

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 27, 2007**

Chairman Antony called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 12:30 p.m. with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Gary Johnson, Jane Remiger, 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 Robert Wolfington.

**Approve Agenda 03-27-07-01** Motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Remiger to approve the agenda with the following additions: Highway 59 funding and demolition of county owned buildings. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda 03-27-07-02** Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and second by Commissioner Wambeke to approve the consent agenda items as follows: minutes of the March 13, 2007, County Board meeting; hiring of two part-time correction officers – Jill Ousky and Charles Lecy; Touch-of-Gold Abate of Minnesota temporary beer license with required signage. Motion carried unanimously.

**Citizen Comments** There was no citizens present to be heard.

**Commissioner Reports** Commissioner Sherlin reported on Tom Watson resigning from Western Minnesota Prairie Waters. Commissioner Antony reported on PIC, SWCD, NRCS, SW Regional Solid Waste Board, Rural Minnesota Energy Board and an ICS meeting. Commissioner Wambeke reported on the HRA Committee, a Minnesota Department of Health video conference for new commissioners and a pandemic flu planning meeting. Commissioner Remiger reported on a DNR meeting to discuss county ditch #7, a family business conference and the Comprehensive Land Use Task Force. Commissioner Johnson reported on the Pioneer Library Board, LACC, Circle Sentencing, Upper MN Valley RDC and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

**Regular Agenda:**

**Additional Staffing Request 03-27-07-03** VSO/Emergency Management Director Michelle Gatz and Minnesota HSEM Regional Emergency Management Representative Amy Card discussed with the Board the National Preparedness Act, Post-Katrina Act and new FEMA requirements. Also discussed were the possibilities of regional mutual aid agreements and regional training opportunities. Due to new emergency management requirements EM Gatz requested that Russell Dandurand's position become permanent 3/5 time and that grant funds would continue to be used to fund the emergency management portion of the position. Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to make Russell Dandurand's position permanent 3/5 time contingent on grant funds being available to fund the emergency management portion of the position. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bids for EM/VSO Car 03-27-07-04** VSO/EM Director Gatz presented the Board with bids for a new department staff car. Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to purchase a 2007 Chevy Impala for \$15,793.85 plus tax, title and delivery costs and to appropriate the same amounts out of County reserves. Motion carried unanimously.

VSO/EM Gatz updated the board on the VSO and EM activities for 2007.

**Wald Tax Abatement** Brian Berget was present to discuss the status of the tax abatement agreement with Kevin Wald and Ritalka, Inc. and SpecSys, Inc. Administrator Krosch informed the

Board that he would be working with Mr. Berget to obtain the necessary documentation as required in the abatement agreement.

**Award Contract on Bridge Replacement Project S.A.P. 87-598-08 03-27-07-05** Engineer Andy Sander presented the Board with six bids for County Road A5. Motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Remiger to approval the low bid to Structural Specialties, Inc. for \$209,777.12. The remaining bids are on file with the County Highway Department. Motion carried unanimously.

**S.A.P. 87-598-08 Grant Resolution 03-27-07-06** Engineer Sander presented the Board with a grant resolution for S.A.P. 87-598-08. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and second by Commissioner Remiger to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge 87561 as part of State Aid Project 87-598-08; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$206,770.82 by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Yellow Medicine County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, subdivision 5, clause (3), and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for these bridges but not required. Motion carried unanimously.

**Thoma House Demolition 03-27-07-07** Engineer Sander informed the Board that it would cost approximately \$3,300 to remove the Thoma house next to the courthouse. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Remiger to have the County Highway Department remove the Thoma house with a total budget for removal not to exceed \$5,000 with funds appropriated out of the County Revenue Fund and that the lot be made into a gravel parking lot and the trees taken out. Motion carried unanimously.

**Highway Dept. Front Entry 03-27-07-08** Engineer Sander presented the Board with two costs estimates for a new front entry at the Granite Falls Highway Building. One estimate was for \$1,250 and the other for \$10,900. Motion Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to install a new entrance at the Granite Falls Highway Department Building at a cost not to exceed \$1,250. Motion carried unanimously.

**Final Payment Resolution S.A.P. 87-603-26 03-27-07-09** Engineer Andy Sander presented the Board with a final payment resolution for a road project. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and second by Commissioner Wambeke to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Yellow Medicine County Project S.A.P. 87-603-26 have in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premise,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Yellow Medicine hereby accepts said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Yellow Medicine and authorizes final payment to R & G Construction Company in the amount of \$108,602.72 for the final contract amount totaling \$2,194,149.43. Motion carried unanimously.

**Highway 59** The Board discussed the safety concerns of U.S. Highway 59 between Clarkfield and Marshall and that continued recommendations should be made to MnDOT for funding to improve the highway.

**Eligibility Date for Health Insurance 03-27-07-10** A recommendation from the Labor Management Committee was provide to the Board regarding the health insurance start date for new employees. The recommendation was to change the language in the County Personnel Policies back to language that is consistent with the County’s contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Board discussed modifying the recommendation to make the policy read more clearly and account for months with 31 days. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to place final disposition of the following amendment to Section 201.152.D of the County Personnel Policies as an agenda item for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting:

New Employees are required to obtain and return application forms related to insurance benefits within five working days from the first day of employment. Enrollment in the selected insurance plan shall begin on the first day of the next month following the employees first full month of employment. Motion carried unanimously.

**Demolition of Tax Forfeited Property** The Board discussed the removal of a tax forfeited building in Hanley Falls.

**County Staff/Elected Officials Reports** Attorney Keith Helgeson provided the Board with a memo regarding the legality of allowing employees to donate sick leave. Attorney Helgeson informed the board there are no statutes addressing this issue. The Board agreed to leave the current County donation of leave policy as is.

Administrator Krosch presented the Board with his administrator’s report.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events** The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

**Informational** The Board reviewed the February jail report.

**Approve Payment of Claims 03-27-07-11** Motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Sherlin to approve Commissioner’s Warrants as presented for the following amounts: \$32,945.59 Revenue Fund, \$8,525.68 Road and Bridge Fund, and \$14.78 Ditch Fund; and acknowledge review of Auditor’s Warrants totaling \$106,502.59. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business** There was no other business brought before the Board.

**Adjourn 03-27-07-12** Motion by Commissioner Johnson and second by Commissioner Sherlin to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Witness:

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Ron Antony, Chairman

Attest:

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Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer

