

ROSEAU COUNTY COORDINATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 24, 2006:

RE: **Roseau County Board of Commissioners Meeting**

Contact: County Coordinator Trish Harren, 463-4248

The Roseau County Board of Commissioners met in regular session today. The meeting opened with the introduction of Carol Hoover, new owner of the Warroad Pioneer, followed by a discussion on funding for emergency services at the Roseau Area Hospital. Curt Ireland, Emergency Services Manager, and Keith Okeson, CEO, gave a short presentation. Roseau Area Hospital emergency services currently operate two ambulances covering 2200 square miles and responds to two runs a day on average. A third ambulance will be added summer 2006. Commissioners agreed to the current funding and to approve future funding appropriations during the regular County fiscal budget planning each year in July.

The high cost of waste disposal was a big issue for discussion at the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus meeting in Bemidji Monday. Commissioner Orris Rasmussen reported that Koochiching County has partnered with Boise Cascade to implement a unique waste disposal system based on a Japanese model that captures one hundred percent of the residues produced in the disposal process. Boise Cascade in International Falls will be able to utilize the gasification outputs while a resulting granular solid can be used for manufacture of tile. Canadian neighbor city Ft. Francis is also partnering in the project. Currently, Koochiching County hauls garbage waste to Kittson County at considerable costs to the county.

The reimbursement process to cattle farmers whose herds have tested positive for tuberculosis and are scheduled for destruction needs to improve, says County Commissioner Russ Walker. It is often months before the cattle are destroyed and the farmer continues to feed and care for the cattle at considerable expense. Walker and Commissioner Mark Foldesi continue to meet with farmers and concerned people in the area about this issue and are working with state and federal legislatures to make the needed changes.

The ATV Ordinance is available for public review. Assistant County Attorney Lisa Hanson says comments to date have been minimal. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance is scheduled on February 24 at 10:30 am in the County Commissioner Board Room. Once the Ordinance is passed by the Roseau County Board, a trail map will be developed for distribution throughout the county. The map will also be included on the Roseau County website.