

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

March 23, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Louis Sherlin, 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.

03-23-04-01 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the agenda with the addition of: 24-hour recorder for the jail; Sheriff's additional appropriation request; Minnesota River Basin; DNR grant; Canby Sportsmen's Club; and an airport update. Carried.

03-23-04-02 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve the consent agenda including:

- 1) Approval of the March 9, 2004 minutes;
- 2) Approve a service agreement with Countryside Public Health;
- 3) Approve consumption and display licenses for Canby Golf Club and Green Door Supper Club; and
- 4) Approve a liquor license for Tom Handelan, dba Hitching Post of Marshall, for the Granite Falls golf course.

Mr. Sherlin reported on the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) meeting. Mr. Johnson gave updates on the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC), a Clarkfield EDA meeting, Pioneerland Public Library, and township meetings. Ms. Remiger also attended the RCRCA meeting and started discussion on a tax levy being proposed by the Minnesota River Board.

03-23-04-03 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to send a letter to the Minnesota River Board opposing the imposition of a tax levy. Carried.

Ms. Remiger also reported on Historical Society and railroad activities.

There were no citizens present to be heard.

Randy Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, discussed the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application of Exetare Partnership, LLP to add 440 animal units to their current hog operation. There has been some opposition expressed via telephone and in person and he also presented a petition signed by nine families opposing the CUP. Mr. Sherlin voiced concern over having an expanded feedlot on less than 40 acres.

03-23-04-04 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve the Exetare Partnership, LLP CUP with the following conditions:

- 1) Shall plant and maintain 2 rows of fast growing trees within one year after construction is completed;
- 2) Shall continually look for new methods to enhance the environment;
- 3) Applicant shall furnish an updated manure management plan to the Yellow Medicine County zoning office annually; and
- 4) Shall sample the perimeter tile annually, in the spring, for nitrates and coliform bacteria and results shall be submitted to the Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office.

Carried, with Mr. Sherlin voting against the granting of the CUP.

A grant application from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR),

listing Yellow Medicine County as one of the grant sponsors, was questioned. None of the Board, or the zoning office, had been asked to be a sponsor for the grant. The Board was not pleased with the DNR taking their support for granted.

03-23-04-05 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to have Mr. Jacobson draft a letter to the DNR withdrawing any County sponsorship of their grant application. Carried.

Michelle Caveney, VSO/Emergency Manager, updated the Board on several grants and flood buyouts. She has secured a \$100,000 grant for equipment and training of the technical rescue team as well as a \$50,000 Department of Justice grant. She noted that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be opening for an exercise on April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and encouraged Commissioners to attend. Ms. Caveney was thanked by the Board for an outstanding job in securing the grants.

Ms. Remiger recessed the meeting at 12:13 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

Engineer John Johnson and General Foreman Larry Stoks presented equipment purchase requests to the Board. They were recommending that a low-boy trailer be purchased from RDO Equipment in Marshall for \$27,700. That is \$135 higher than the lowest bid. However, the RDO trailer manufacturer is closer, RDO will be helping with the conversion of a truck, and they will also be donating a fifth wheel for the truck.

03-23-04-06 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to purchase a low-boy trailer from RDO Equipment for \$27,700. Carried.

There was additional discussion on the purchase of a new pickup. Local quotes and the state bids were compared. Although the state bid for a Dodge pickup was the lowest, some Commissioners felt that purchasing from a local dealer was preferred along with probable higher resale value of a Chevrolet and no delivery charges. The Chevrolet was \$1,622 more than the Dodge. Mr. Sherlin expressed concern over not taking the lowest bid.

03-23-04-07 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Johnson to purchase a 2004 Silverado from Kollen Motors for \$19,488. Carried with Mr. Sherlin and Mr. Antony voting against the motion.

03-23-04-08 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to set 1:20 p.m. on April 27, 2004 as the time and date to let bids for the 9th Street project. Carried.

Previous minutes were reviewed and discussion held on the Memorial Park Trail Project. County funding for Phase 2 of the project has not yet been approved. It is estimated that up to \$13,000 may be needed for staff engineering.

03-23-04-09 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to proceed with Phase 2 of the project and fund up to \$13,000 out of County revenue fund surplus plus engineering costs. Carried with Mr. Johnson voting in opposition.

Mr. Stoks informed the Board that a lawsuit against a contractor and the County has been settled with the judge ruling for the County. They are also starting to clean up acreage owned by the County and adjacent to the highway department building.

Ms. Remiger reviewed possible scenarios for extending the Granite Falls airport runway. County roads would need to be moved or relocated to accommodate the project with 20% of the costs potentially born by the County. Mr. Johnson will research potential costs further.

Lois Bonde, Fiscal Officer, reviewed her analysis of costs associated with the new Law Enforcement Center/Family Services building. There was also discussion on the State Auditor's reports on 2002 County finances.

Sheriff Richard Rollins presented a request for updating the jail's 24-hour recording equipment. A lease rate of \$608.09 for 60 months or \$584.48 for 63 months was offered. Based on a lease amount of \$29,519 it was felt that a direct purchase price should be negotiated to save any interest expense.

03-23-04-10 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the lease or purchase of the equipment, not to exceed the original quotes, after negotiation by Mr. Chattin and Mr. Rollins to secure the best possible deal for the County using 9-1-1 funds. Carried.

03-23-04-11 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve an additional appropriation request for \$14,400 for Reliance telephone cards sold in 2002 and 2003 and just now billed. Carried.

03-23-04-12 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to agree to Addendum No. 2 to the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. Joint Power Agreement extending that agreement for one additional year. Carried.

03-23-04-13 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Canby, hereinafter called the Municipality, owns and controls an airport; and

WHEREAS, portions of the airport hazard area to such airport are located outside the territorial limits of said Municipality but within the territorial limits of this County; and

WHEREAS, the above Municipality has requested in writing that we join with them in the creation of a Joint Airport Zoning Board; and

WHEREAS, this County deems it necessary and expedient to create a Joint Airport Zoning Board in cooperation with the above Municipality pursuant to Minn. Stat. 360.063, Subd. 3, and other applicable laws for the areas surrounding the airport and for the protection of the airport and the public; and

WHEREAS, the above statute provides that this County has the right to appoint two persons to said Board (said person need not be members of this Board); and

WHEREAS, Subd. 8 of Section 32 of the Appropriations Bill passed by the Minnesota Legislators effective July 1, 1973, provides that no moneys shall be expended by the Commissioner of Aeronautics of the State of Minnesota to improve and maintain an airport unless the government unit owning the airport has or is establishing a zoning authority for the airport;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the undersigned County as follows:

- 1) That there is hereby created, in cooperation with the above Municipality, a Joint Airport Zoning Board to be composed of representatives of the undersigned County, representatives of Hammer Township, and representatives of the above Municipality pursuant to Minn. Stat. 360.063, Subd. 3; and
- 2) That the undersigned County hereby appoints Ron Antony and Louis Sherlin to be their representatives on said Board, said persons to serve for an indefinite term

until they resign or are replaced by the undersigned County.

Carried.

Mr. Antony commented that the Canby Sportsmen's Club would like a copy of the lease they have with the County. Auditor/Treasurer Carolyn Sherlin will be asked for a copy.

03-23-04-14 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to reappoint Susan Kamrath as a representative to the Western Mental Health Center. Carried.

03-23-04-15 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopt the Creative Solutions Committee Operating Guidelines as presented. Carried.

03-23-04-16 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to table consideration of a letter of intent to sell the old highway shop building, pending revision of that letter. Carried.

03-23-04-17 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve a one-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement with the AFSCME Highway Department Unit with the following changes to Article XIX:

- 1) Section 2.1 to read: "Individual Coverage: The Employer shall pay the full cost of an individual employee's Comprehensive Major Medical (CMM) \$250 deductible health insurance plan and dental group coverage plan as provided by the Employer"; and
- 2) Section 2.2 to read: "Dependent Coverage: Employees may select dependent coverage under the CMM Plan. The employee shall pay, through payroll deduction, \$160.56 per month towards the cost of that plan"; and
- 3) Section 2.3 is deleted; and
- 4) Appendix A shall be amended to reflect a 2% increase over the July 1, 2003 listed rates effective January 1, 2004.

Carried.

Mr. Chattin asked for discussion on Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA) contributions the County would be willing to make if such a plan were adopted. This will be needed as discussions and informational meetings move forward. There would be premium savings and possible Appletree rebates for moving to a VEBA plan.

03-23-04-18 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Remiger (after passing the gavel to Mr. Sherlin) to express the County's intent to cap the County's health insurance costs at current levels for the purpose of calculating potential VEBA benefits, and use any VEBA premium savings and possible Appletree rebates to fund individual employee VEBA accounts. Carried.

Mr. Chattin noted that employee VEBA informational meetings will start with a meeting scheduled for April 8th.

The gavel was symbolically returned to Ms. Remiger.

Commissioner reports continued with Mr. Antony reporting on some township meetings attended. Mr. Anderson asked about a resolution opposing reductions in utility property taxes being forwarded by Sherburne County. That resolution will be considered at the next Board meeting. He also reported on the proposed waste-to-energy facility and Prairie Lakes Detention.

03-23-04-19 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to approve Commissioners' Warrants as presented totaling \$42,624.65 and acknowledge review of

Auditor's Warrants totaling \$ 414,130.99. Carried.

03-23-04-20 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer