

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

May 9, 2006

Chairman Lynn Anderson called this regular meeting to order at 9:03 AM with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Gary Johnson, Jane Remiger, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin was also present.

05-09-06-01 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

05-09-06-02 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to approve the consent agenda consisting of the April 25, 2006 regular meeting minutes and three additional appropriation requests. Carried.

Mr. Antony reported on Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects and discussed an Energy Board meeting the UMVRDC is planning. Mr. Johnson discussed the Big Stone Power Line Project and a request to have the County “drive” the proposed routes and make comments. The Board decided to have Randy Jacobson drive the line and to have Mr. Chattin draft a letter for the Board expressing comments. Mr. Johnson also added comments on the Meth Task Force, a meeting with the Assistant County Attorneys, and Region 6W Community Corrections. Ms. Remiger gave updates on the Minnesota Machinery Museum and an AMC Legislative Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Sherlin commented on Entrepreneurs’ Assistance Network and Prairie Waters. Mr. Anderson reviewed some correspondence and added comments on the Meth Task Force.

Under citizen comments, Linda Norland, with Countryside Public Health, updated the Board on activities in Canby relating to tobacco issues and second hand smoke. Sixth graders in Canby wrote letters requesting a smoke free environment. She also mentioned a tobacco forum to be held in Canby on May 17th.

Dennis Healy, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water CEO, and board member Charlie Simonson were present to review their 2005 audit and discuss operations.

County Assessor Connie Erickson reviewed the 2006 assessment. Valuation appeals are down from previous years. On average, agricultural land is up 18%, residential is up 4%, and commercial/industrial is up 1.4%.

Dennis Van Hoof, Granite Falls EDA Director, described two tax abatement projects; the Fagen expansion and Wing-Bain relocation. The city and County would be the only two participants and the final details have yet to be worked out. A public hearing would be needed prior to any action being taken.

Sheriff Bill Flaten presented a Boat and Water Safety Grant.

05-09-06-03 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to accept a \$3,231 Boat and Water Safety Grant. Carried.

05-09-06-04 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Antony to renew the jail’s food service contract with Aramark. Carried.

05-09-06-05 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to hire Mitchell Brovold as a part-time Deputy Sheriff. Carried.

Mr. Flaten discussed some issues with mental health transports. He would like to use ambulance personnel to do the transports with a County vehicle. He will work on an agreement to present to the Board.

A request by AFSCME to meet and discuss the new salary study and its possible application to highway and courthouse employees was discussed. The Negotiating Committee will meet to discuss the issues.

Michelle Gatz, VSO/Emergency Management, presented an additional appropriation request for interim funding of a part-time employee, pending additional grant funding.

05-09-06-06 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the additional appropriation request, as presented. Carried.

Ms. Gatz had scheduled 4 vendors to present their ideas for a veterans' memorial for the front of the courthouse. Presentations were made by Jacob Tetrick of Serenity Gardens and Landscaping, Steve Snortum of Snortum's Landscape and Design, Brenda Peterson of MAJSDAC Hill Greenhouse and Landscaping, and Mike Brouwer of I and M Inc. Landscaping Nursery.

05-09-06-07 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to accept the resignation of Tom Kramer as Yellow Medicine County Attorney effective at the end of the day May 31, 2006. Carried.

05-09-06-08 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Antony to authorize Mr. Sherlin to sign up to a 3-year joint powers agreement with Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects. Carried.

05-09-06-09 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Sherlin to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the offices of the Yellow Medicine County Recorder and Yellow Medicine County Auditor-Treasurer are currently elected; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners desires to have statutory authority to make the offices of the Yellow Medicine County Recorder and Yellow Medicine County Auditor-Treasurer appointed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Yellow Medicine County that said Board fully supports having the authority to appoint the office of the Yellow Medicine County Recorder and Yellow Medicine County Auditor-Treasurer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Yellow Medicine County that Yellow Medicine County respectfully requests that Senator Gary Kubly, Representative Aaron Peterson, and Representative Lyle Koenen move forward a bill in both the Senate and House that supports such legislation.

Carried, with Mr. Johnson opposed.

Assistant County Attorney Keith Helgeson joined the Board for discussions on the future of the County Attorney's office. Offices must be moved out of the Kramer Law Office building by the end of the month.

05-09-06-10 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Ms. Remiger to temporarily move the County Attorney offices into the County boardroom area for a term not to exceed 6 months, retain assets owned 100% by the County, and to purchase computers, equipment, and office supplies, as needed. Carried.

Mr. Chattin will be moving his office to Family Services and Board meetings will be held in the Family Services conference room during the temporary relocation. There was also discussion on the appointment process, character of the position, and pay.

05-09-06-11 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to have Mr. Helgeson advertise for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Carried, with Mr. Antony opposed.

05-09-06-12 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to approve Commissioner's Warrants, as presented, totaling \$67,209.14 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$36,574.00. Carried.

The need for an HRA Commissioner was noted. Mr. Antony will work on recruiting someone.

Ms. Gatz returned with an additional comparison between Serenity Gardens and Landscaping and I and M Inc. Landscaping Nursery. There appeared to be little difference between the bids, except for design considerations.

Myron Hagelstrom, Parks Supervisor, gave the Board a quick update on the campground in a park owned by the County in Hanley Falls.

05-09-06-13 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Antony to award the veteran's memorial landscaping to Serenity Gardens and Landscaping for \$13,742. Carried, with Mr. Johnson in opposition.

There was discussion on the number of items not bid by Serenity that need to be done. Other contractors will have to be used.

05-09-06-14 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to adjourn at 2:15 PM. Carried.

Witness:

Lynn Anderson, Chairman

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer