

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 27, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on May 27, 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, Mark Foldesi, Orris Rasmussen and Russell Walker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A 9:15 a.m. appointment with Dave Grafstrom was added to the agenda. Springsteel Road, township grading and snowplowing private drives was added to the Highway Departments agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved proceedings from the May 13, 2008 Board Meeting.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved the resignation of Jen Berggren as regular part-time Dispatch/Jailer.

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

WARRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 5/23/2008

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
2446.95	CAPITAL GUARDIAN TRUST CO	358.90	DOUGS SUPERMARKET - WARROAD
750.00	MARK HAUGEN PHD LP	935.00	JOHN AND PAT STILES
3618.00	LAURE JOHNSON	488.33	RACHEL KRAHN
7060.75	MII LIFE-VEBA	418.05	MN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE
3145.50	MN DEPT OF FINANCE-TREAS	4296.40	MN ENERGY RESOURCES
2804.44	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION	108918.65	ROSEAU CITY
29942.50	ROSEAU CO TRAILBLAZERS	330.27	ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOP INC
11 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300		1,008.56	
****	FINAL TOTAL.....	\$166,522.30	****

WARRANTS APPROVED ON 5/27/2008 FOR PAYMENT 5/30/2008

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
6530.22	AVIANDS LLC	1264.33	BLACK BOX CORPORATION
353.10	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC	1640.90	DELL MARKETING LP
2121.97	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-WARROAD	3189.66	H & J DISPLAYS INC
425.00	AARON KVIEN	4035.50	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER
1044.43	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER-HOME C	878.28	O'NEIL LUND
1876.81	MATTSON PHARMACY INC	846.00	MIDWEST MONITORING & SURVEILLA
1870.00	MN COUNTIES INSURANCE TRUST	700.00	MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISES TECH
767.83	MULTI OFFICE PRODUCTS INC	2218.75	MUSTANG MAPPING

835.00 PACIFIC BANCNOTE COMPANY LLC
2400.00 RINKE-NOONAN LAW FIRM
2029.43 STREIFF SPORTING GOODS
2049.12 WEST GROUP PAYMENT CENTER

605.00 REUBEN'S BODY SHOP INC
377.00 ROSEAU CO SHERIFF
1726.62 THE TRIBUNE

42 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300 5,126.67
****** FINAL TOTAL..... \$44,911.62 ******

POPLAR GROVE TOWNSHIP

Mr. Wes Pesek and Mr. Mike Gust met with the Board regarding the sale of a one acre tax-forfeited parcel in Section 20 of Poplar Grove Township. This parcel was held from public auction at the request of the Poplar Grove Town Board and offered for private sale to the adjoining landowners. Neither land owner opted to purchase the parcel. Mr. Pesek stated that the reason the parcel was not purchased is because it is believed the valuation is too high. Assessor Lorna Sandvik advised the Board that because this is a one acre stand alone parcel it is valued as a building site. The property value for the sale of the land alone was set at \$5100. This valuation is a reduced value based on the parcel not having a septic or operational well. The building on the property was valued at \$500 and was excluded from the sale price. The 2008 valuation on the land portion of this property has increased from \$5,100 to \$6,300. Mr. Pesek argued that this assessed value is still too high. Commissioner Swanson stated that if the Poplar Grove Town Board believes the valuation is too high, they should release the parcel and sell it on a public auction. Commissioner Foldesi noted that if the parcel was put up for sale on a public auction that it would likely bring more than the asking price by a party interested in using it for hunting purposes. Mr. Pesek stated that he thought the purpose of offering the parcel for sale to an adjoining land owner was to keep larger parcels intact and argued that he believed the Board should reduce the price from the \$5,100 price set by the Board to \$1,000. Commissioner Johnston stated that the County Board cannot alter valuations just for the benefit of a single landowner. Mr. Pesek requested a letter from the Board outlining the possible options Poplar Grove Township has with regard to this property. The Board suggested that Mr. Pesek contact the Minnesota Township Officers Association and request that their legal council provide an overview of the statutes pertaining to land sales. Mr. Pesek requested the Board set a minimum bid for the parcel if it were to be placed on a public land sale. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby set the minimum bid for tax-forfeited parcel legally described as the West 9 Rods of the South 20 Rods of the SW NW, Section 20, Twp. 159N., Rg. 41W.at \$1,000.

TB COORDINATOR DAVE GRAFSTROM

Roseau County Bovine Tuberculosis Coordinator Dave Grafstrom met with the Board to give an update on Bovine TB. Mr. Grafstrom reported on the producer meetings that were held on May 19th and 20th. On May 19th staff from the Board of Animal Health and Department of Agriculture along with Commissioner Walker and Mr. Grafstrom met with the 56 producers in the Bovine TB Management area that are eligible for a herd buyout. The details of the buyout and a copy of the contract were reviewed. On May 20th the same group met with the 300 producers in the proposed split state zone and reviewed the movement restrictions and testing requirements for these herds. Mr. Grafstrom noted that the USDA must approve the proposed split state zone and be assured that bovine TB management practices are successfully in place. Mr. Grafstrom

and Commissioner Walker also held several meetings to discuss deer and elk management in northern Minnesota. A June 9, 2008 meeting is scheduled in St. Paul with the Department of Natural Resources to review the concerns and request changes in the deer and elk management plans and hunting rules.

VSO JEFF PARKER

Veteran Service Officer Colonel Jeff Parker met with the Board to review the 2006-2007 Summary of Veteran Benefits for Roseau County. In 2006, 330 veterans used the services of the Roseau County Veteran Service Office and received a total of \$2,926,541.05 in federal and state veteran benefits for an average of \$2,235.71 per veteran served. During 2007, 331 veterans used the services of the Roseau County Veteran Services Office and received \$3,198,931.33 in federal and state benefits for an average of \$2,472.13 per veteran. VSO Officer Parker stated that numbers provide only a partial indicator of the services provided to veterans. Many veterans chose not to apply for benefits they may be eligible to receive and data privacy rights prevent VSO officers from receiving names and locations of veterans. Additionally, many veterans receive intangible services not reflected in financial indicators. VSO Officer Parker requested the Board pass on to him any questions or concerns related to veteran services and noted he was open to any suggestions they may have regarding improving services to veterans.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

County Engineer, Brian Ketring requested the board award a contract to low bidder Davidson Construction for a bridge replacement project in Spruce Township. The bid opening date was May 19, 2008. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby award a contract to Davidson Construction in the amount of \$118,347.00 on SAP 68-599-86 bridge replacement, Spruce Township, County Ditch No. 7.

Mr. Ketring requested the Board award a contract to the low bidder on the Enstrom Township bridge replacement project. The bid opening date was May 19, 2008. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-13

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby award a contract to Olson Construction in the amount of \$58,450.00 on SAP 68-599-84 bridge replacement, Enstrom Township.

Mr. Ketring requested the Board award a contract to the low bidder on the County State Aid Highway No. 26 overlay project. The bid opening date was May 19, 2008. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-14

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby award a contract with Knife River Materials in the amount of \$941,079.27 on SAP 68-626-06, CSAH No. 26 bituminous overlay and aggregate shoulder project.

The bid opening for 2008 herbicide was also held on May 19, 2008. Two bids were submitted. The Board agreed to reject both bids and directed Engineer Ketring to solicit local quotes. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-15

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board rejects all bids received on May 20, 2008 for the 2008 Roseau County herbicide supply.

The Board discussed with Engineer Ketring the need to be billing ditch systems for the employee time spent on large ditch issues and projects. Mr. Ketring advised the Board that approximately 50% of his and Assistant Engineer Tim Erickson's time is spent on ditch matters. The Board discussed creating a system of spreading out engineering costs throughout the ditch systems. Mr. Ketring will review the request and return to the Board with specific ideas to consider.

Commissioner Johnston requested a timeline on the Springsteel Island road, CSAH No. 13, road project. Mr. Ketring noted that he has requested special funding for the project through the Routes of Regional Significance fund in 2007 and through special Safety funds in 2008. Mr. Ketring stated that the road segment was approved by the state for funding in 2007, but the MnDNR was opposed to the project so it did not move forward. Mr. Ketring stated that it is still unknown how the 2008 safety funding will be distributed. Mr. Ketring stated that this segment could be done in 2008 with the special funding dollars if allocated or could be done by advance and encumbering 2009 CSAH funding. Commissioner Johnston stated that he would like to see this project move forward as soon as possible. Mr. Ketring agreed to work on getting approval to advance and encumber funds for this project.

Commissioner Johnston asked Mr. Ketring if the county fee schedule for blading and snow removal recovers the cost to the county or if the county is subsidizing the cost. Mr. Ketring agreed to review the costs and schedule of fees for these services and return to the Board with that information. Mr. Ketring stated that given the transportation funding crisis and the escalating fuel costs that he is also researching ideas for ways to reduce the cost of blading and snow plowing without dramatically reducing service.

Commissioner Rasmussen expressed concern about the cost of blading in unorganized Norland Township. Commissioner Rasmussen requested that prior approval be sought for work being done in Norland Township. Commissioner Rasmussen noted that the escalating costs are adversely impacting this small unorganized township and their levy cannot keep up with expenses. Commissioner Rasmussen suggested that such a policy be implemented in all unorganized townships.

Commissioner Johnston asked if the county is charging adequately for private snow plowing. Commissioner Johnston noted that by statute the county can plow private drives and charge county residents for this service; however Commissioner Johnston wants to insure that the fee the county is charging fully covers the cost and the county is not subsidizing it.

COUNTY TREASURER

County Treasurer, Diane Gregerson met with the Board to discuss a county credit card policy. Ms. Gregerson provided a draft credit card usage policy but informed the Board that she can't pursue applying for a credit card until she is clearer about the Board's intentions. After discussion, Commissioner Swanson agreed to meet with a local bank to review credit card options.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed filling the vacated part-time dispatch-jailer position and agreed to continue utilizing the most recent list of candidates.. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-16

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve filling the part-time dispatch-jailer position vacated by Jen Berggren.

The Board discussed the recommendation of the Office Support Specialist Hiring Committee recommendation. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-17

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the hire of Pam Pearson as Office Support Specialist.

The Board discussed preparations for the AMC District III Spring Meeting hosted by Roseau County on May 29th.

The Board discussed the use of the former Law Enforcement Center. No bids were received, however, an individual has since contacted the county and expressed interest in purchasing the building. Statue requires that the county hire an agent to sell the building at no less than 90% of the market value if it does not sell on bids. Given the uniqueness of the building and its state of repair, that value would be significantly more than a buyer would likely pay. The Board agreed to review the renovation quotes that Commissioner Rasmussen is soliciting from local contractors and to determine whether to put the building back out for sale on bids or to renovate it for county use.

The Board discussed the Implication Wheel session Commissioner Swanson recently attended and the possibility of having a Roseau County employee or commissioner trained as Wheelmasters. The cost to AMC members for the three day training is \$2000 per participant. The Board reviewed the potential benefits to the county of utilizing this process for important decisions. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-18

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the County Coordinator and a Commissioner to attend the Wheelmaster training.

The Board discussed the County Coordinator step increase. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-19

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the step increase of County Coordinator Teresa Klein from Grade 10 Step F to Grade 10 step G.

The Board discussed the Labor Relations and Human Resource Committees. In 2007 the county had two separate committees that dealt with contract negotiations and other human resource matters. The Board did not establish either committee yet for 2008. The Board agreed to combine the functions of the two committees and approve a Human Resource Committee. Commissioners Swanson and Rasmussen agreed to serve on the committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-05-20

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves a Human Resource Committee as a Standing Committee for the purpose of participating in labor negotiations and other human resource matters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioners Swanson and Rasmussen are appointed to serve on this committee.

The Board discussed the watershed reclassification project. Coordinator Klein informed the Board that the Board of Water and Soil Resources has offered to provide the county with data gathering support which will eliminate the expense association with the project. The Board agreed by consensus to go forward with the reclassification. The next step is to get approval from Lake of the Woods County Board to do the reclassification. Their approval is required because a portion of the watershed area to be reclassified is in Lake of the Woods County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Swanson reported on the following committee meetings: AMC Futures Task Force meeting, 5/14/08, AMC Futures Task Force meeting, 5/15/08; and Building Committee meeting, 5/19/08.

Commissioner Walker reported on the following committee meetings: Bovine TB Incident Command meeting; 5/15/08; Bovine TB meeting with producers regarding herd buyout 5/19/08; Bovine TB meeting regarding split state status, 5/20/08; and Bovine TB Incident Command meeting, 5/22/08.

Commissioner Foldesi reported on the following committee meetings: Ditch #69 meeting in Bemidji, 5/14/08; Bovine TB meeting regarding herd buyouts; 5/19/08.

Commissioner Johnston had no official committee meeting reports. Commissioner Johnston advised the Board that he had consulted with Auditor Granitz and Coordinator Klien on the intended purpose of the purchase of tax-forfeited land in unorganized Juneberry Township.

Commissioner Rasmussen reported on the following committee meeting: Bovine TB-Sportsmen meeting, 5/19/08.

Upon motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The Board will convene its next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on June 3, 2008.

Attest:

Date: _____

Teresa Klein, County Coordinator
Roseau County, Minnesota

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