

## Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

November 9, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Louis Sherlin, and Ron Antony present. Commissioner Gary Johnson was absent. Administrator John Chattin and Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent were also present. Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune arrived shortly after convening the meeting.

**11-09-04-01** Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

**11-09-04-02** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda items including the October 26, 2004 regular meeting minutes and three Additional Appropriation requests. Carried.

Auditor Carolyn Sherlin and Fiscal Officer Lois Bonde joined the Board for a discussion/review of the 2005 budget. There was considerable discussion on the development of parks and museums. Funding for Stonehill Park by Canby was also considered. Mr. Chattin asked if funds for a part-time Technical Support Technician could be added.

**11-09-04-03** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to add \$25,000 to the 2005 budget for a part-time Technical Support position. Carried.

Budget discussion continued with the focus on economic development. Mr. Anderson wanted to see a loan fund established and monies committed for economic development. Mr. Chattin was asked to have someone from the Southwest Minnesota Foundation present options for a loan fund.

**11-09-04-04** Mr. Anderson moved to budget \$50,000 for economic development in 2005. Ms. Remiger passed the gavel to Mr. Sherlin, seconded the motion, and it carried. Mr. Sherlin returned the gavel.

**11-09-04-05** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to budget \$5,000 for Stonehill Park in 2005. Carried.

The Board asked Mr. Chattin to present recommendations for balancing the budget at the next meeting.

County Attorney Tom Kramer updated the Board on several issues: there will be some County costs associated with an appeal in the Randall case; Renville County has been asked to review possible charges against a former Family Services employee; there may be some cost recovery from a cash forfeiture in a Granite Falls drug bust; the County will be charging a \$30 bad check service fee; and several other issues.

Ms. Remiger called for a break at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

Mr. Chattin noted that a request for proposals for personnel services has been issued and it may become a budget item. He thought that it could be a \$30,000 cost.

Mr. Chattin reviewed proposed Policy 205 – Married Employees Health Insurance Benefits. If both spouses work full-time for the County, the co-pay for dependent coverage would be paid by the County. This is to make up for health insurance benefits not being available for the spouse who did not have dependent coverage. Mediation for a grievance filed on this issue is imminent.

**11-09-04-06** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to adopt Policy 205 as presented. Carried.

Ms. Bonde reviewed the 2003 audit and answered questions.

Ms. Remiger reviewed some correspondence and a reported on a Minnesota

Valley Regional Rail Authority meeting. Mr. Sherlin reported on some DNR restrictions on the removal of dead deer that he thought should be changed. He also attended an Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects meeting. Mr. Antony attended a Yellow Medicine Watershed meeting and Mr. Anderson covered a Region 6W Community Corrections meeting.

Attendance at a Lamberton Waste-to-Energy meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> was considered. All Commissioners expected to attend.

Mr. Chattin reviewed a summary of a 3-year contract proposal reached in talks with the County's two AFSCME units. A 15-year step of 30% severance for accrued sick leave was also part of the proposal but not listed.

**11-09-04-07** Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the proposal as negotiated including cost of living adjustments in 2005 of 3%, 2006 – 3%, 2007 – 2%, and splitting any increases in dependent coverage health insurance premiums 50/50 by 2007. Carried.

**11-09-04-08** Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$123,096.22 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$231,141.32. Carried.

**11-09-04-09** Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to adjourn at 11:46 a.m. Carried.

Witness:

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Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

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Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer