

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 29, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in the Courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota on Tuesday, September 29, 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

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Foldesi, 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 proceedings from the September 15, 2009 Board Meeting.

The Board, by adoption of its consent agenda, approved a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to support local Bovine TB education and outreach efforts effective September 30, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

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

WARRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 9/17/2009

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
5592.00	CHAD MCDONALD CONSTRUCTION	4184.59	HOLTHUSEN CONSTRUCTION INC
4183.03	LAURE JOHNSON	2479.50	MN DEPT OF FINANCE-TREAS
5920.87	ORRIS RASMUSSEN	4354.43	SCOTT JOHNSON COMPANIES
		13 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300	1,762.33
		****	FINAL TOTAL..... \$28,476.75 ****

WARRANTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT 9/24/2009

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
750.00	AREA AG INFORMATION CENTER	525.07	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
2090.06	CAPITAL GUARDIAN TRUST CO	5040.00	CHAD MCDONALD CONSTRUCTION
584.02	CLARION INN-GRAND FORKS	675.00	ALAN FISH
5455.68	LIAN CONSTRUCTION	706.96	MN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTE
584.32	MN ENERGY RESOURCES	3102.48	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION
20000.00	NW MN MENTORING PROGRAM	22500.00	NW REGIONAL LIBRARY
7702.25	SELECT ACCOUNT-VEBA		
		9 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300	3,377.91
		****	FINAL TOTAL..... \$73,093.75 ****

WARRANTS APPROVED ON 9/29/2009 FOR PAYMENT 10/02/2009

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
950.75	ALTRU HEALTH SYSTEM-ROSEAU	8330.10	AVIANDS LLC
8733.85	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	673.31	COAST TRUE VALUE
1423.60	CURTS LOCK & KEY SERVICE INC	499.64	D & J RADIO SALES & SERVICE
885.19	DELL MARKETING LP	900.00	DW MECHANICAL
900.00	DALLAS ERICKSON	555.03	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-WARROAD
2513.12	FLEET SERVICES DIVISION	8444.75	GOULET CONSTRUCTION
687.49	GRAINGER INC	325.00	KALLIE HANSON
300.00	HENNEPIN CO MEDICAL CENTER	1173.12	HILLYARD HUTCHINSON
363.98	PATRICIA IGNASZEWSKI	1711.00	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER
391.10	LIFECARE MEDICAL CENTER-HOME C	500.00	M.B MCGEE P.A.
594.00	MIDWEST MONITORING & SURVEILLA	591.00	MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOP
34045.24	MN DEPT OF CORRECTIONS	700.00	MN OFFICE OF ENTERPRISES TECH
5809.59	NW CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC	331.20	JEFF PARKER
10499.57	PEART & ASSOCIATES INC	720.00	PRO-WEST & ASSOCIATES INC
1400.00	RAMSEY CO MEDICAL EXAMINER	353.89	RATWIK, ROSZAK & MALONEY, PA
1452.84	REUBEN'S BODY SHOP INC	9939.15	ROSEAU CITY
19967.32	ROSEAU CO HWY DEPT	3293.67	SHORT ELLIOT HENDRICKSON INC
1584.25	STAN'S COMMUNICATIONS INC	450.00	STERLING SOLUTIONS INC
1866.49	THE HUNTING SHACK INC	500.00	TW VENDING INC
989.60	MARK WOJCIECHOWSKI		
		28 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$300	2,803.39
		**** FINAL TOTAL.....	\$138,152.23 ****

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Walker will meet with John Younker of the State Auditor's office regarding the Legislative Auditor's study of DNR Land and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on October 13, 2009.

DAN WEIR, NORTHWEST SERVICE COOPERATIVE CONSULTANT

Dan Weir from the Northwest Service Cooperative NWSC met with the Board to provide an overview of the context for the 2010 renewal rate that reflects a 26% premium increase for Roseau County. Mr. Weir is a health insurance consultant to the NWSC. Roseau County is engaged in a joint powers agreement with the Northwest Service Cooperative and participates in the Minnesota Service Cooperatives Cities, Counties, and other Government Agencies health insurance pool.

Every four years the Minnesota Service Cooperatives go out for proposals. Proposals are reviewed and analyzed by in independent agency. Ingenix Consulting provided that service for the current selection process. Blue Cross Blue Shield and PreferredOne were the only two proposals received. BCBS was the only carrier that submitted a comprehensive proposal addressing nearly all the questions in the RFP. BCBS was recommended and approved by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives Cities, Counties, and other Government Agencies pool.

