

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

November 23, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin and Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent were also present. Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune arrived at 11:23 a.m.

11-23-04-01 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Johnson to approve the agenda with the addition of an amendment to the Prairie Lakes Detention Center joint powers agreement and discussion of a tourism website. Carried.

11-23-04-02 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda consisting of the November 9, 2004 regular meeting minutes and reallocation/additional appropriation requests as presented. Carried.

Mr. Sherlin reported on an annual Fair Board meeting and Western Minnesota Prairie Waters. He also proposed a tourism website, that could be linked to the current Yellow Medicine County website, where the county's attributes could be displayed.

Ms. Remiger reviewed several upcoming meetings and events.

Mr. Johnson gave updates on a Lamberton Waste-to-Energy facility meeting, UMVRDC, Area Agency on Aging, Pioneerland Library, Prairie V CAC, and the Water Task Force.

Paul Hendrickson, Lyon County Environmental Administrator, reviewed a Joint Powers Agreement for Solid Waste Program Services. It is a one year contract similar to those in the past.

11-23-04-03 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Johnson to approve the Solid Waste agreement as presented. Carried.

Mr. Hendrickson also commented on the proposed Lamberton Waste-to-Energy facility. It appears that Kandiyohi County may pull its support of the project. They account for 47% of the anticipated bond payments. As the project is not viable without Kandiyohi County, the Board tabled the issue pending a new proposal on the facility.

Mr. Antony reviewed Pioneerland Library and Labor Management Committee meetings. Mr. Anderson reported on Countryside Public Health, the Lamberton facility meeting, HRA, and Prairie Lakes Youth Programs.

11-23-04-04 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to approve an amendment to the Prairie Lakes Detention Center joint powers agreement as presented. Carried.

Ms. Remiger recessed the meeting at 12:07 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:41 p.m.

Connie Erickson, Assessor, presented an overview of the 2005 assessment. There were 36 agricultural land sales with valuations averaging 80.3% on those sales. Cropland was adjusted up by an average of 20% in the County to comply with state statute requirements. Pasture land and wasteland also increased with residential valuations varied.

John Johnson, Engineer, reviewed a proposed detour agreement with MnDOT. They are requesting a detour on CSAH 1 for their TH 67 project.

11-23-04-05 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve MnDOT's request for a detour route on CSAH 1. Carried.

Engineer Johnson also reviewed a railroad proposal to cost share on rebuilding the 9th Avenue crossing. The County's 40% share would amount to \$76,800.

11-23-04-06 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to cost share on the 9th Avenue crossing project. Carried.

Future motivational meetings and a 30% response to a highway survey were also shared by Engineer Johnson.

Fiscal Supervisor Lois Bonde joined the Board for a budget discussion. She and Mr. Chattin formulated several budget reduction recommendations for the Board's consideration. If all the recommended changes were incorporated, there would be a substantial surplus in the Revenue Fund budget.

There was discussion on the high cost of maintaining home computers and costs for internet connections. A motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Johnson to reimburse computer supply costs to Commissioners was withdrawn in favor of having Mr. Chattin draft a more comprehensive policy for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Chattin reviewed a recommendation to hire Greg Lippert as the County's part-time Technical Support Specialist. He asked for an increase in the 2005 Technical Support budget from \$25,000 to \$29,942 with an additional \$2,100 budgeted for 2004 so the position could be filled as soon as possible.

11-23-04-07 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to hire Greg Lippert as the Technical Support Specialist at \$16.00 per hour through 2005 for 25 hours per week starting as soon as Mr. Lippert is available. Carried.

11-23-04-08 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the budget adjustments as presented, pending final budget approval. Carried.

11-23-04-09 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$169,300.96 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$23,551.32. Carried.

11-23-04-10 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve advertising for a replacement Corrections Officer. Carried.

Ms. Remiger reported on a USDA Local Workgroup meeting and the Historical Society.

Mr. Sherlin asked the Board to consider a \$25 membership in the Highway 75 organization.

11-23-04-11 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve a \$25 membership in Highway 75. Carried with Mr. Johnson voting against the motion.

11-23-04-12 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer