby. The grant requires a state aid government entity like the County to be the project sponsor. As project sponsor the County would act as fiscal host. The City of Canby is going to serve as the lead applicant and fulfill other sponsor duties including fronting the cost of the project if funded. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve Resolution #13-2011 authorizing Yellow Medicine County to serve as the project sponsor for Canby's 2011 Safe Routes to School grant application and authorizing the County Engineer to act as the County's authorized representative for the project. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Bridge Excess Cost Resolutions 6-14-11-05 County Engineer Andy Sander presented three resolutions for bridge projects funded by the State. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony

to approve Resolutions #14-2011, #15-2011 and #16-2011 for bridge projects S.A.P. 087-610-008, 087-629-003 and 087-602-019 and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grants for said bridge projects consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, subdivision 5, clause (3), and agreeing to pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and returning to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for these bridges but not required. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Gravel Road Blading County Engineer Sander and Highway Maintenance Supervisor Larry Stoks discussed with the Board the County's policies for determining when gravel roads should be bladed.

County Tour The Board set June 29, 2011, at 8 a.m. at the Granite Falls Highway Department Shop as the time to meet for the County Board's annual county tour.

Tax Abatement Hearing Chairman Wambeke opened the public hearing at 4:13 p.m. to take comments on a tax abatement request pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 – 469.1815. The abatement request was provided by Farmer Co-op Association in Canby. Co-op Manager Pete Schmitz and the Co-ops consultant John Meyer were present to explain the Co-op's project. The Co-op was requesting a 10-year tax abatement up to a maximum of \$34,180 to help with unexpected site improvement costs associated with their \$1.2 million dollar fertilizer storage facility expansion. The unexpected site improvement costs were associated with soil issues at the expansion site. The City of Canby had already agreed to a 10-year \$73,500 abatement for the project. The Board reviewed the County's business subsidy criteria to determine if the project was eligible for tax abatement. A lengthy discussion took place on whether or not the project met all of the County's business subsidy criteria. There was also discussion that any abatement agreement approved needed to have benefits to the County that at least equaled the costs to the County of the abatement and that it was in the public interest to grant the abatement to increase tax base, provide employment opportunities and provide access to service.

No one was in attendance for the hearing to comment on the proposed abatement. Chairman Wambeke closed the hearing at 4:31 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Sherlin to approve a tax abatement resolution for Farmers Cooperative Association on parcel #31-034-4040 with the abatement duration being 10 years commencing in 2012 (taxes payable 2013) with the total aggregate abatement amount not to exceed \$34,180 and that three new full-time jobs be created and maintained above the Co-op's current employment base in order to be eligible for the abatement on an annual basis. The motion failed for a lack of a second to the motion.

6-14-11-06 Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve Resolution #17-2011 for a tax abatement for Farmers Cooperative Association on parcel #31-034-4040 with the abatement duration being a maximum of 10 years commencing in 2012 (taxes payable 2013) with the total aggregate abatement amount not to exceed \$15,000 and the following job creation requirements: three new full-time jobs that pay a minimum of \$9.00/hour be created and maintained annually above the Co-op's current employment base in order to be eligible for the full annual abatement amount; the abatement amount will be prorated if the new job creation falls below three new full-time jobs; and no abatement will be paid if the new job creation falls below two full-time jobs. Motion carried with Commissioners Antony, Wambeke, Renneke and Sherlin voting in favor and Commissioner Johnson voting against.

The Board recessed for a break at 4:36 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 4:44 p.m.

ARMER Update County Sheriff Bill Flaten gave an update to the Board on the new ARMER radio system and the grant funding and purchases made to date for the system.

Radio Communication Building 6-14-11-07 Sheriff Flaten presented a request to build a new radio communication building required for the new ARMER system. Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to approve a Revenue Fund budget amendment of \$41,000 in expenditures to construct a new radio communication building. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

PACT For Families Contract 6-14-11-08 The board reviewed a contract with PACT For Families to contract for chemical health and other professional services for a three month period to fill a grant funding gap for the Chemical Health Program. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the contract with PACT For Families as presented and to approve a Human Services budget amendment of \$13,083 in expenditures to purchase the services provided in the contract. Motion carried with Commissioner Antony, Wambeke, Renneke and Johnson voting in favor and Commissioner Sherlin voting against.

Citizen Comments None

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Sherlin reported on Area II, RC & D, RDC Revolving Loan Fund and the AMC district meeting. Commissioner Johnson reported on the RDC, 6W Corrections, flood mitigation meeting, Prairie 5 and the AMC district meeting. Commissioner Renneke reported on the Rural Energy Board and PACT For Families. Commissioner Wambeke reported on the AMC District meeting. Commissioner Antony reported on 6W Corrections and the SW Radio Board.

Other Business

Administrator Krosch reviewed information on the following: impact to county services in the event of a State government shutdown July 1; a new voluntary performance measures program for counties to use that would allow participating counties to get some additional CPA payments in 2011 and to be exempt from property tax levy limits in 2012 should levy limits be imposed; changes to the UCC filing system at the Secretary of State's Office and County Recorder Offices. All three of these items will again be discussed at the June 28 meeting.

Informational The May 2011 investment report was reviewed.

Approval of Disbursements/Review of Auditor's Warrants 6-14-11-09 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the Commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$60,207.57 Revenue Fund, \$41,281.95 Road and Bridge Fund, \$12,647.82 Ditch Fund, \$104,733.85 Human Services 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 6-14-11-10 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to adjourn at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness:

Attest:



Dick Wambeke, Chair



Lois Bonde, Auditor/Treasurer

**Yellow Medicine County Board of Appeal and Equalization Minutes
June 14, 2011**

County Board Chair Dick Wambeke called this Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Board of Equalization members present: County Commissioners Ron Antony, Greg Renneke, Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin and Dick Wambeke; Auditor/ Treasurer Lois Bonde. Also present were County Administrator Ryan Krosch and County Assessor Connie Erickson.

Oath The County Commissioners and Auditor/Treasurer Lois Bonde each took an oath to fairly and impartially perform their duties as a member of the Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Agenda 06-14-11-01 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Appeals and Equalization Course Certification The members were each asked to sign a certification acknowledging who has attended the mandatory appeals and equalization course training. County Commissioners Ron Antony and Dick Wambeke and Auditor/Treasurer Lois Bonde certified their completion of the training.

Gene Bruss, Echo Township Landowner Gene Bruss, landowner in Echo Township, was present to appeal the value on his property. County Assessor Connie Erickson informed Mr. Bruss that he needed to first appeal his value at the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization in Echo Township before making an appeal at the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Mr. Bruss had not done that so was unable to present an appeal.

Parcel #34-440-5106, William Miller, City of Granite Falls 06-14-11-02 County Assessor Erickson informed the Board that William Miller was requesting a valuation reduction to a home he purchased located on tax parcel #34-440-5106. The property Mr. Miller purchased was a foreclosed property that had a great deal of damage done to the home's basement. County Assessor Erickson state Mr. Miller took his appeal to the City of Granite Falls Local Board of Appeal and Equalization but since Mr. Miller is also a Granite Falls City Council Member there was a conflict of interest to have his appeal heard by the Local Board. Due to the conflict of interest at the Local Board level, County Assessor Erickson recommended the County Board of Appeal and Equalization reduce the value of parcel #34-440-5106 by \$17,300 due to the damage done to the property's basement. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve a \$17,300 reduction in the 2011 estimated market value of parcel #34-440-5106 owned by William Miller. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Adjourn 06-14-11-03 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Auditor/Treasurer Bonde to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness:

Date:

Dick Wambeke

Dick Wambeke, County Commissioner

June 14, 2011

Ron Antony

Ron Antony, County Commissioner

June 14, 2011

Gary Johnson

Gary Johnson, County Commissioner

June 14, 2011

Louis Sherlin

Louis Sherlin, County Commissioner

June 14, 2011

Greg Renneke

Greg Renneke, County Commissioner

June 14, 2011

Lois M. Bonde

Lois Bonde, Auditor/Treasurer

June 14, 2011