

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

July 8, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on July 8, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by County Board Chair Jack Swanson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioners present were Jack Swanson, Alan Johnston, Orris Rasmussen, Russell Walker and Mark Foldesi.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A 10:45 appointment with Auditor Anne Granitz was added to the Agenda. Discussion of Library post cards was added to discussion. Committee reports were added to the Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi and carried unanimously to adopt the revised agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved Proceedings from the June 24, 2008 Board meeting.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda approved the Roseau County Trailblazers Capital Improvement Request for Reimbursement on the Pelan Trail in the amount of \$5,934.90.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda approved a benefit payout to Stephanie Schwartz in the amount of \$4,992.35.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a forthwith payment to Olson Lawncare & Snow Removal in the amount of \$1,230.00.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed the Pioneer Farm Wayside Rest. County Attorney Lisa Hanson advised the Board that the County cannot sell the Pioneer Farm property outright and has two options: the County may advertise the property for sale on bids or may lease the property. After further discussion the Board voted to rescind the motion made at the June 24, 2008 Board meeting, offering the property for sale. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Johnston and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution.

2008-07-01

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Roseau County Board rescinds the motion made on June 24, 2008 authorizing the sale of the Pioneer Farm. Wayside Rest.

After further discussion, the Board concurred that leasing the property to Pioneer Farms for a five year term would be the most mutually beneficial to both Pioneer Farms and Roseau County. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-07-02

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve a lease agreement between Pioneer Farms and Roseau County at a rate of \$1 per year for a term of five years for the real estate described as follows:

The southerly 30 rods of the east 20 rods of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 162 North, Range 40 West, Roseau County, Minnesota.

The Board discussed the Old Law Enforcement Center utilization. The Roseau River Watershed District has expressed interest in the building. Commissioner Swanson, Commissioner Rasmussen, Coordinator Klein from Roseau County, the Roseau River Watershed Board and Architect Mike Johnston met on June 30, 2008 at the site to tour the building and to discuss renovation needs and expenses. RRWD Chair LaVerne Voll was in attendance at today's meeting to discuss possible options available to the RRWD. Mr. Voll informed the Board that the Watershed District is still interested in the property but would like to make the best financial decision for the RRWD. The Board discussed whether or not leasing or selling the property is the best option. Commissioner Rasmussen asked whether or not the LEC title could be transferred over to the RRWD because both are public entities. Commissioner Swanson suggested forming a sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Swanson and Rasmussen and RRWD Board members LaVerne Voll and Todd Miller. The Board concurred. The first meeting of the Sub-committee will be Friday July 11, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. at the RRWD office.

The Board discussed the upcoming AMC Leadership Summit in Rochester, Minnesota, August 20–22, 2008. The Coordinator's office was directed to register and make reservations for Commissioners Rasmussen and Walker to attend this conference.

The Board discussed Transform 2010 Training – Fostering Communities for a Lifetime. Commissioner Johnston is making arrangements to attend this meeting.

The Board discussed the Transportation Alliance Highway Trust Fund – Letter of support request. No action was taken.

The Board discussed the letter received from AMC President Paul Wilson regarding levy limits. Commissioner Swanson discussed the need for Local Units of Government (LUG) to come together and present issues to the legislature as one collective group. Commissioner Swanson suggested gathering LUG's together to come up with a list of common concerns to take to the Legislature one at a time. Swanson referenced the TB issue as an example citing this one issue received great response because many came together for a common cause. The Board directed Coordinator Klein to set up a meeting of LUG's in an effort to develop a list of common issues/common concerns. The Board also directed Coordinator Klein to send a letter to Paul Wilson informing him of the counties direction.

The Board discussed the correspondence from the MN Judicial Branch regarding the decision of the Board of Public Defenders to discontinue representing parents in CHIPS cases and Termination of Parental Rights cases.

The Board discussed post cards that the library has recently encouraged constituents to forward on to their Commissioner asking for support of Public Libraries.

## **HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

Life Care Medical Center Public Health Nurse Julie Pahlen accompanied Ms. Nelson today to discuss an upcoming Pre-pandemic influenza exercise being held at LifeCare Medical Center, Wednesday, July 16, 2008. Ms. Pahlen informed the Board of all policies and procedures involved in this exercise.

HSEM Director Gracia Nelson met with the Board to present the Continuity of Operations Plan and the County Emergency Plan. Ms. Nelson informed the Board that she has updates available for each of their Roseau County Emergency Plan books and asked the Board to review the updates and inform her of any changes they would like made.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board of the importance of appointing a Public Information Officer (POI). Commissioner Johnston suggested that the Roseau County Board should be the one appointing a POI and that a POI should be able to be appointed on a case by case basis. The Board concurred. Ms. Nelson will change the language in the plan to reflect this change. Commissioners Swanson and Johnston agreed to meet with Ms. Nelson to make a final update on the County Emergency Plan. Ms. Nelson requested that she be put on the August 29, 2008 Agenda so the Board can formally adopt the County Emergency Plan.

Ms. Nelson presented the Board with the Continuity of Operations Plan for their review. Ms. Nelson informed the Board that this plan has been developed so that all County Employees know the proper procedures to follow in case of an emergency. Ms. Nelson asked the Board for their input on who should receive a copy of the plan. Once the Board has adopted the Continuity of Operations plan then Ms. Nelson will train all Department Heads who can then train their employees.

Ms. Nelson was asked for an update on the Malung Dam repair. Ms. Nelson informed the Board of the importance of this Dam as it contains gauges which track the amount of water coming into Roseau. Ms. Nelson informed the Board that in June of 2007 she requested funding for the repair from the United State Geological Society (USGS) but was told there were no funds available. She was told that the DNR is not repairing dams, they are getting rid of them. This year Ms. Nelson called the USGS again and was told that there is still no money to fund the repairs but that the USGS may consider sharing the cost of installing #4 rock along both sides of the dam. The USGS would like to see a 40%-60% cost share. Commissioner Swanson stated he would like the Roseau River Watershed to fund the 60%. The RRWD will discuss this concern at their August meeting.

Commissioner Foldesi discussed the condition of the road leading up to the Greenbush Boat landing. Residents of Soler Township asked Mark to see if there would be any funding available to help repair the road as this road sees only high traffic during the summer fishing season. Ms. Nelson will contact the DNR to see if there would be funding available.

Ms. Nelson discussed the Emergency Management Performance Grants she receives from the State of MN to supplement her position with Roseau County. In 2007 Ms. Nelson received an additional \$2500 in funding. In the year 2008 the grant will be for \$13,500.00.

Ms. Nelson gave an update to the Board on acquiring aide in an effort to offer mental health support to constituents involved in the Bovine TB crisis. Ms. Nelson has been in contact with the Northwest Regional Development Center in Crookston and with Roseau County Social Services Director Dave Anderson in an effort to find support for this cause.

#### **AUDITOR ANNE GRANITZ**

The Board asked Ms. Granitz about the proper protocol of changing the Tuesday, July 15, 2008 regular Board meeting to Monday, July 14, 2008. Ms. Granitz informed the Board that a motion to change the meeting was all that was necessary. A motion to change the regularly scheduled Board meeting from July 15, 2008 to July 14, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously.

Ms. Granitz met with the Board regarding the budget. Ms. Granitz provided the Board with a mid-year 2008 budget report. Ms. Granitz informed the Board that she has completed the materials for the 2009 budget planning process and has them ready for distribution to department heads. Ms. Granitz suggested that the August 5, 2008 Board Meeting be a Department Head Budget Work Session.

Commissioner Johnston was excused.

Ms. Granitz met with the Board to discuss upcoming election items. In the past Dieter and Jadis townships have had an agreement allowing both townships to share one polling place. This year Dieter Township would like to conduct their elections by mail thus leaving Jadis Township without a polling place. Ms. Granitz asked the Board to approve a resolution which would dissolve the agreement between Dieter and Jadis Townships and require Jadis Township residents to vote via mail. A motion was made by Commission Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-07-03

#### **RESOLUTION REQUESTING JADIS UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP TO CONDUCT ELECTIONS BY MAIL**

WHEREAS, on December 21, 1999, the Roseau County Board of Commissioners approved an Election Combination Agreement with the Town of Dieter on behalf of Jadis Unorganized Township, and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2008, the Town of Dieter requested to conduct their State and County Primary and General Elections by mail beginning on September 9, 2008, resulting in the voters of Jadis Unorganized Township without a polling place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Election Combination Agreement on behalf of Jadis Unorganized Township with the Town of Dieter is hereby null and void.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that—because Jadis Unorganized Township voters no longer have a polling place—the Roseau County Board of Commissioners requests that the

voters of Jadis Unorganized Township vote by mail for State and County Primary and General Elections beginning on September 9, 2008, and until notified otherwise, in accordance with M.S. 204B.45.

Ms. Granitz asked the Board to consider forming an Absentee Ballot Board. The current process to vote absentee is either done by mail or by coming into the Auditor's office and voting. The ballots are then mailed out to the individual townships or cities who store the ballots until voting day. On Election Day the township or city clerk take the ballots to the polling place where the absentee ballot is checked for accuracy. If the ballot is inaccurate it is rejected and cannot be cast as a valid vote. Ms. Granitz informed the Board of a new law that will allow the Auditor's Office through the Absentee Ballot Board to check ballots for accuracy prior to them going to their official polling place. This would allow the Board to send the ballots back to constituents for correction before Election Day which would then allow the corrected ballot to be counted. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-07-04

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN  
ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD

WHEREAS, SF 1298, Laws 208, Chapter 244, allows counties to establish an Absentee Ballot Board to accept/reject absentee ballots and mail replacement ballots to voters if their absentee ballots are rejected more than five days prior to an election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes an Absentee Ballot Board and authorizes the County Auditor to select the members.

Ms. Granitz asked the Board for their participation on the Canvassing Boards for the September 9<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup> elections.

2008-07-05

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP ON THE CANVASSING BOARDS  
FOR THE 2008 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioners Foldesi and Walker are appointed to serve on the 2008 Primary Election Canvassing Board which will meet on September 11, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioners Rasmussen and Johnston are appointed to serve on the 2008 General Election Canvassing Board which will meet on November 7, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if one of the appointed members is unable to serve, another commissioner may serve in his place.

Ms. Granitz discussed the Tax Forfeited Land Sales with the Board. Ms. Granitz informed the Board that she received approval from the State of Minnesota to proceed with the

land sales and would like to be on the August 29, 2008 agenda to finalize pricing and to set the land sale date. Mr. Granitz informed the Board that the Poplar Grove Township will not approve the sale of the parcel in their township and suggested the Board get a legal opinion from County Attorney Lisa Hanson on this matter.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Swanson reported on the following committee meetings: Victoria Reinhardt dinner, 6/25/08; Cost of Crime presentation by Victoria Reinhardt, 6/26/08; Pembina Trails RC&D meeting; 6/27/08; Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board, 7/3/08; Building Committee meeting, 7/7/08; and Credit Card Committee meeting, 7/7/08.

Commissioner Walker reported on the following committee meetings: Bovine TB meeting 6/30/08; Bovine TB Meeting, 7/1/08; and Highway Department meeting, 7/7/08.

Commissioner Johnston reported on the following committee meetings: Reception for Tom Sorel, new MN Department of Transportation Commissioner, 6/26/08.

Commissioner Rasmussen reported on the following committee meetings: Building Committee meeting, 7/7/08; and Credit Card Committee meeting, 7/7/08.

Commissioner Foldesi reported on the following committee meeting: Roseau County Soil & Water Conservation District meeting, 7/8/08.

Upon motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The Board will convene its next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 14, 2008.

Attest:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Teresa Klein, County Coordinator  
Roseau County, Minnesota

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Jack Swanson, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Roseau County, Minnesota