

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

June 3, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on June 3, 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**

An 8:45 appointment to discuss Levy limit histories was added to the agenda. Discussion of letter regarding changes to the Greenacres program; Implications Wheel training attendees; approval of a Public Hearing to consider Don Jackson's (DJ's Salol Store) application for Off-sale Intoxicating Liquor License in Enstrom Township and approval of benefit payout for Patty Berg was added to discussion.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board deferred approval of the May 27, 2008 Board meeting proceedings to the June 10, 2008 meeting.

### **LEVY LIMITS**

In light of the recent levy limits placed on local city and county governments, Auditor Anne Granitz met with the Board to discuss a history of how Roseau County has responded to past levy limits. The Department of Revenue will provide Roseau County with a worksheet that details the county's eligible levy. This will include all items that are outside the 3.9% levy limit such as jail operations, Sheriff's Department wages and benefits, bond payments, and other special levies. Ms. Granitz will keep the Board informed on this matter.

### **EXTENSION**

University of Minnesota Extension Director, Nathan Johnson, 4-H Coordinator, Sandi Wieland, University of Minnesota Nutrition Educator, Kristina Kaml and Office Support Specialist Stephane Walsh-Olafson met with the Board. Mr. Johnson presented the Board a copy of the 2009 Memorandum of Agreement and gave an overview of the Extension program in Roseau County.

4-H Coordinator, Sandi Weiland gave an overview of the Roseau County 4-H program and Nutrition Educator Kristina Kaml gave an overview of the Roseau County Nutrition Education program.

### **SOIL & WATER**

Roseau County Soil & Water Conservation District Administrator Scott Johnson met with the Board. Mr. Johnson serves as Roseau County's Ag I inspector and Wetland Conservation Act Administrator. Mr. Johnson reviewed the 2007 Agriculture Inspector Annual Report and

work plan summary and gave a Soil & Water District update. Mr. Johnson informed the Board that it is time to review and update Roseau County's Comprehensive Water Plan and requested the Board pass a resolution initiating the process. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-06-01

### **Resolution to Update the Roseau County Comprehensive Water Management Plan**

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan, and

Whereas, the Act requires that a county update and revise their local water management plan on a periodic basis, and

Whereas, the Act encourages that a county coordinate its planning with contiguous counties, and solicit input from local governmental units and state review agencies, and

Whereas, the Act requires that plans and official controls of other local governmental units be consistent with the local water management plan, and

Whereas, Roseau County has determined that the revision and continued implementation of a local water management plan will help promote the health and welfare of the citizens of Roseau County, and

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners resolve to revise and update its current local water management plan.

Be it Further Resolved that Roseau County will coordinate its efforts in the revision and update of its plan with all local units of government within the county, and the state review agencies; and will incorporate, where appropriate, any existing plans and rules which have been developed and adopted by watershed districts having jurisdiction wholly or partly within Roseau County into its local water management plan.

Be it Further Resolved that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners authorizes the establishment of a Water Management Advisory Committee with the responsibility of revising and updating the plan and who shall report to the County Board on a periodic basis.

Be it Further Resolved that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners delegates the Roseau County SWCD the responsibility of coordinating, assembling, writing and implementing the revised local water management plan pursuant to M.S. 103B.301.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Environmental Officer Jeff Pelowski met with the Board to continue discussions on the changes to the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) regulations. Mr. Pelowski noted that as directed by the Board he solicited quotes from MPCA Licensed ISTS Designer 1's and Inspectors to provide soil verification and complaint investigation. These services are mandated as part of the new MPCS SSTS rules that became effective in 2008, requiring

verification of all soil for new and /or existing systems by another MPCS licensed inspector. Mr. Pelowski noted that he received two quotes and reviewed those quotes with the Board. The Board discussed whether or not to move forward with a county provided qualified soil verifier or to allow the public to provide this verification independently. The estimated cost to the county to provide the mandated verification is \$15,000 based on an annual average of 50 septic system installations at a cost of \$200 per soil verification. When the county has revised its current SSTS (ISTS) Ordinance, the county will be able to recapture the expense through the permit process, should they choose to do so. Currently the county only permits septic systems in floodplain or shoreland areas. New in 2008, all new installations of septic systems must have the soil tested and verified to be approved by the state. In 2010 or whenever the county revises its SSTS Ordinance, the county will be responsible for permitting all septic systems in Roseau County. The question is whether to allow SSTS providers to get soil verification independently or to provide a county approved consultant. The Board discussed the need to provide oversight and regulation of septic systems as well as the need to have consistency in testing and assurance that new systems are installed competently. They weighed this against providing a service at an expense to the county that perhaps should be funded by the homeowner. It was noted that if some septic system designers or design installers have to add the additional verification cost to their bid, that they would not be able to compete and it would be detrimental to their business. It was also noted that it may not be appropriate at this time to insist that the county's soil verifier is the only acceptable source to get this mandated soil verification done. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and failed 3-2 with Commissioners Walker, Rasmussen, and Swanson opposed and Commissioner Johnston and Foldesi in favor, to accept the low quote of Keith Block as soil verification consultant and to allow the septic system designer to use the county provided inspector or another MPCA Licensed designer or inspector.

The Board agreed to put this item on the June 10, 2008 agenda for further discussion.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed approving a Public Hearing to consider Don Jackson's (DJ's Salol Store) application for a Off-sale Intoxicating Liquor License in Enstrom Township. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

### 2008-06-02

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve holding a Public Hearing on June 24, 2008, to consider Don Jackson's (DJ's Salol Store) application for a Off-sale Intoxicating Liquor License in Enstrom Township

The Board discussed Patty Berg's benefit payout. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

### 2008-06-03

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve payout to Patty Berg in the amount of \$2,168.21 for accrued benefits.

Coordinator Klein discussed a request from Far North Transit asking Roseau County to subsidize their current fuel budget to help defer increasing fuels costs. A motion was made by

Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-06-04

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve a .035 cent per mile subsidy to the mileage paid by Far North Transit Senior Medical Travel Program to volunteer drivers for non- medical assistance clients.

The Board discussed the need to form a Credit Card Committee to finalize the County Credit Card policy. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2008-06-05

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby appoint Commissioner Jack Swanson, Commissioner Orris Rasmussen, Treasurer Diane Gregerson, Auditor Anne Granitz and County Coordinator Trish Klein to the Roseau County Credit Card Committee.

The Board discussed the possibility of installing a window in the 4-H Coordinators office. The Commissioners were shown where the window would be installed in Sandi Wieland's current office. The Board then discussed moving the 4-H Coordinator to another office that provides a better view of the front counter. Ms. Weiland agreed to this and the Board concurred.

Commissioner Rasmussen discussed with the Board his appointment with Architect Mike Johnston at the old Law Enforcement Center. Commissioner Rasmussen met with Mr. Johnston and Chief Deputy Bandemer at the LEC to go over possible renovation options. Mr. Johnston will have a report ready for review within two weeks. The Board will hold off a second advertisement for bids until renovation plans and quotes have been received and reviewed.

The Board discussed a letter drafted by Commissioner Walker and TB Coordinator Dave Grafstrom addressed to the county boards of eight counties in northwest Minnesota requesting financial support to help cover the ongoing expenses incurred by Roseau County advocating for the elimination of bovine TB. After review and modification, a motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried unanimously to approve the letter.

Commissioner Rasmussen addressed the Board regarding concerns he has with the newly enacted changes to the Green Acres program. Rasmussen expressed frustration regarding the valuations of property adjacent to state land and questions whether the state is paying taxes, or payment in lieu of taxes, equal to the amount assessed to private landowners. The Board discussed the intention of the Green Acres program which is to provide tax relief to landowners in the agriculture classification and not to subsidize landowners whose primary purpose of the land is for a residential home or hunting. The Board requested that Commissioner Walker who serves on the AMC Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Committee to follow up and see that Commissioner Rasmussen's concerns and those of his constituents are incorporated in the AMC Legislative Platform.

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 10, 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