

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 10, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by County Board Chair Orris Rasmussen. Roll call was taken. Commissioners present were Mark Foldesi, Alan Johnston, Orris Rasmussen, Jack Swanson, and Russell Walker. Also present were members of the media.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of a Special Board Meeting on October 17, 2006 and approval to pay the Zetron/Jayen bill forthwith were added to the consent agenda. 2007 Appropriations was added as a discussion item. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the revised agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried by unanimous vote.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved the proceedings of the September 26, 2006 Board meeting for publication.

The Board, by approval of its consent agenda, approved the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Coalition Quarterly Financial Report.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved the forthwith payment to Zetron/Jayen Communications in the amount of \$69,993.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a Special Board meeting on October 17, 2006 at 10:30 am.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, received and approved the warrant payment list submitted by the Auditor's Office as follows:

WARRANTS APPROVED ON 10/10/2006 FOR PAYMENT 10/13/2006			
AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
421.54	ACE HARDWARE-ROSEAU	564.30	BALLARD MOTOR CO
400.50	FRED CLASEN	1250.00	CRIMESTAR CORPORATION
9000.00	DAVIDSON READY MIX & CONSTRUCT	369.86	TONY DORN INC
1991.07	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-LK BRNSN	15865.82	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-ROSEAU
2359.85	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-WARROAD	302.00	GIRARD'S BUSINESS MACHINES
624.75	GRAND FORKS GROCERY FOOD SERV	1787.62	H & L MESABI INC
1845.75	HEPPNER CONSULTING INC	361.72	HILLYARD HUTCHINSON
1425.00	HOFFMAN DALE & SWENSON PLLC	911.87	HOLTE IMPLEMENT INC
5748.38	KLEIN MCCARTHY & CO LTD ARCHIT	4100.00	LAKE OF THE WOODS CO SHERIFF
3905.89	M & R SIGN CO INC	33554.70	MAR-KIT LANDFILL
3825.33	MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOP	487.00	MN COUNTIES INSURANCE TRUST

2238.69	MN DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	600.00	MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISES TECH
550.00	JASON MONSRUD	501.95	MULTI OFFICE PRODUCTS INC
1380.10	NETWORK CENTER INC	3000.00	NORTHLAND COMMUNITY & TECHNICA
1522.33	NORTHLAND TIRE	500.00	PATRICK NOVACEK
547.64	PARADISE	565.06	PEART & ASSOCIATES INC
382.13	POLARIS INDUSTRIES INC	1025.39	POWER PLAN
1271.11	QUILL CORPORATION	648.68	REUBEN'S BODY SHOP INC
409.77	ROSEAU AUTO VALUE	473.45	ROSEAU CLEANING SYSTEMS
5129.74	ROSEAU CO COOP ASSN	313.42	ROSEAU CO SHERIFF-SUNDRY ACCOU
1370.47	ROSEAU FARM SERVICE	405.00	STEVEN ROSEEN
480.36	LORNA SANDVIK	2435.25	SJOBORG'S INC
603.28	THE TAPE COMPANY	325.86	THIEF RIVER JOBBING CO
569.22	THE TRIBUNE	21002.85	VOYAGEURS COMTRONICS CORPORATI
421.06	WARROAD PIONEER	305.00	WEST GROUP PAYMENT CENTER
	55 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300	6,706.73	
	****	FINAL TOTAL.....	\$146,787.49 ****

And the summary of auditor warrants, as follows:

September 28, 2006	\$ 1,021,142.72
September 21, 2006	\$ 659,800.30
October 10, 2006	\$ 19,239.26 (forthwith)
October 10, 2006	\$ 69,993.00 (forthwith)

AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

Auditor Anne Granitz met with the Board. Ms. Granitz requested the Board approve the 2005 Financial Statement Summary for publication. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the 2005 Roseau County Financial Statement Summary for publication.

Ms. Granitz distributed ditch budget and levy worksheets and the ditch levies for payable 2006 for the Board's review. The Board discussed some concerns regarding negative ditch balances. The Board agreed to defer any further discussion and action to a work session meeting with the County Engineer and Assistant County Engineer. The Coordinator was directed to request a spreadsheet from the Highway Department that detailed the ditch activity for each individual ditch.

Ms. Granitz requested the Board review and approve the election technology fund agreements for unorganized townships. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the Election Technology Fund Agreements for the following: America/Beltrami Island Forest, Blooming Valley/Juneberry, Clear River/Oaks, Jadis and Norland/Spruce Valley.

