

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes
September 12, 2006

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

09-12-06-01 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the agenda with the addition of County Attorney offices and dispatch contracts and the deletion of Michelle Gatz and to also approve the consent agenda consisting of the August 22, 2006 regular meeting minutes, September 8, 2006 special meeting minutes, CAD and CSA contracts, three additional appropriation requests, and FLSA Committee recommendations. Carried.

Mr. Antony reported on ICS, annual watershed meeting, and a budget meeting. Ms. Remiger discussed Yellow Medicine Historical Society, Minnesota Machinery Museum, the budget meeting, and the township annual meeting. Mr. Sherlin covered Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects and Prairie Waters. Mr. Anderson gave updates on Meth Task Force, generational training, Finance Committee, budget meeting, and the annual township meeting.

Mr. Johnson arrived at 9:30 AM and reported on Prairie Five CAC, a MnDOT ATP meeting, Meth Task Force, Water Task Force, Region 6W Community Corrections, and generational training.

There were no citizens present to be heard.

David Norgaard, with Southwest Wind Consulting, addressed the Board on two 30 megawatt wind generation projects. He would also like to develop three additional 20 megawatt projects and was asking for the Board's support before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to keep wind project ownership local.

09-12-06-02 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Sherlin to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Otter Tail Power Company and other utilities have formally applied for Certificate of Transmission Facilities in Western Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the transmission facilities for which application has been submitted will transmit power from the Big Stone II power facility located in South Dakota to consumers in the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the environmental impacts of the new coal-burning facilities at the Big Stone plant are likely to have the greatest impact on Minnesotans; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the counties through which the transmission facilities are to be built will be impacted by both the generation and transmission00 facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to require that utilities seeking Certificates of Transmission Facilities to develop renewable energy to mitigate, in part, the environmental impacts of a coal-burning electric generation facilities and the siting of transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the development of community-owned wind electric generation facilities can provide the opportunity for citizens most directly impacted by these facilities to secure benefits to offset the impact of the coal-burning generation and electric transmission facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners formally requests the opportunity to intervene and/or present testimony In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company and Others for Certification of Transmission Facilities in Western Minnesota (OAH Docket No. 12-

2500-17037-2; MPUC Dkt No. CN-05-619) and In the Matter of the Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit for the Big Stone Transmission Project in Western Minnesota (OAH Docket No. 12-2500-17038-2; MPUC Dkt No. TR-05-1275); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board, on behalf of the citizens of the County, specifically requests that conditions be established on the Certificate of Need for Transmission Facilities that not less than 60 megawatts of wind generation facilities be developed in two or three locations in the Counties impacted by the transmission facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the community wind facilities' ownership structure be established so as to maximize the opportunity for local citizens to participate in the ownership of these wind facilities.

Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Randy Jacobson appeared with Chad Lozinski to present a conditional use permit (CUP) application for a total confinement barn to house 1,200 finishing hogs. The Planning Commission was recommending approval of the CUP.

09-12-06-03 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve the Lozinski CUP application with the condition that he use available technology, if cost effective, to control odor if deemed a nuisance. Carried.

Eight applications for positions on the Zoning Ordinance Revision Task Force were distributed. Mr. Jacobson suggested that the Board review the applicants and appoint four of them to the task force at their next meeting. A letter from Doug Sik, concerning the Verhelst feedlot was discussed. Mr. Jacobson noted that the Verhelsts were chopping hay and not grinding, as he had stated. The timeliness of chopping hay during optimum moisture conditions was discussed. The discussion returned to the task force and two of the applicants, who were present, asked some questions about the goals of the task force.

Jan Peterson, Chair of the Yellow Medicine Historical Society, and four other society members, discussed issues with their operations. Relocation of their facility is a major concern but they are also hoping to secure the "million dollar farm" as a historical site. They have negotiated for the purchase of a site on Highway 23 to relocate their museum. Their property is available for \$50,000 but many additional expenses would be involved.

09-12-06-04 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to table the Historical Society relocation issue to the next meeting when they would hopefully have a specific request for the Board to act on. Carried.

County Attorney Keith Helgeson introduced Mark Gruman, the new Assistant County Attorney. He also requested temporary help to cover for an employee who would be taking FMLA leave. There was discussion on how benefits may be affected by the temporary status of an employee, as Mr. Helgeson was recommending a current County part-time employee for the position.

09-12-06-05 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Sherlin to hire Amanda Fagen as a temporary administrative assistant with benefits to be determined. Carried, with Mr. Antony voting against the motion.

Mr. Helgeson was asked to look into how dispatch fees are determined and report back to the Board. Mr. Chattin reviewed progress in negotiations with the hospital for a County Attorney office lease. The hospital has agreed to pay the property taxes but now is proposing a 10-year lease, in lieu of the 5-year lease originally negotiated. The Board was not inclined to divert from their original understanding of the lease. They asked Mr.

Chattin and Mr. Helgeson to investigate other alternatives, should the hospital hold to their 10-year lease.

09-12-06-06 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to stand by the original lease terms agreed to and not consider a 10-year lease. Carried, with Ms. Remiger opposed.

Engineer Andy Sander, General Foreman Larry Stoks, and Accountant Bette Schweer were present. Mr. Sander reviewed two bids received for an addition to the Granite Falls shop. Doom & Cuypers bid \$170,847 and Dulas Construction bid \$183,800. Mr. Sander noted that Dulas included \$12,716 of additional work that was not in the Doom & Cuypers bid and that Doom & Cuypers had not bid the brand of roof they had specified. The project was estimated at \$179,000 and budgeted at \$200,000. There was discussion on equipment needs and budget issues.

09-12-06-07 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to award the bid to Dulas Construction for \$171,084 (\$183,800 less \$12,716 in excess work) as they constructed the existing shop building and they use the same roof as currently exists. Carried with Ms. Remiger and Mr. Sherlin voting against the motion.

09-12-06-08 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Johnson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, State Aid Project 87-604-15 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 McLaughlin & Schulz, Inc in the amount of \$91,323.99 for the final contract amount totaling \$1,817,137.57.

Carried.

Striping quotes from AAA Striping Service for \$15,883.48 and Swanston Equipment for \$17,051.62 were reviewed.

09-12-06-09 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Ms. Remiger to award the striping bid to AAA Striping Service for \$15,883.48. Carried.

There were questions on the increase in highway payroll. Ms. Schweer will research and report back to the Board.

There was discussion on the generational training that was held for department heads. The Board did not feel there was a need to involve other employees, at this time, in additional training.

09-12-06-10 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Yellow Medicine County (the "Authority") was created by action of the Board of Commissioners of Yellow Medicine County (the "County") pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.004: and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such action on the part of the County and Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.001 to 469.047 (the "Act"), the Authority was granted all of the same functions, rights, and powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and limitations as are provided for housing and redevelopment authorities created for cities under the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act permits the Authority to levy and collect a special benefit tax of up to .0144% of taxable market value upon all taxable property, both real and personal, within the Authority's area of operation; and

WHEREAS, proceeds of the tax may be extended for the purposes of Sections 469.001 to 469.047 of the Act, including, without limitation, to pay certain administrative costs of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the Board of Commissioners of the County approve the levy of such a special benefit tax in the amount not exceeding .0144% of the taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation contained within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County has considered such request by the Authority and has determined that consenting to such a special benefit tax levy by the Authority is in the best interests of the County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is also required pursuant to Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act to, in connection with the levy of such a special benefit tax, formulate and file a budget in accordance with the budget procedure of the County in the same manner as required of executive departments of the County and the amount of the tax levy for the following year shall be based upon that budget and approved by the County; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has presented to the Board of Commissioners of the County a copy of a proposed budget for its operations for fiscal year 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Yellow Medicine County as follows:

That the levy of a special benefit tax pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, subd. 6, is hereby consented to with respect to taxes payable in calendar year 2007 in the amount of \$40,631; which amount does not exceed .0144% of taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within the County.

Carried.

There was discussion on the County's levy for 2007. The Board was hoping for a balanced budget and felt that the levy could be cut by the time the final budget is adopted.

09-12-06-11 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to increase the County's net levy by 6% for a total levy of \$7,170,127 consisting of: Revenue Fund - \$3,785,852; Road and Bridge Fund - \$1,387,454; Welfare Fund - \$1,642,015; Library - \$69,145; Water Plan - \$2,661; and LEC Debt Service - \$283,000. Carried.

09-12-06-12 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to approve Commissioner's Warrants, as presented, totaling \$260,720.32 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$111,341.32. Carried.

Mr. Anderson shared some correspondence and upcoming meetings were reviewed.

09-12-06-13 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to adjourn at 1:00 PM. Carried.

Witness:

Lynn Anderson, Chairman

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer