

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 26, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on February 26, 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, Russell Walker, Mark Foldesi and Orris Rasmussen.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Authorization to put out a request for proposals for a recording device for the Sheriff's Office was added to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried unanimously to approve the revised agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved proceedings of the February 12, 2008 and the February 8, 2008 Department of Natural Resources-Roseau County Road Meeting.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, set the public hearing date on the Roseau County Ditch No. 69 Petition for March 24, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved purchase of the MACO eCounties Marriage Data Base Program.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a Subordination Agreement with Ada Mortgage on property owned by John M. Lalim described in Repayment Agreement dated March 1, 2007 recorded as Document Number 257118.

The Board by adoption of its consent agenda, accepted the quote of JD's Seamless in the amount of \$937 to install 5" gutters on the north and south ends of the Social Service building.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved payment of bills as follows:

#### **WARRANTS APPROVED ON 2/26/2008 FOR PAYMENT ON 2/29/2008**

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>VENDOR NAME</b>
365.49	ACCURATE CONTROLS INC	5644.74	AVIANDS LLC
414.28	BALLARD MOTOR CO	353.10	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
541.69	CONSOLIDATED PLASTICS CO INC	1175.15	D & E SPORT SHOP-ROSEAU
511.14	DELL MARKETING LP	11695.18	E & L ELECTRIC CO
1348.71	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-WARROAD	534.77	GRAINGER INC
307.36	GRAND FORKS GROCERY FOOD SERV	8455.35	HOUSTON ENGINEERING
3591.93	KIP & CHUCKS LOCK & KEY SHOP	4125.55	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER
819.22	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER-HOME C	510.00	MACO



2008-02-06

WHEREAS, Johnston, Concrete, Inc. has requested a load variance on a segment of CSAH No. 13 west of TH No. 313, a distance of slightly over ½ mile; and

WHEREAS, Engineer Ketring has no objections to the variance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve a 10-ton load variance on CSAH 13 going east from Johnston Concrete, Inc. to TH No. 313 with the following conditions:

1. That the load variance segment of CSAH 13 will be monitored by the Roseau County Highway Department for any problems.
2. That if problems occur, the variance will be revoked.

The Board discussed the veto override of the Transportation bill. Mr. Ketring stated that this bill does not begin to solve the transportation problems in Minnesota. He noted that he is concerned that the public will not understand this and that it will be difficult to get additional legislation passed. The Board concurred with Mr. Ketring's concerns. Commissioner Rasmussen stated that he is also concerned that the new funding formula will actually reduce funding that gets channeled to out-state counties.

Mr. Ketring requested the Board approve a training contract with Northland Community and Technical College to provide a safety training session customized for Highway Department employees. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-07

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve the customized training contract with Northland Community and Technical College for the delivery of an 8 hour safety training program on April 8, 2008 at a cost of \$55 per participant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes Chair Swanson to sign the contract on behalf of Roseau County.

Mr. Ketring requested the Board approve final payout on SAP 068-634-004. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-08

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves final payout to Northern Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$15,601.36 for SAP No 068-634-004.

Mr. Ketring requested the Board authorize the Highway Department Committee to finalize selection and order equipment for the two snow plow trucks approved for purchase on December 27, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-09

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize the Highway Department Committee to review bids and approve the purchase of snow plow equipment for one tandem axel 2008 International 7600 6x4 truck and one 2008 tandem axel Mack GU713 truck.

Mr. Ketring presented information as requested on a county road inventory procedure. The Board agreed to form a committee comprised of the members of the township road committee, the Auditor, Recorder, Engineer and County Attorney to further study the matter.

Commissioner Johnston stated that there is a disagreement between the DNR and the County on the ownership of the Norland Road in the Lost River State Forest. Commissioner Johnston stated that the DNR considers it a Forestry Unit Road, which is defined as a private road with (controlled) public access. The Board discussed possible classifications of this road and requested Engineer Ketring research the history of this road and recommend a course of action.

### **MCIT**

Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) Account Executive Gail Sater and Executive Director Robyn Sikes met with the Board to review the 2007 Roseau County Member Report. It was noted that despite an increase in autos, employees, and property covered and an increase in the overall property values, MCIT increased its member dividend to 12.5 million in 2007. Roseau County's portion of the dividend was \$90,293, for a five year total of just over \$400,000. Ms. Sater advised that Roseau County's 2008 combined property and workers compensation contribution (premium) increased due to the addition of the new detention center and social service facility. MCIT property/casualty claim severity increased dramatically in 2007 due in large part to the flood disaster in southern Minnesota and an excessive number of hail related claims. Despite this, MCIT received a reduction in reinsurance costs on both property and casualty. It was explained that this is largely due to MCIT's diligence in managing risks and focusing on loss control.

### **PIONEER FARMS**

Tom Jacobson met with the Board to request that the county assume the responsibility for mowing the grounds and maintaining the bathroom facilities at the Pioneer Farm Wayside Rest. The County purchased this wayside rest from the state and Pioneer Farms has maintained it through volunteer labor since that time. Mr. Jacobson advised the Board that Pioneer Farms has a limited number of volunteers and this responsibility is becoming increasingly burdensome. Mr. Jacobson noted that the wayside rest does benefit Pioneer Farms, but expressed his regret that their volunteers could not keep up with the work load. The Board agreed to research the matter and discuss it at the next meeting.

Chair Swanson recessed the meeting at 10:30 am. The meeting reconvened at 10:45 am.

### **ROSEAU RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Roseau River Watershed District Administrator Rob Sando met with the Board. The addition of a third meeting to the County Board's schedule conflicts with the regular Roseau River Watershed meeting date so Mr. Sando has agreed to attend a county board meeting once a month to keep the Board apprised on watershed matters. Mr. Sando provided the Board with

a copy of the *Hay Creek Setback Levees and Norland Impoundment Preliminary Engineer's Report* provided by HDR Engineering, Inc. Mr. Sando noted that the work team has refined the project to four to five alternatives with an anticipated cost of 8.9 million. Mr. Sando stated that the Palmville Project is on target noting that control structures will be in place by August 2008. Mr. Sando informed the Board that the DNR is requesting a written agreement regarding access and water levels and agreed that clarification would be advisable. Mr. Sando informed the Board that the RRWD is still attempting to get consensus regarding a solution to the failing structure between Pool 2 and Pool 3 in the Roseau River Wildlife Management.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed the Deputy Auditor Interview Committee recommendation. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried 4-0 with Commissioner Foldesi abstaining, to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the hire of Courtney Peters as a regular full time Deputy Auditor at a Grade 5 Step A.

The Board discussed the need for a cross trained temporary employee to assist with special projects and seasonally busy times in the Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor and Recorder offices. The Board discussed creating a regular part-time position to fulfill this need. It was noted the county currently has three classifications of employees and the temporary part-time classification is designed specifically to address this need. The Board agreed to continue the current process of approving funding for temporary help in department budgets and allowing department heads to independently fill temporary part-time positions. It was noted that Linda Vatnsdal has successfully fulfilled this function in the Auditor's office. The Board directed Auditor Granitz to discuss utilizing this employee with the Treasurer, Recorder, and Assessor who are all currently in need of temporary help.

The Board discussed the County Financial Worker Interview Committee recommendation. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the hire of Sara Buley as a regular full time Financial Worker at a Grade 6 Step B.

The Board discussed filling the position vacated by the hire of Sara Buley in the Financial Worker position. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried unanimously to fill the vacated Office Support Specialist position.

The Board discussed hiring practices in the Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Terry Bandemer presented a request to change the status of a temporary dispatch/jailer to regular part-time. The Board discussed the Uniform Hiring Policy which requires that the department follow specific guidelines in hiring all regular employees which includes obtaining permission from the Board to create or fill the position, advertising externally for two weeks, and utilizing an interview and/or testing process and hiring the highest ranking candidate. The Board advised the Sheriff's Office that if they could provide documentation that all these steps were followed

that the status change request would be approved. Commissioner Foldesi requested that the matter be held over until the next meeting when the requested documentation could be presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried by a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Foldesi opposed, to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve the status change of Priscilla VonEnde from temporary part-time to regular part-time retroactive to her date of hire pending provision of appropriate documentation of compliance with the Uniform Hiring Policy.

Chief Deputy Terry Bandemer provided an update on radio equipment issues in the Detention Center. Chief Deputy Bandemer informed the Board that there have been a number of ongoing problems with the radio equipment, paging equipment, and dispatch console. Chief Deputy Bandemer noted that the Communication Committee has met and developed an action plan to address these issues and he is confident that things are moving in the right direction.

The Board discussed possible utilization of the old Law Enforcement Center. The renovation estimates provided in the Utilization Study are cost prohibitive. It was noted that the renovation could be scaled back. The Board discussed the possibility of advertising the property for sale. The Board agreed that should they put the property up for sale that they would address the fuel spill first and follow the necessary steps for cleanup. The Board agreed to hold over discussion to another meeting.

The Board discussed the Extension Suite renovation. Commissioner Johnston noted that as part of the County's Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Minnesota Extension they are obligated to provide adequate office space for the 4-H Program and the Nutrition Education program. However, the County is also obligated to address the needs of the core functions of the county whose services should be located in the Courthouse. Commissioner Johnston stated that there are four priorities to address in the utilization of the space including providing for the needs of the Board including the County Coordinator and administrative support staff, planning for the potential expansion of the Environmental Department due to new SSTS regulations, maintaining Emergency Management in its present location accessible to the Emergency Operations Center, and providing space for the Information Technology Department. The Board reviewed quotes and renovation schematics. The Board appointed Commissioner Rasmussen and Foldesi to work with Coordinator Klein to refine the plan to meet the identified core needs of the county. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried 4-1 with Commissioner Johnston opposed to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-13

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board does hereby accept the quote of H & J Display in the amount of \$19,535.

Commissioner Johnston noted that he had met with Lake of the Woods County and they have requested that Roseau County support the need for crow duck control on Lake of the Woods. Commissioner Johnston stated that this request is related to the detrimental effect that cormorants are having on game fish and the potential affect on tourism. The Board authorized Commissioner Johnston to continue contact with Lake of the Woods County Board on this matter and report back to the Roseau County Board.

Commissioner Johnston informed the Board that Lake of the Woods County has also requested a joint TV Translator Committee meeting to discuss potential collaboration on addressing the change over from analog to digital transmission. Coordinator Klein was directed to write a correspondence to Lake of the Woods County letting them know that we would be in favor of a joint planning session.

The Board discussed approval of an RFP for Sheriff's Office-Detention Center recording equipment. The County is required to record all 911 calls and in addition has maintained the capacity for law enforcement staff in the Sheriff's Office to record calls. The current equipment is obsolete and only marginally functioning. This equipment is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 and will be paid for with 911 funding specified for this purpose. Emergency Manager Gracia Nelson and Chief Deputy Terry Bandemer will work together to put together the RFP.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Johnston reported on the following committee meetings: Lost River State Forest Road Committee 2-14-08; and Warroad Watershed District Meeting, 2-20-08.

Commissioner Walker reported on the following committee meetings: Township Officers Association Annual Meeting, 2-25-08; TB Task Force 2-21-08; All County TB Meeting, 2-22-08; TB Task Force 2-24-08; Joint Powers Natural Resource Board, 2-25-08; and Regional Bovine TB Meeting- Grygla, 2/26/08.

Commissioner Rasmussen reported on the following committee meetings: Township Officers Association Annual Meeting, 2-25-08; Joint Powers Natural Resources Board, 2-25-08; Regional Bovine TB Meeting – Grygla, 2-26-08; and Joint Ditch Meeting with Two Rivers Watershed Board, 2-13-08.

Commissioner Foldesi reported on the following committee meetings: All County TB Meeting, 2-22-08; and Joint Ditch Committee Meeting w/Two Rivers Watershed District Board; 2-13-08.

Commissioner Swanson reported on the following committee meetings; Joint Ditch Meeting with Two Rivers Watershed District Board, 2-13-08; Senator Leroy Stump, 2-21-08; Representative Dave Olin, 2-21-08; and Communication Committee, 2-25-08.

Commissioner Walker presented a resolution regarding Bovine Tuberculosis and requested the Board review the document and approve it. Commissioner Rasmussen noted that we need to be sensitive to the white-tail deer enthusiasts and the impact this sector has on the local economy. Commissioner Johnston requested language be added regarding maintaining the white tail deer population at carry capacity. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-02-14

WHEREAS, Bovine Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that has been identified in livestock and free ranging white-tail deer in Roseau and Beltrami counties,

WHEREAS, according to 2007 NASS statistics, the dairy and beef cattle industry contribute over 186 million to the economies of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Beltrami, Clearwater, Pennington, Red Lake and Polk counties; and

WHEREAS, an eleventh livestock herd has been identified as TB positive, four in the last year, the United States Department of Agriculture will downgrade Minnesota from Modified Accredited Advanced to Modified Accredited Bovine TB status for livestock; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has made a recommendation to implement a split state strategy due to this downgraded status; and

WHEREAS, this infectious disease was first identified in 2005 and limited progress has been made to successfully implement a strategy to effectively deal with the problem and eliminate the disease; specifically to reduce the white-tail deer population in the core Bovine TB area; and

WHEREAS, the communication and public relations between the Department of Natural Resources and the concerned parties has been deficient at best and unacceptable at worst; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that this infectious disease be contained and immediate measures taken to eliminate this problem as expediently and efficiently as possible to prevent a collapse of the livestock industry in northwest Minnesota:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we request the following:

1. Significantly reduce the free ranging white-tail deer and elk in the present core and managed areas.
2. Enforce population control strategies that maintain the white tail deer population at or below carrying capacity, animal per unit area, based on native vegetation.
3. Continued testing of cattle, white-tail deer and elk in the Bovine TB managed zones.
4. A single point of contact and decision making in the Department of Natural Resources to efficiently facilitate communication, public relations, and solutions.
5. Engage Department of Public Health and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management with the management of the transmission and spread of this infectious disease.
6. Implement an accelerated timeline for the elimination of Bovine TB in both livestock and whitetail deer populations.
7. Support a split state status as a last resort only after all other options have been exhausted.

Upon motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The Board will convene its next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on March 5, 2008.

Attest:

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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