The Board discussed 2007 ambulance and fire protection appropriations from the Consolidated Conservation Fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-01

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize the following donations to the Warroad Ambulance and Rescue Squad: \$13,400 from the Consolidated Conservation Fund;

\$4,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 161N., Rg. 35W. (Oaks) Fund; \$800 from the Unorganized Twp. 161N., Rg. 36W. (Clear River) Fund; \$800 from the Unorganized Twp. 161N., Rg. 37W. (America) Fund; and \$6,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 160N., Rg. 37W. Fund; for a total of \$25,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following donations be made to the Roseau Area Hospital District Ambulance: \$13,800 from the Consolidated Conservation Fund; \$4,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 159N., Rg. 37W. (Elkwood) Fund; \$6,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 160N., Rg. 37W. Fund; \$200 from the Unorganized Twp. 164N., Rg. 39W. Fund; \$200 from the Unorganized Twp. 164N., Rg. 40W. Fund; \$400 from the Unorganized Twp. 163N., Rg. 40W. Fund; and \$200 from the Unorganized Twp. 164N., Rg. 38W. (Upper Norland) Fund; for a total of \$24,800.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following donation be made to the Tri-County Ambulance: \$2,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 163N., Rg. 44W. (Blooming Valley) Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following donation be made to the Greenbush Fire Department: \$2,000 from the Unorganized Twp. 163N., Rg. 44W. (Blooming Valley) Fund.

The Board discussed watershed board appointments. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-02

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby re-appoint Richard Novacek to the Two Rivers Watershed Board for a three-year term expiring October 29, 2009.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to appoint Keith Poppel to the Roseau River Watershed. The motion failed 2-3 with Commissioners Swanson and Walker in favor and Commissioners Foldesi, Johnston, and Rasmussen opposed.

After a lengthy discussion on the qualities required to serve in the capacity of a watershed manager, a motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried by a 4-1 vote with Commissioners Swanson, Foldesi, Johnston, and Rasmussen voting in favor, and Walker opposed, to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-03

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby appoint Steve Lee to the Roseau River Watershed Board for a three-year term expiring September 18, 2009.

The Board discussed appointing a Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District Advisory Board member. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-04

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby appoint Commissioner Mark Foldesi to the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District Advisory Board.

JAIL SOCIAL SERVICE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Site Manager Arne Pederson met with the Board to give an update on the construction project. Mr. Pederson reported that the social service building is almost fully enclosed. The lid has been sheet-rocked, partition walls are framed and electrical and plumbing work is underway. The second level hollow core roof panels are being placed. The project is on schedule to be fully enclosed by the end of October.

Coordinator Harren presented a proposal from ICS for adding a new roadway from 6th Street SW into the new social service building from the north which would separate the entrances into the jail and Sheriff's Department from social services. The Board reviewed the quote for two options. Option one, in the amount of \$27,740 is to expand the temporary road that was placed to facilitate equipment and material transport onto the site and is located on the northeastern edge of the courthouse property. Option two is to construct an entrance as designed and included on the site plan as an optional entrance in the amount of \$37,740. Both estimates are approximately \$30,000 less than the engineer's estimate previously reviewed by the Board. The Board discussed the pros and cons at length. Option one includes a curve and is located in a possible expansion site on the site plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-05

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby accept Industrial Contract Services, Inc.'s proposal to construct a roadway from 6th Street SW into the new social service building at a cost not to exceed \$37,740.

Communication consultant Patrick Novacek met with the Board to finalize his recommendations regarding a telephone system. Mr. Novacek attended the October 9, 2006 Building Committee meeting and discussed each aspect of the individual telephone bids with Corey Wikstrom of Wikstrom Telephone Company, Inc. of Karlstad. Mr. Novacek advised the Board that after discussing the details he would recommend that the Board approve upgrading the courthouse phone system at the same time they add the new social services, jail and relocate the Sheriff's Office. The current system is outdated and repair parts are increasingly difficult to locate. This decision will maximize efficiency and contain cost. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, and carried by a 4-1 vote with Commissioners Johnston, Foldesi, Swanson, and Walker voting in favor and Commissioner Rasmussen opposed to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-06

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board accepts the Wikstrom Telephone Company, Inc. proposal to upgrade/replace the Roseau County Courthouse telephone system in the amount of \$28,084.66.

Commissioner Rasmussen noted that his vote in opposition to the courthouse upgrade is related to his concern that technology changes quickly and he would prefer to wait and purchase the system when we need it to assure purchase of the most advanced technology at that time.

Mr. Novacek told the Board that because the architect had planned ahead and included the necessary wire and copper components in the site plan, the cost of the telephone system for the jail, social service building, Sheriff's Department and courthouse is approximately half of what he had originally anticipated it would be.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant County Attorney Lisa Hanson, Auditor Anne Granitz and Deputy Auditor Martha Monsrud met with the Board to discuss the Roseau County tax-forfeited land lease policy. The current policy allows the Auditor to lease tax-forfeited land that has not yet sold or that the county has decided to retain for gravel purposes. The County has a very limited number of properties in this category and in 2006 signed two leases. The purpose of the leases is for agriculture. One of these leases is with Noah Lorensen. The current lease ends December 31, 2006 and provides that the land may not be posted for hunting purposes. The no-post policy has become a contentious matter. Assistant County Attorney Lisa Hanson recommended that the Board make a decision that it either bestow the same landowner rights that are typical in lease agreements or discontinue the practice of leasing property. The Board expressed concern about allowing lessees to post county land that is supposed to be used for agricultural purposes. The Board discussed selling tax-forfeited property and the need to reassess its current land holdings to determine what property should be held for county highway department needs and what land should be sold. The Board discussed policies for public use of tax-forfeited land and other county-owned land. The Board concurred that there is a growing need for a Roseau County land use policy and agreed to discontinue leasing tax-forfeited property at the end of the current leases until more study and planning is completed. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-07

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2007, the Roseau County Board will discontinue leasing tax-forfeited county owned land until a comprehensive land use plan has been developed.

The Board discussed the retiree health insurance benefit policy. The county is required to offer health insurance to retirees but is not required to fund this benefit. Currently the premium is fully funded the by retiree but the county contributes \$74 per month for single policy holders and \$156.50 per month for family policy holders to a VEBA account. The Board agreed to discontinue this practice effective January 1, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-08

BE IT RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2007 the County will discontinue funding retiree VEBA accounts.

The Board discussed eligibility for group health insurance and other benefits. The current Roseau County policy provides that regular employees who work 20 or more hours per week are eligible for pro-rated benefits. The trend in other counties and business is to increase that amount to 30 or 32 hours. The Board agreed to research the matter further before taking action.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AGENDA

Engineer Ketring met with the Board. The Board asked for an update on order establishing roads in unorganized Juneberry Township. Ketring informed the Board that the claims have been made up and sent to landowners. He noted that the route established by the order did not make sense and that due to the summer construction season his staff has not had time to follow up. The Board expressed concern regarding the amount of time this matter has been on the table and the impending deer hunting season. Ketring advised the Board that his staff will be back on track with this matter in the next few weeks and he will report progress at the next board meeting.

Engineer Ketring reviewed road and bridge funding. Ketring reminded the Board that October is traditionally the time when the fund runs short as the settlement comes in November.

The Board asked Ketring when he would be available to meet to review 2007 ditch budgets and levies. The Board set up a Committee of the Whole work session for Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at 8:30 am in the Board room.

Ketring asked for the Board's input regarding scheduling District Town Meetings. These meetings would be set up in each commissioner district and provide an opportunity to meet with constituents to explain how the funding system works for road and bridge work and to get their input and feedback regarding work priorities. The Board concurred that this would be a good idea provided the meetings followed an agenda.

Ketring reminded the Board of the October 12, 2006 meeting in Bemidji with DNR Regional Director Mike Carol to discuss State Ditch No. 69 and other ditch issues. Commissioner Walker will not be able to attend as planned. Commissioner Foldesi agreed that he would try to attend the meeting.

The Board discussed a request by Stafford Township to exchange a one-mile segment. The issue is with regard to a culvert. Tom Johnson was in attendance representing the Stafford Township Board. Ketring advised the Board that the appropriate first step for this matter is the watershed. Board as that Board has jurisdiction over culverts.

The Board discussed a Nereson-Grimstad-Stafford Township Road revocation. The townships plan on abandoning a segment of road. Commissioner Rasmussen will be following up on the matter.

Ketring informed the Board that the funding requests he had submitted for CSAH 28 and CSAH 13 as "Routes of Regional Significance" had been denied. He noted that he is seeking State Park funding for CSAH 13 which is the road out to Springsteel Island and that in the worst case scenario state aid money will have to be used on CSAH 28.

The Board discussed a joint project between Polonia and unorganized Juneberry townships on the 95 grade. Commissioner Foldesi had to leave the meeting but requested the

Board discuss this matter. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10-09

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves forthwith payment to Reese Rental in the amount of \$19,239.26 from the Unorganized Twp. 162-44 account for work completed in unorganized Juneberry Township on the 95 Grade.

Ketring informed the Board that effective immediately, MnDOT will no longer allow the County to purchase sand and salt. MnDOT sited difficulty tracking and billing quantities of product as their reason for this change. This change means that the County will need to purchase and store its own sand and salt.

Upon motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The Board will convene its next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on October 24, 2006.

Attest:

Date: _____

Teresa Klein
County Coordinator

Orris Rasmussen
Board Chairman