

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

November 8, 2005

Chairman Lynn Anderson called this regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin, Jane Remiger, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin and Matt Gilmore of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune were also present.

11-08-05-01 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the agenda with the addition of a request by the Hanley Falls Museum for a courthouse safe and discussion on SWCD beaver grants and to also approve the consent agenda consisting of the October 25, 2005 regular meeting minutes and an additional appropriation request. Carried.

Mr. Sherlin reported on Prairie Waters and Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects. Mr. Johnson commented on Region 6W Community Corrections and Prairie Five CAC. Ms. Remiger gave updates on a meth committee, Finance Committee, Minnesota Machinery Museum, and a DNR meeting on hard rock mining. Mr. Antony covered ICS and an Adult Mental Health Consortium meeting. Mr. Anderson discussed Labor Management Committee and a meeting with the County's state auditor.

No citizens were present to be heard.

Rae Ann Aus and Mary Potter, from Family Services, presented several items for Board action.

11-08-05-02 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the County's 2006-2007 Adult Mental Health Plan. Carried.

11-08-05-03 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Ms. Remiger to accept the resignation of Social Worker Donna Slettedahl effective December 31, 2005. Carried.

11-08-05-04 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve the hiring of a replacement Social Worker. Carried.

There was discussion on Hanley Falls Museum's request for the old courthouse safe. It was noted that removal may be both difficult and costly because of its size and weight. The Board had no objection to giving them the safe if they could arrange for its removal.

A grant available for beaver control was thought to be best considered by the watershed and/or ditches.

11-08-05-05 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to reappoint Jeff Hoffman to the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District board. Carried.

11-08-05-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to appoint Mr. Chattin as the County's MCIT voting delegate and Mr. Johnson as the alternate. Carried.

11-08-05-07 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$ 54,905.53 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$179,840.46. Carried.

Mr. Anderson opened the public hearing on 2006 ditch repair liens at 10:00 a.m. There were no members of the public present to be heard. Ditch Inspector John Kolhei reviewed the list of proposed ditch assessments for 2006. There was some discussion on accounts with negative balances and the need to restore them to positive balances. With no further comments offered, Mr. Anderson closed the hearing.

11-08-05-08 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the 2006 Ditch Repair Liens as presented. Carried.

Park Supervisor Myron Hagelstrom discussed a proposed park ordinance. The process of enforcement, including administrative citations, was discussed. Mr. Chattin will meet with Mr. Hagelstrom, Sheriff Rich Rollins, Attorney Tom Kramer, and Commissioners Antony and Remiger to resolve enforcement issues.

11-08-05-09 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to table the park ordinances until after the meeting to resolve enforcement issues. Carried.

Plans for improvements at Timm County Park were reviewed. No additional land is available adjacent to the park. Existing land could support 27 “full” campsites. Plans also called for flush toilets and showers with a drain field.

General Foreman Larry Stoks and Assistant Engineer Steve Schaub presented a final payment request.

11-08-05-10 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to approve final payment on C.P. 05-78 (grading and aggregate surface on County Road E-5) to R & G Construction Company in the amount of \$7,134.17. Carried.

The expansion of the Granite Falls shop was considered. The state is no longer being considered as a partner in the project. The 80’ by 80’ additional is estimated to cost \$176,000. The 2005 budget included \$110,000 for the project.

11-08-05-11 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to advertise for bids for the shop addition project. Carried.

11-08-05-12 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Sherlin to advertise for a Heavy Equipment Operator to fill a retirement vacancy. Carried.

Updates on construction projects were given.

Auditor Carolyn Sherlin asked the Board if they wanted to hold a Truth-in-Taxation hearing. It is not required this year because the proposed levy increase is less than 5.0776%. The hearing would provide an opportunity for public input but would also generate additional expense.

11-08-05-13 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to hold a Truth-in-Taxation hearing on December 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Carried, with Mr. Antony opposed.

11-08-05-14 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to appropriate \$1,000 from the County’s economic development budget for a study being conducted by the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, as recommended by the Finance Committee, providing the other four counties involved also contribute. Carried.

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

Attorney Tom Kramer answered questions on a purchase agreement to buy the Thoma property adjacent to the courthouse property. The total purchase price is \$88,000 with occupancy in 2006.

11-08-05-15 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve the purchase agreement contingent upon the County preparing a deed that Ms. Thoma would sign and hold in escrow until the County takes possession. Carried.

The possibility of having a full-time County Attorney was discussed. A decision would have to be made in January, as the position is up for election in November of 2006. There would be little, if any, additional cost in going to full-time versus the 1,000 hours now received. However, if Mr. Kramer chose not to run again, the County would have to accept whoever did win the election. There are many issues to consider including salary and office space. This issue will be discussed again at the November 22nd meeting.

11-08-05-16 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to adjourn the

meeting at 12:25 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Lynn Anderson, Chairman

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer