

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes
September 14, 2004

Chair Jane Remiger called this regular meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Gary Johnson, Louis Sherlin, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune, and Robert Wolfington of the Marshall Independent were also present.

09-14-04-01 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the agenda with the addition of a Kopitzke conditional use permit (CUP) request. Carried.

Peggy Heglund, Family Services Director, notified the Board that an Accounting Technician would be leaving the end of November. She was seeking authority to advertise for a replacement.

09-14-04-02 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve advertising for an Accounting Technician. Carried.

09-14-04-03 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda items including the August 24, 2004 regular meeting minutes, with one sentence edited, and an Additional Appropriation request to allow purchase of a defibrillator with grant funds. Carried.

Mr. Sherlin started reports with an update on Area II Minnesota River Basin Project. Mr. Johnson reported on Region 6W Community Corrections, a Township Association meeting, and a very complimentary inspection report on the jail. Mr. Antony attended Labor Management Committee and Cooperative Efforts Committee meetings.

No citizens were present to request a hearing.

Several upcoming meetings were noted.

Recorder Kay Zempel, reviewed her request for funds to purchase document recording and imaging software and hardware. There are \$15,666 in available equipment funds and she was requesting appropriation of those funds.

09-14-04-04 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to authorize the appropriation of \$15,666 from the Recorder's Equipment Fund towards the purchase of a \$17,451 document recording and imaging system and installation from Computer Software Associates. Carried.

Ms. Zempel updated the Board on her activities. The need for additional storage room was discussed. Head Custodian Curt Johnson and Assessor Connie Erickson will be contacted to see if opening a doorway to the back Assessor's office would be a viable option.

Brian Berget, Controller for Specialty Systems, requested a waiver of penalties and interest on overdue taxes. He proposed \$3,832 monthly payments to catch up with overdue payments by October of 2006.

09-14-04-05 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to forgive penalties and interest assessed on overdue taxes of Kevin Wald (being paid by Specialty Systems) for 2003 and 2004 so long as monthly payments of \$3,832 remain current. Carried.

Ms. Remiger called for a break at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Lou Ann Nagel, Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) District Manager, and three SWCD board members presented their 2005 budget request for \$78,762. This was a \$1,082 increase over 2004. Financial statements were reviewed and the Board agreed to consider the request in the 2005 budget.

Randy Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Administrator, had several requests for the Board to consider.

09-14-04-06 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Antony to approve a request by the Farmers' Co-op Elevator to rezone 7.2 acres from agricultural to industrial. Carried.

09-14-04-07 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve a CUP application from Mark Kopitzke for a feedlot expansion. Carried.

09-14-04-08 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to approve a CUP application from James and William Phinney for a new feedlot, providing anticipated land transfers are completed and recorded. Carried.

There was some discussion on fees charged for various planning and zoning services.

Terri Dinesen, representing a trail development committee, requested the County's sponsorship for a TEA-21 grant application for Phase III of the Memorial Park Trail. The project costs are estimated at \$120,000 and Yellow Medicine County could be liable for approximately \$8,000 of those funds in 2008.

09-14-04-09 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Antony to adopt the following resolution:

Be it resolved that Yellow Medicine County act as sponsoring agency for a "Transportation Enhancements" project identified as Phase III Memorial Park Trail and acknowledges herewith that it is willing to be the project sponsor; knowing full well that such sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules, and regulations; and

Be it further resolved that Jane Remiger, Board Chair, is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of the applicant.

Carried with Mr. Johnson voting against the resolution.

Head Custodian Curt Johnson explained his request for an additional \$7,500 in building repair and maintenance funds.

09-14-04-10 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to approve an additional appropriation, out of County surpluses, of \$7,500 for building repair and maintenance. Carried.

09-14-04-11 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adopted Policy 203 – Personal Use of County Vehicles as presented. Carried.

09-14-04-12 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to allow year-around personal use of County vehicles by the Highway Foreman and Assistant Foreman. Carried.

09-14-04-13 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to authorize final payment for the CR A-1 project to R & G Construction for \$6,619.67 out of a total contract amount of \$124,793.43. Carried.

Engineer John Johnson updated the Board on highway projects.

Ms. Remiger called for a break at 11:26 a.m. and reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

The Shared Administrator and Shared Engineer budgets were reviewed. Mr. Chattin noted that Swift County had approved the budgets and 2005 and 2006 salaries.

09-14-04-14 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve personal use of a County vehicle by Engineer John Johnson. Carried with Mr. Johnson voting against the motion.

09-14-04-15 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the 2005 Shared Administrator and Shared Engineer budgets as presented and approve additional 3% salary increases for 2006, as presented. Carried.

09-14-04-16 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson 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 2005;

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 2005 in the amount of \$30,000; which amount does not exceed .0144% of taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within the County.

Carried with Mr. Antony abstaining.

Mr. Anderson reported on Prairie Country RC&D. Ms. Remiger reported on the Hanley Falls Museum, a railroad meeting, and a meeting of tribal representatives and family services staff at the Upper Sioux convention center. She also reviewed some correspondence and notices of upcoming meetings.

There was discussion on setting the preliminary levy for 2005. The preliminary budget looks substantially balanced. Additional requests will be added and further editing done over the next few months.

09-14-04-17 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Johnson to set the preliminary net 2005 levy at \$6,024,483 reflecting a 3% net levy increase and acknowledging a final levy target of a 0% increase. Carried.

09-14-04-18 Motion by Mr. Johnson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve Commissioner's Warrants as presented totaling \$184,515.90 and acknowledge review of Auditor's Warrants totaling \$81,513.97. Carried.

Mr. Johnson noted that he would not be eligible to serve on the Pioneerland

Library Board in 2005 and Commissioners should consider serving in that capacity.

Mr. Chattin reviewed a VEBA spreadsheet and updated the Board on progress towards adopting a VEBA plan in 2005.

09-14-04-19 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Anderson to adjourn at 12:56 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Jane Remiger, Chair

Attest:

Carolyn Sherlin, Auditor/Treasurer