

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 24, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the Courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E911 Signage, AMC Conference Planning and Wellness Program Budget clarification were added to discussion. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a Resolution of Sponsorship for the Roseau Lake of the Woods Sportsman’s Club ATV trail.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, accepted the State of Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$10,484.00 effective October 15, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved rescheduling the December 8, 2009 Board Meeting to December 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a pay grade change for the Jail Administrator position moving it from Grade 8 to Grade 9 and it is rated effective the date of Board approval.

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

WARRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 11/12/2009

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
3344.72	CENTURYLINK	2963.57	DELL MARKETING LP
3000.00	EXPEDIATE DIRECT MAIL & FULFIL	8806.00	GOULET CONSTRUCTION
1829.04	BRIAN HARDWICK P.A.	2277.00	KB BOBCAT SERVICE
675.00	NATHAN SEEGER LAW OFFICE	9631.35	ROSEAU CITY
	2 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300	68.76	
****	FINAL TOTAL.....	\$32,595.44	****

WARRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 11/20/2009

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
---------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------------

Auditor Anne Granitz met with the Board to review and approve the repurchase of tax-forfeited property in Golden Valley Township. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-01

WHEREAS, an application for the repurchase of tax-forfeited lands, submitted by Michael Bakri, Power of Attorney for Adam Bakri, described as:

All that part of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of Section Thirty-Five (35) in Township One Hundred Fifty-nine (159) North, Range Thirty-nine (39) West lying Northerly of the Roseau River as presently situated has been presented to the Roseau County Board of Commissioners and

WHEREAS, Michael Bakri, on behalf of Adam Bakri, does make the statement in the application for repurchase that hardship and injustice has resulted because of the forfeiture of said land due to his financial problems, and

WHEREAS, the repurchase of said land by the applicant will promote and best serve the public interest because he will continue to keep his taxes current, and property will be a home for his father.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roseau County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the application for repurchase of said tax-forfeited lands as submitted by Michael Bakri, Power of Attorney for Adam Bakri, and acknowledges that the statements made therein are true and correct.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this application is subject to the payment in full of all delinquent taxes, penalty, interest, and costs and other charges required for the issuance of a State Deed for a total of \$2,243.60, payable to the Roseau County Treasurer by cash or cashier's check, on or before November 24, 2009.

Ms. Granitz requested approval to call for 2010 publishing bids. A motion was made to approve a call for 2010 publishing bids by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously. Bids will be opened on January 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER JEFF PELOWSKI

Environmental Officer Jeff Pelowski met with the Board on behalf of the KaMaR Solid Waste Joint Powers Board to request that Roseau County assume the financial administrative duties of this joint powers entity that includes Roseau, Kittson, Red Lake and Marshall Counties. Currently Roseau County manages certain aspects of the human resource function including payroll and workers compensation claims.

Kittson County has been acting as the financial administrator processing accounts payable and receivables. Auditor Granitz advised the Board that her office has the capacity to take on the responsibility for these additional duties. Mr. Pelowski noted that integrating the human resource and financial duties at one location would be more efficient.

Roseau County is not currently charging KaMaR for costs associated with payroll and workers compensation claims, however with the additional financial administration duties, Auditor Granitz recommended charging KaMaR a fee of \$75.00 per month. Commissioner

Foldesi stated that KaMaR should be charged an amount that accurately covers the counties cost to provide this service. Commissioner Foldesi suggested \$200 per month. After discussion it was agreed that \$200 per month may exceed the actual cost. Mr. Pelowski noted that should the Board approve the request, it will then go before the KaMaR Board for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-02

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize the county to assume the role of KaMaR Financial Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County will charge KaMaR at a rate of \$125 per month to provide the services requested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this fee is inclusive of both the human resource functions of payroll and workers compensation claims management and financial administrative duties.

Mr. Pelowski also noted that the KaMaR budget is currently imbedded within the Environmental Services fund. Mr. Pelowski recommended that since KaMaR is a Joint Powers Entity and not a department with Roseau County Environmental Services that it be removed from the Environmental Fund and transferred to its own fund. Pelowski noted that including it within the Environmental Services Department inflates the budget by approximately \$200,000 per year. This separation would create more financial clarity, and would only take effect if KaMaR authorizes Roseau County to assume the financial administrative duties for KaMaR. The Board concurred with this recommendation.

Mr. Pelowski provided the Board with an update on the Transfer Station/Demolition Landfill MPCA re-permitting status. Mr. Pelowski informed the Board that the county's five-year permit expires December, 2009. Mr. Pelowski informed the Board that the permit process has changed since the last permit application which was submitted in 2004. Pelowski noted that there are now two parts, Part A that is the regular permitting process and Part B is a Hydro geologic component. Mr. Pelowski advised the Board that the initial re permitting application was submitted on June 22, 2009 and the full document, including the updated construction plans prepared by consultant, Short, Elliott and Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH), was submitted on September 10, 2009. The MPCA responded to the application on September 21, 2009 noting that it was substantially complete but requested the county address some technical issues related to part B of the application.

Mr. Pelowski informed the Board that Part B of the permit is still being debated, as the MPCA has proposed installation of a groundwater monitoring network at the demo site. The estimated cost to comply with this request would be \$35,000 to \$50,000, and the network would have to be installed as soon as possible. After extensive negotiations, the current MPCA proposal would require a "scaled down" version of a monitoring network that would not have to be installed until 2014, at an estimated cost of \$23,000. This would allow the County to budget for this future construction.

Mr. Pelowski informed the Board that the County really has three options: refuse to comply with the MPCA proposal, request to split our existing permit thereby applying for a separate Transfer Station permit and close the demolition landfill site; or agree with the

negotiated proposal as presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Foldesi, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-03

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize Environmental Officer Jeff Pelowski to negotiate with the MPCA to secure a permit for the Demolition Landfill/Transfer Station.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Engineer Ketring met with the Board to request two final payouts. A motion to approve final payout on Project No. SAP 068-613-016, in the amount of \$116,429.11 to Knife River Materials, was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously.

A motion to approve final payout on Project No. SP 068-609-017, in the amount of \$82,747.83, to Knife River Materials, was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed E911 signage for all county residences. The Board acknowledged the importance of having all residences marked with E911 signage but noted the barriers of funding and maintenance. Further discussion was deferred to the December 15, 2009 Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Board acknowledged correspondence from Keith Mork regarding state mandated DNR surveying of Consolidated Conservation land. County Assessor Al Heim was asked to contact Mr. Mork to discuss this matter further and notify him that Commissioners Swanson and Walker will be contacting Senators Olin and Stumpf to get further clarification on this matter.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Gwynne Roadfeldt and Patty Ignaszewski met with the Board on behalf of the Insurance Committee and presented 2010 Employee Health Insurance and Benefits plan recommendations.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD

HEALTH INSURANCE:

This year, Ingenix Consulting, an independent firm, was used to perform the bidding process for health insurance for the C/C/OGA insurance pool. Blue Cross/Shield of Minnesota was selected from these bids.

Pool Minimum/Maximums are reviewed and voted on annually by the NWSC C/C/OGA Advisory Committee. The committee looked at 3 options and chose a minimum increase of 2% and a maximum increase of 26% with all groups that had a negative experience rating getting

the 2% minimum increase. Blue Cross/Shield of Minnesota reported a 26 % INCREASE needed for Roseau County's group for 2010. The premiums for our existing plans are as follows:

Roseau County currently carries 33 Single Contracts and 75 Family Contracts; plus 2 Single Contracts that are Inactive Retirees and 1 Family Contract that is an Inactive Retiree. Retired/COBRA employees pay their own premiums. Retired employees, on Roseau County's health insurance, receive the same VEBA contribution as active employees.

The current premium is \$255 for single and \$600 for a family plan. With the 26% increase the new single premium is \$321.50 and the family premium is \$756.

The current County contribution is \$ 205.00 per month for a single and \$ 500.00 per month for a family. The current (2009) county contribution to VEBA is:\$74.00 per month for a single and \$164.50 per month for a family plan.

The Insurance Committee recommends that the County continue with the VEBA Health Plan. The Committee recommends to the County *continue to pay the same percentage as 2009*. This would mean an increase to both the county and the employee shares. Under this proposal, for a single policy the County would pay \$257.50 (80%) and the employee would pay \$64.00 (20%). For a family policy the County would pay \$627.50 (83%) and the employee would pay \$128.50 (17%).

The Committee recommends that the county payment into the VEBA accounts remain unchanged.

With a VEBA program, the employer must decide if VEBA would be First Payer or Second. **The Committee recommends the VEBA account continue to be Second Payer. This gives employees control of their VEBA funds.**

LIFE INSURANCE:

\$10,000 basic life insurance policy is provided at no cost to all eligible employees. A \$5,000 dependent life insurance is also provided for spouse and independent children. Minnesota Life Insurance reports that Roseau County's premiums will remain the same as last year's Basic Life and AD&D for employees and dependent life coverage. Rates are \$2.70 per month for \$10,000 employee coverage and \$2.00 per month for \$5,000 spouse & dependents to age19. **The Committee recommends this remain unchanged.**

LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE:

Long Term Disability is 100% employee sponsored and provided by Assurant Employee Benefits. No county dollars are involved. There was no rate change, except where noted due to age specific categories. **Committee recommends continuing the current coverage offering.**

SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE:

Short Term Disability is 100% employee sponsored and coverage is provided to employees by Colonial Life.

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE:

Long Term Care Insurance is offered to employees and is 100% employee sponsored. Coverage is provided by CNA through the Minnesota Long Term Care Partnership Program. **Committee recommends continuing the current coverage offering.**

EYE CARE INSURANCE:

Eye Care is offered to employees through the Ameritas Group. It is 100% employee sponsored. Ameritas increased the 2010 rate by 21%. **The Committee recommends continuing with Ameritas for 2010 but reviewing options in 2011.**

NEWSLETTER:

As part of the Employee Wellness Program, Roseau County provides employees with a wellness newsletter that is included in paychecks. Top Health has been provided for a number of years. The Committee discussed several options. The County could continue with Top Health, change to Personal Best or move to an electronic version of one of those newsletters. Costs are as follows:

Personal Best paper	approximately \$ 988.20 annual cost
Personal Best on-line	approximately \$ 745.20 annual cost
Top Health paper	approximately \$ 712.80 annual cost
Top Health on-line	approximately \$ 534.60 annual cost

The Committee recommends that a free electronic version of a wellness newsletter be researched and if one is not found that an electronic version of Top Health be provided to employees and a for work environments where computer access is not provided, the county provide a paper copy.

125 FLEX MEDICAL PLAN:

The Insurance Committee recommends continuing with Select Accounts to handle our 125 medical FLEX monies. The fees continue at \$ 1.83 per month per participant for 2010. The fees include the Medical Flexible spending accounts and the Day Care Flexible Funds with retirees paying their own fees. We have the option of automatic crossover. This allows the FLEX claims to be paid without employees having to send in their own request for reimbursement. Each employee has the choice of selecting crossover or submitting claims themselves. The annual cost of administering the FLEX plan for 2010 is estimated to be \$ 2,500.

This year the Insurance Committee recommends we add a "Grace Period" of 2 months and 15 days for our Medical FLEX dollars. This means that employees that have not used up their FLEX dollars would still have the allotted time into the next calendar year to incur claims and be reimbursed with the previous year's dollars. There is no additional cost to the employer for this.

Roseau County has set \$ 4,000 as the maximum employees are allowed to FLEX for medical. This does not affect the Day Care FLEX monies, as the IRS sets this maximum, which is currently at \$ 5,000.

DENTAL INSURANCE:

Dental Insurance is offered to employees through the Ameritas Group. It is 100% employee sponsored. The insurance company has offered a renewal rate with an 8% increase in premium. **The Committee recommends continuing the current coverage offering.**

WELLNESS PROGRAM:

Roseau County received \$34,688.83 in 2008 from the Northwest Service Cooperative for a 2006 settlement. It was requested by this committee that this settlement be ear-marked as dedicated funds for the Wellness/Insurance Committee to be used strictly for employee benefits and/or Health and Wellness.

The Insurance Committee requested clarity regarding the Boards intent with the \$34,688.83. This request had been made in October 14, 2008 when the Committee presented a recommendation to establish Employee Wellness Program.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2008-10-07 and noted that they had approved the establishment of a Wellness Program, authorized the establishment of a line item in the Personnel/Safety Department, approved a 2008 and 2009 budget Wellness Program budget, and had received the \$34,688.83 in the Revenue Fund.

It was clarified that the funds were put into the general fund and not specifically dedicated for employee benefits, health and wellness as requested. However, that it was the Boards intent to support the continuation of the Wellness Program beyond what the dedicated amount could sustain.

The Insurance Committee recommends Roseau County continue the Wellness Program.

AFLAC INSURANCE:

The Insurance Committee met with AFLAC representatives. This, also, is a 100% employee sponsored plan with premiums deducted through payroll. **The Insurance Committee recommends Roseau County add AFLAC as a provider effective January 1, 2010.**

DEADLINE DATES:

The Deadline for Renewal Plan Decisions was October 16, 2009 with December 1, 2009 as the Deadline for group leaders to turn in the member plan changes to Blue Cross/Shield of Minnesota. The December 1st date was granted to us as an extension.

After listening to the Committee Report and Recommendations, the Board requested that the health insurance premium be separated and presented separately. The committee representatives concurred.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-04

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize the continuation of the following employee sponsored benefits for the year 2010: 125 Flex Medical Plan, Life

Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance, and Long Term Care Insurance, Short Term Disability Insurance, Dental Care Insurance, Eye Care Insurance, and the addition of AFLAC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Roseau County Board accepts the recommendations of the insurance committee for benefit year 2010 and does hereby authorize the continuation of the following Roseau County employer sponsored benefits for the year 2010: \$10,000 basic life insurance policy and \$5,000 dependent life insurance for spouse and independent children.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the continuation of the Employee Wellness Program.

The Board deferred action on the insurance premium until later in the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-05

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, Minn. Stat. § 13D.03, subd. 1(b) states that “the governing body of a public employer may by a majority vote in a public meeting decide to hold a closed meeting to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies or developments or discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals, conducted pursuant to sections 179A.01 and 179A.25”; and

WHEREAS, Labor Attorney Terrence Foy has requested that the meeting be closed to consider strategy for labor negotiations; and

WHEREAS, it would be detrimental to the interests of the County for the Board to hold a public discussion regarding this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The County Board hereby closes this meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.03, subd. 1(b);
2. The specific subject to be discussed, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, subd. 3, is labor negotiation strategy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-06

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) states that “meetings may be closed if the closure is expressly authorized by statute or permitted by the attorney-client privilege”; and

WHEREAS, County Attorney Lisa Hanson has requested that the meeting be closed to discuss pending litigation; and

WHEREAS, it would be detrimental to the interests of the County for the Board to hold a public discussion regarding this matter where an opposing party or opposing attorney could listen to or be made aware of the County's positions; and

WHEREAS, there is an absolute need for the Board to obtain confidential legal advice regarding the pending litigation in order to maintain the attorney-client privilege;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The County Board hereby closes this meeting based upon the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b);
2. The specific subject to be discussed, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, subd. 3, is pending litigation.

Chair Swanson reconvened the regular Board meeting at 12:00 p.m.

The Board discussed options on how to distribute the 26% increase in the 2010 health insurance premiums. Commissioners Foldesi and Walker both recommended a 50/50 split of the increase. Commissioner Johnston stated he felt the County should pick up the entire increase and negotiate a cost share percentage into future contracts. Commissioner Rasmussen stated that he would support a cost share at the current approximate 80/20 split as recommended by the Insurance Committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-11-07

WHEREAS, Roseau County has been notified that the insurance premiums will increase in 2010 by 26% and commencing January 1, 2010, the cost of Roseau County VEBA Group Health Plan insurance premium will be \$321.50 for a single plan and \$756 for a family plan; and

WHEREAS, the Roseau County Board of Commissioners desires to cost share this increase with employees in a fair and equitable manner,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the continuation of the NW Minnesota Service Cooperatives' VEBA Health Plan and the VEBA accounts for Roseau County for the year 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that effective January 1, 2010, the County will contribute \$238.50 toward the single premium and the employee cost will be \$83. The County will contribute \$578 toward the family premium and the employee cost will be \$178.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County contribution to the VEBA Account will remain unchanged in 2010 at \$74 per month for single plans and \$164.50 per month for family plans.

Upon motion carried, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 1:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Attest:

Date: _____

Teresa Klein, County Coordinator
Roseau County, Minnesota

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