Mr. Weir informed the Board that Roseau County has the lowest rate in the pool noting that Roseau County had a 0% increase in 2009, and 5% reduction in 2008 and an 8.7% reduction in 2007.

Since 2003 when Roseau County moved to a consumer directed health care program, Roseau County's premium has been stable. The three years prior to this decision saw increases of 26.5%, 18% and 22.2%.

90% of the county's health insurance premium is determined by usage. During the previous 26 months used to determine Roseau County's premium, Roseau County has had a dramatic increase in incurred claims moving from a positive balance to a loss of over \$120,000.

The other 10% of premium rate pricing is determined by plan design. Each NWSC pool member determines the health plans offered to their employees. The plan selection is where changes in the cost of health care delivery become a factor. National health care expenditures have risen steadily and that trend is expected to continue.

The average annual premium for covered workers enrolled in family coverage by employers with less than 199 employees was \$12,091 in 2008 (\$1,007.58 per month). By comparison, Roseau County's annual premium was \$7,200 or \$600 per month for that same time period. The 26% change in premium equates to an increase of \$156 per month for family coverage for a 2010 rate of \$756 per month. At \$9,072 per year, this rate is still significantly below average. The monthly premium for single plans will increase from \$255 per month (\$3060 annual) to \$321.50 per month (\$3858 annual).

Employee contribution to the health care premium was \$100 per month in 2008 and 2009. Roseau County also contributed \$164.50 each month to the employee's VEBA account. State of Minnesota Insurance Plan 2009 family rates were \$15,784. Employer contribution was \$14,206 and employee contribution was \$1,578.

Mr. Weir also requested the Board consider passing a resolution of support for the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-09-10

WHEREAS, state and local governments nationwide have established irrevocable trusts with health reimbursement accounts to help employees pay for health insurance in retirement; and

WHEREAS, these arrangements are funded through employer contributions, including amounts in lieu of severance pay that may otherwise have been received as taxable wages; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service issued Revenue Ruling 2006-36, which prohibits reimbursement of medical expenses of beneficiaries who are not tax dependents, regardless of whether the reimbursements are taxable, and requires forfeiture of individual accounts when retirees die without spouses or legal tax dependents; and

WHEREAS, IRS Revenue Ruling 2006-36 disproportionately affects state and local government employees, including tens of thousands of public employees in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2009, introduced as S. 1153 and H.R. 2625, and included in the final markup of H.R. 3200, would allow these amounts to be used to reimburse medical expenses of adult children and other designated beneficiaries of retirees.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseau County Board urges Members of the United States House of Representatives Timothy Walz, John Kline, Erik Paulsen, Betty McCollum, Keith

Ellison, Michelle Bachmann, Collin Peterson, James Oberstar, and of the United States Senate, Amy Klobuchar and Alan Franken, along with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee Members:

Democrats

Max Baucus, MT
John D. Rockefeller IV, WV
Kent Conrad, ND
Jeff Bingaman, NM
John F. Kerry, MA
Blanche L. Lincoln, AR
Ron Wyden, OR
Charles E. Schumer, NY
Debbie Stabenow, MI
Maria Cantwell, WA
Bill Nelson, FL
Robert Menendez, NJ
Thomas Carper, DE

Republicans

Chuck Grassley, IA
Orrin G. Hatch, UT
Olympia J. Snowe, ME
Jon Kyl, AZ
Jim Bunning, KY
Mike Crapo, ID
Pat Roberts, KS
Jon Ensign, NV
Mike Enzi, WY
John Cornyn, TX

To support the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2009 (the "Act"), as introduced in the Senate as S. 1153 and in the House of Representatives as H.r. 2625, and as included in the final markup of H.R. 3200, or any version thereof that allows retirees to avoid forfeiture of health savings upon death through the designation of beneficiaries who may use any remaining balance for the reimbursement of their medical expenses.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Engineer Brian Ketring met with the Board to request final payout on Project SAP 68-605-07. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-09-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve final payout on SAP 68-605-07 to Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc. for a Seal Coat Project on CSAH #5 in the amount of \$10,242.04.

Engineer Ketring requested the Board act on a request from the Roseau River Watershed District to install a box culvert in the Ditch 61 Lateral 3 system as part of the Hay Creek Norland project. Roseau River Watershed District Managers LaVern Voll and Floyd Haugen were present to answer questions.

Due to recently announced funding availability, the Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) is planning to award a contract to ICS out of Grand Forks for Structure B – West Outlet Structure. RRWD is formally requesting the Roseau County Board's approval to proceed with the construction of the West Outlet Structure, in advance of the final overall Hay Creek Norland project approval that is anticipated sometime in 2010.

Commissioner Foldesi expressed concern of approving the structure prior to a public hearing and having an independent consultant review the plans. It was noted that the structure will be left fully open at all times, other than a coffer dam during construction. Any backwater

effects that may occur next spring or summer will occur on RRWD property to the east. Concerns with the structure can be addressed as part of the maintenance and operation plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnston, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Foldesi opposed, to approve the following resolution:

2009-09-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby approve the permit request from Roseau River Watershed District to install a box culvert in the Joint Ditch 61 Lateral 3 system contingent upon the results of a public hearing to be held at a later date.

Engineer Ketring requested a Joint Ditch 72 meeting be scheduled to discuss an Environmental Rights Act claim brought against Kittson County arising out of maintenance work done on ditches under the authority of the Kittson and Roseau counties. Roseau Coordinator Klein agreed to schedule the meeting for Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 10:00 am in the Greenbush City Center.

Chair Swanson recessed the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed nomination of a candidate for the One Woman 2010 campaign. No action was taken.

The Board reviewed the 2010 Budget and Levy and discussed ideas for addressing the negative budget as well as strategic planning for the structural problem underlying the state deficit, redistribution of responsibility for payment of mandated services at the local level, and unallotments impacting the county budget and levy. Coordinator Klein will schedule non-union employee meetings the week of October 10-23rd to review budget and insurance concerns. Commissioners Foldesi and Walker will facilitate at these meetings.

The Board discussed direct deposit of paychecks and the mailing of employee check stubs. A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

2009-09-13

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board does hereby direct the county to move to electronic paychecks effective the first pay period of 2010 (January 15, 2010).

The Board discussed the proposed Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to provide manpower for open shifts under the Stonegarden Operation. The Board requested clarification on whether or not the JPA would be in effect for local Roseau BCA agents only. Coordinator Klein will research this and report back to the Board on October 6, 2009.

Coordinator Klein, on behalf of the Hiring Committee for the Appraiser II position, recommended hiring candidate Jon Vidmar. A motion was made by Commissioner Foldesi,

seconded by Commissioner Swanson and carried unanimously to hire Jon Vidmar as Appraiser II at a Grade 7 Step A. Mr. Vidmar's official hire date is September 29, 2009 and his official start date is November 2, 2009.

Coordinator Klein addressed the Board regarding the employee break policy. Ms. Klein spoke on behalf of the wellness committee who would like to see the current policy changed to offer employees the opportunity to stack breaks to create Wellness Breaks. Specific diseases are cost drivers to the health insurance premium increase and are linked to food choice and activity. The Wellness Committee recommends that Roseau County take a preventative approach to health and wellness as a cost controlling measure. In addition to educational opportunities provided by the Wellness Committee it is recommended that the county embrace environmental changes that will provide opportunities for life style changes. These "wellness breaks" would take the place of a traditional coffee break in order for employees to have enough time to walk or stretch. Employees would be allowed one 20 minute break for wellness and one 10 minute traditional break. Approval of this policy change would not violate the Fair Labor Standard Act but would require a change in the Employee Handbook. Ms. Klein stated that she is not requesting action today, however the Employee Handbook is currently under revision and she recommends including this change.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Foldesi had no meetings to report.

Commissioner Johnston reported on the following committee meetings: Association of MN Rural Counties Caucus, 9/17/09; Association of MN Counties Policy Committee meetings, 9/17 – 9/18/09: Elected Transportation Chair.

Commissioner Rasmussen reported on the following committee meetings: Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus, 9/28/09: Executive Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Swanson reported on the following committee meetings: Beltrami Island State Forest Work Team, 9/16/09: Discussed possible water retention areas within BISF on state owned land; DNR Land Asset Pilot Project, 9/23/09: Discussed continuing efforts on land exchanges and land sales involving state land and county (mainly tax forfeit) property; Insurance Committee Meeting, 9/25/09: Discussed surveying non bargaining unit employees regarding 26% health insurance premium increase; Wellness Committee meeting, 9/15/09: Discussed health fair.

Commissioner Walker reported on the following committee meetings: Bovine TB meetings, 9/22/09: Spent the day with Joe Martin, BAH, meeting with farmers to discuss drainage issues, TB and cattle issues; met with FSA; toured Skime area to see fencing improvements; met with Floyd Haugen at his farm to discuss flooding issues; met up with Cattleman's tour and attended Cattleman's meeting in Greenbush.

Upon motion carried, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 12:40 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 6, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

Attest:

Date: _____

Ann Marie Miller, Board Clerk

Jack Swanson, Chairman

Roseau County, Minnesota

Board of County Commissioners
Roseau County, Minnesota